



Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, December 17, 2009

CONTACT:

Karen Haverkamp
Traffic Bureau Administrative Supervisor
Riverside Police Department
951-353-7980 khaver@riversideca.gov

'AVOID the 30' Holiday DUI Enforcement in Riverside County Begins Friday' *Regional & Statewide Holiday Crackdown – 300+ DUI Checkpoints Planned*

Riverside, California - Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, 11,773 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In California 1,029 were killed on state and local roads driving with a .08 BAC or higher with another 28,457 injured in Alcohol Involved Collisions.

That is why 'AVOID the 30 – Riverside County' announced today they will be joining with law enforcement across California and the nation from December 18th to January 3, 2010, to take part in the '*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest*' crackdown on impaired driving. Across the state there will be 300 DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints, DUI Task Force operations, and hundreds of local DUI roving patrols in an effort to make this holiday season free from another senseless drunk driving death.

"We continue to see far too many people suffer debilitating injuries and loss of their loved ones as a result of impaired driving. This careless disregard for human life must stop," said Riverside Police Chief Russ Leach. "To help ensure that this happens, the AVOID the 30 partners are dedicated to arresting impaired drivers. To help, we ask everyone; 'Report Drunk Drivers, Call 9-1-1!'"

AVOID the 30 – Riverside County law enforcement agencies will staff officers at two checkpoints in the cities of Temecula and Hemet, two multiagency task force checkpoints in the cities of Desert Hot Springs and Riverside, and 14 local DUI Patrols in every community in Riverside County. CHP will be staffing 80% of all available officers during the 4 Day Christmas and New Years holiday weekends. In 2008, 491 individuals were arrested for DUI in Riverside County; there were 3 DUI related deaths with 81 DUI related injuries over the winter holiday period.

"Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant," said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. "Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver's license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work, and dozens of other expenses. So don't take the chance. Remember, if you are over the limit, you are under arrest."

This DUI Enforcement Campaign is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or www.avoidthe30.org

NOTE: All non-local statistics are from CHP's State Wide Integrated Traffic Records System 2008 provisional data, the California Department of Justice, and the NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System. See attached Schedule of Enforcement Operations of Dates/Times and Locations of County DUI Operations this Campaign Period. Editor's note: To schedule an interview or request a ride-along regarding impaired driving efforts, please contact Karen Haverkamp via email at khaver@riversideca.gov .

#

