



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT
Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

Sergeant Ozzie Dominguez, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
odominguez@ci.visalia.ca.us

*****NEWS RELEASE*****
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Avoid the 18 Tulare/Kings County DUI Task Force Joins National Crackdown To Reduce Drunk Driving Fatalities

‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over’ Campaign Will Target Drunk Drivers

Visalia, CA – From mid-August through Labor Day, police, sheriff and CHP officials will be out in force as part of the annual nationwide “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” crackdown on drunk driving. The crackdown, which will include high-visibility enforcement throughout Tulare and Kings Counties, will run from August 16 through September 2, 2013.

The effective nationwide drunk driving crackdown will include high-visibility enforcement, high-profile events, and will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb drunk driving in August and through the Labor Day holiday weekend.

Visalia Police Sergeant Chris McLain said the Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force will be aggressively looking for drunk drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving drunk. Plans are in place for 2 DUI/Driver’s License Checkpoints, 2 Multi-Agency Saturation Patrols, 9 DUI Saturation Patrols, and 2 DUI Warrant/Probation Sweeps. (**See Schedule of Operations for the 18 Day Mobilization for dates and city locations listed below)

Although it is illegal with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, far too many people across the nation get behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol. The latest statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration underscore the serious nature of the nation’s continuing drunk driving epidemic.

“Every year, about one third of all motor vehicle traffic deaths involve one or more drunk drivers or motorcycle operators,” said Sergeant McLain. “In 2011 9,878 people died in crashes involving drunk drivers. That works out to approximately one drunken driving fatality every 53 minutes. In California, 774 died due to the crime of impaired driving.”

Sergeant McLain added that long weekends such as the Labor Day holiday are particularly dangerous.



During the Labor Day weekend in 2011, a total of 138 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving drivers or motorcycle riders with a .08% BAC or higher. Of those fatalities, 83 percent occurred during early evening and overnight, from 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. In California, 11 people were killed during the holiday weekend involving a driver at a .08% BAC or higher.

Drunk driving takes a particularly heavy toll among young drivers. Among 18 to 34-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the 2011 Labor Day weekend, 42 percent were alcohol-impaired.

“Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign reduces drunk driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we will make California’s roadways safer for everyone throughout the Labor Day period,” said Director Chris Murphy, California Office of Traffic Safety.

“We want to remind everyone that getting behind the wheel intoxicated is a terrible idea. Unfortunately, not only does drinking impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely, it also impairs your judgment and good sense about whether you can, or should drive. If you have any doubt about your sobriety, do not get behind the wheel. If you do choose to drive impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses,” Sergeant McLain said.

An arrest for driving drunk brings a wide range of negative consequences into one’s life. Drunk drivers face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

“Driving drunk is simply not worth the risk. So don’t take the chance. Remember, we will be out in force and we will be watching, so ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over,’” said Sergeant McLain

For more information, visit the “Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over” Campaign Headquarters at www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov. Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone; Report Drunk Drivers! – Call 9-1-1.

DUI TASK FORCE AUGUST/LABOR DAY HOLIDAY ENFORCEMENT SCHEDULE

Fri, Aug 16th, Multi-Agency DUI Saturation Patrol 2100-0300 hrs, City of Visalia

Fri, Aug 16th, Multi-Agency DUI Saturation Patrol 2100-0300 hrs, Kings County

Sat, Aug 17th, DUI/DL Checkpoint, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Visalia

Tue, Aug 20th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Hanford

Fri, Aug 23th, DUI/DL Checkpoint, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Visalia

Fri, Aug 23th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, Kings County

Fri, Aug 23th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Avenal

Sat, Aug 24th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Exeter

Sat, Aug 24th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Lemoore

Sat, Aug 24th, DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Farmersville



Sat, Aug 31st DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Tulare

Sat, Aug 31st DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Dinuba

Sat, Aug 31st DUI Saturation Patrol, 2100-0300 hrs, City of Corcoran

