



## **HOLIDAY DRINKERS BEWARE:** **AVOID THE 18 TULARE/KINGS COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE** **IS CRACKING DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS**

### *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

[Visalia, CA]— This holiday season, Police, Sheriff and CHP will be out in force cracking down on drunk drivers throughout the region with aggressive *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement. From **Dec. 13, 2013, to Jan. 1, 2014**, state and local law enforcement will be watching for drunk drivers to help keep roads safe for holiday travelers.

The *Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force* will be aggressively looking for drunk drivers this holiday season with plans in place for 2 DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints, 12 local roving DUI Saturation Patrols, and 2 DUI Warrant/Probation Sweeps. (\*\*See attached **Schedule of Operations for the 20 Day Mobilization for dates and city locations**)

The *Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force* is giving fair warning to all partygoers. "You'll see us making lots of stops during this highly visible enforcement period and if we suspect anyone is driving while intoxicated, officers will show zero tolerance for drunk driving," said Sergeant Chris McLain, Visalia Police Department.

Unfortunately, the excitement and celebrations of the holiday season can lead to terrible decisions-- and serious legal consequences.

Data shows that the holiday season is a particularly deadly time due to the increased number of drunk drivers on the roads, and every law enforcement agency in the county is prepared to stop and arrest any drunk driver they see to keep roads safe.

Nationally in the four years from 2007 to 2011 there were 4,169 people killed during the month of December in crashes that involved drivers with Blood Alcohol Concentrations (BAC) of .08% or higher. In California during those same five Decembers, 505 were killed and thousands seriously injured.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 32,367 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes across the nation in 2011, and 31 percent (9,878) of those fatalities occurred in drunk-driving-related crashes. Californians witnessed a total of 2,835 deaths with 774 killed in DUI crashes on their streets and highways.

"The December holiday season is the 'most wonderful time of the year,' and we are going to keep our roads safe for travelers heading to visit friends and family," said Sergeant McLain "This holiday, we will show zero tolerance for impaired drivers on the road. If you choose to drive drunk, we will be looking for you, we will stop you, and you will be arrested."

Drunk drivers often face jail time, the loss of their driver licenses, higher insurance rates, and dozens of other unanticipated expenses ranging from attorney fees, court costs, car towing and repairs, to lost wages

due to time off from work. Even worse, a drunk driver can cause a traffic crash that claims someone's life, or their own.

Please follow these tips to keep the holidays safe and happy:

- Even one drink can impair your judgment and increase the risk of getting arrested for driving drunk—or worse, the risk of having a crash while driving.
- If you will be drinking, do not plan on driving. Plan ahead; designate a sober driver before the party begins.
- If you have been drinking, do not drive. Call a taxi, phone a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.
- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Your actions may save someone's life, and inaction could cost a life.

Remember, it is never safe to drink and drive: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

*Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force* funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration that reminds everyone: Report Drunk Drivers! Call 9-1-1.

## **Tulare/Kings County December Enforcement Schedule**

Visalia CA – The Tulare/Kings County *Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force* is announcing its upcoming enforcement operations for the Winter Holiday DUI Campaign. The following schedule of operations, dates, and locations are provided for broadcast.

Visalia Police will be conducting the following details through this Winter Enforcement Period:

Fri, Dec 13<sup>th</sup>, Multi Agency DUI Saturation 2100-0300

Fri, Dec 20<sup>th</sup>, DUI/CDL Checkpoint 2100-0300

Sat, Dec 21<sup>st</sup>, DUI Saturation 2100-0300

Fri, Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, DUI/CDL Checkpoint 2100-0300

Tue, Dec 31<sup>st</sup>, DUI Saturation 2100-0300

The following AVOID partners will also be conducting DUI Checkpoints and Saturation patrols throughout this mobilization period:

- Avenal Police Department
- Corcoran Police Department
- Exeter Police Department
- Farmersville Police Department
- Hanford Police Department
- Kings County Sheriff's Department
- Tulare Police Department
- Woodlake Police Department
- California Highway Patrol

*Funding for the “Avoid” program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*



###