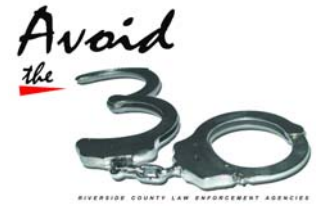




# Avoid the 30 Riverside County

## PRESS RELEASE



### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## **“Avoid the 30” Holiday DUI Enforcement in Riverside County** *Public Asked to Call 911 to Report Suspected Drunk Drivers*

Riverside, California — Beginning December 12, 2008, Riverside County law enforcement agencies will participate in the “AVOID the 30” program as part of California’s Holiday DUI Enforcement Campaign, encouraging the public to call 911 and report suspected drunk drivers.

Avoid the 30 Riverside County will have officers aggressively looking for all impaired drivers and will arrest anyone they find driving while impaired — regardless of age, vehicle type, or time of day. Checkpoints and Saturation Patrols will be held across the county and extra officers will be patrolling the streets looking for impaired drivers.

2007 marks the first year since 1998 in which alcohol-related fatalities have declined in California. Fatalities dropped 6.7 percent between 2006 and 2007.

“California has worked very hard over the past five years to reverse the trend of increasing alcohol-related traffic fatalities,” said OTS Director Christopher J. Murphy. “Through an aggressive combination of sobriety checkpoints, saturation patrols and greater vigilance on the part of the public by calling 911 when they see a drunk driver, we’re getting these dangerous drivers off the road.”  
The following clues can help motorists detect a drunk driver:

- Weaving/swerving in and out of the lane
- Weaving within the lane quite noticeably
- Traveling at speeds much slower than the flow of traffic
- Braking erratically or stopping in the lane
- Sudden stops for signal lights and slow start once they change
- Remaining at the signal lights once they turn green – asleep at the wheel
- Making wide turns and/or cutting the corner, striking the curb
- Headlights off at night or on high beams
- Driving with the turn signals on
- Straddling the center line of the road or lane lines
- The Driver looks intoxicated – staring straight ahead, face close to the windshield, and appears to be quite sleepy...
- Aggressive Driving – speeding, tailgating and multiple lane changes or unsafe passing may also be the tell-tale signs of intoxication

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“How many times have you seen someone driving erratically in an unsafe manner and wished there was a cop around?” said Riverside County Avoid the 30 coordinator Karen Haverkamp “Law enforcement can’t be everywhere at once. We need the public’s help to find impaired drivers and get them off the roads promptly.”

In 2007\*, 1,491 people were killed and 30,642 injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,597 fatalities and 31,099 injuries in 2006. Growth of the California AVOID Program, including the California Highway Patrol and more than 450 local law enforcement agencies, has contributed to the reduction in deaths and injuries. As of 2008, 98 percent of the state’s population is covered by the regional enforcement efforts.

California’s effort coincides with the national “*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.*” campaign taking part across the country. Grant funding for the regional AVOID Program includes officer overtime for sobriety checkpoints and saturation patrols and is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The OTS, through NHTSA, awarded several million dollars in grants to local police departments to conduct sobriety checkpoints during the upcoming holiday season. In addition, OTS has allocated \$6.5 million to fund AVOID Programs in 41 counties.

For more information on the holiday enforcement crackdown and enforcement schedules, visit the California Avoid Web Site at [www.californiaavoid.org](http://www.californiaavoid.org) and the Riverside County Avoid Web Site at [www.avoidthe30.org](http://www.avoidthe30.org) .

**MEDIA NOTES:** To schedule an interview regarding Avoid the 30 DUI Crackdown, or request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact Karen Haverkamp at 951-353-7980 or via email at [khaver@riversideca.gov](mailto:khaver@riversideca.gov). To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts and programs in California please contact Chris Cochran at (916) 262-2975 or via email at [ccochran@ots.ca.gov](mailto:ccochran@ots.ca.gov).

*\* Statistics based on California Highway Patrol 2007 provisional data and the California Department of Motor Vehicles.*



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