



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

June 10, 2014



## Visalia Police Department Program Targets Habitual DUI Offenders

The Visalia Police Department is participating in the California Department of Motor Vehicles' "*Hot Sheet*" program in an effort to keep habitual DUI offenders off our roadways.

Driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs is a major source of mortality and morbidity in California. For example, while fatalities have declined markedly in recent years, research indicates that 52% of all California traffic fatalities in 2010 involved alcohol and/or drugs. Research also indicates that individuals with multiple DUI convictions are the most likely to re-offend. License suspension is one of the most effective intervention tools states can use to reduce repeat offenses among drivers convicted of DUI. In the State of California, administrative license suspension is estimated to reduce DUI recidivism by 21% for 1<sup>st</sup> time offenders, and 19% for repeat offenders. Even with the suspensions, it is estimated that up to 75% of drivers with suspended/revoked licenses continue to drive - these drivers pose a significant traffic safety risk.

"Through the *Hot Sheet* program, the DMV is helping us better identify repeat offenders", said Sgt. Chris McLain. "With this information, our officers are better informed and we are able to provide them with an updated report two times a month. Impaired driving remains a serious traffic safety matter in Visalia and we as an agency are committed to doing our part to make our roadways safer for all who travel them".

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Traffic Safety Administration.

