



Avoid the 18 Tulare-Kings Counties DUI Taskforce

PRESS RELEASE

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THE VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR COUNTY-WIDE DUI ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

Drunk and drugged driving remains the number one killer on our roadways, with 1,197 alcohol involved deaths and over 23,000 injuries reported statewide in 2013. The “Avoid the 18” DUI Task Force will be combating this deadly problem through DUI enforcement efforts in Tulare and Kings Counties. The Visalia Police Department will be administering a recent \$180,000.00 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for the entire county.

The “Avoid the 18” DUI Task Force is named to send the message that if you don’t drink or use drugs and drive, you will *avoid* getting arrested by any of the 18 participating law enforcement agencies in the county.

The grant activities will specifically target those who get behind the wheel after drinking too much or using drugs that impair driving. Officers from law enforcement agencies across the county will jointly staff DUI/Driver License Checkpoints and roving DUI saturation patrols. Additionally, funding will target the ‘worst of the worst’ repeat DUI offenders with Warrant/Probation Sweeps and Court Sting Enforcement Operations focusing on DUI offenders with suspend licenses who drive from court hearings after being ordered not to by a judge.

“Overall, California’s roadways are among the safest in the nation,” said OTS Director Rhonda Craft. “But to meet future mobility, safety, and accessible transportation objectives, we have to reverse this recent trend in order to reach our common goal – zero deaths on our roadways. The Office of Traffic Safety and the Avoid DUI Task Force want to work with everyone to create a culture of traffic safety across Tulare-Kings Counties and the state.”

Motorists can expect to see special DUI campaigns during the winter and summer holiday periods as well as on Halloween, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo and during local special events with identified DUI Problems. Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Agencies participating in the ‘Avoid the 18’ taskforce include:

Visalia PD
Tulare County Sheriff’s Office
Tulare County Probation

Tulare PD
Porterville PD
Dinuba PD
Exeter PD
Farmersville PD
Woodlake PD
College of the Sequoias PD
Kings County Sheriff's Office
Kings County Probation
Hanford PD
Lemoore PD
Corcoran PD
Avenal PD
CHP (Visalia)
CHP (Hanford)



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