



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

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### **The Visalia Police Department Encourages Drivers to Go Safely During the Final Days of Summer**

As the summer travel season wraps up, the Visalia Police Department reminds drivers to stay safe and be responsible by never driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

“The community’s well-being is our top priority. If you are planning to drink, please have a plan and a designated driver to get home safely,” Agent Robert Avalos said. “There is never a good excuse for driving after drinking or using drugs that impair.”

The Visalia Police Department asks residents to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your family by buckling up, avoiding distractions behind the wheel, following the speed limit, and not driving impaired.

To help keep our community safe, VPD will have additional officers on patrol August 16<sup>th</sup> through Labor Day September 4<sup>th</sup>. Officers will be looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The additional efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national enforcement campaign, *Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

The Visalia Police Department will also hold a DUI Checkpoint September 8<sup>th</sup> 2023 from 8 p.m. to 2 a.m. at an undisclosed location within the city of Visalia.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,384 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2021 — that’s one person every 39 minutes.

While drunk driving is a significant traffic safety problem, driving while impaired is not just from alcohol. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and cannabis products may also impair. If you plan on drinking or taking medications with a driving warning label, let someone who is sober drive. If you see someone driving impaired, call 9-1-1.

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

