



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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### **Plan Ahead This Holiday Season: Be Safe and Drive Sober**

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

During the pre-Christmas and New Year's holiday season Nov. 28-Dec. 31, the Visalia Police Department will have additional officers on patrol looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

"We want everyone to enjoy the holidays and be safe," Sergeant Art Alvarez said. "If you plan to go out and celebrate, make sure you plan ahead and find a safe, sober ride home because driving impaired should never be an option."

Drunk driving is a problem on our nation's roads every day, but it's more prevalent during the holidays. During the 2016-2020 December months, there were more than 4,400 people killed in drunk-driving-related crashes.

The 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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