



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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NEWS RELEASE

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Be Safe and Drive Sober This Holiday Season

Visalia, CA – Millions of us will be traveling to visit friends and family over the holidays. The Visalia Police Department encourages everyone to have a holiday game plan that includes a designated sober driver.

During the pre-Christmas and New Year's holiday season Nov. 30-Dec. 14, Visalia Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Tragically, there is an uptick in impaired drivers during the holidays. During the 2019 Christmas (Dec. 24-Dec. 26) and New Year's Day (Dec. 28, 2018-Jan. 2, 2019) holiday periods, there were more drunk-driving related deaths (210) throughout the country than during any other holiday period in 2019.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holidays and be safe," said Agent Nate Henry. "Set up sober drivers or utilize ride sharing options. If people make plans in advance, it eliminates the temptation to get your vehicle home after Holiday parties and gatherings."

Visalia Police Department reminds drivers that a "DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze." Prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs and marijuana can also impair, especially in combination with alcohol and other drugs.

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