



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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*****NEWS RELEASE*****

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PRESS RELEASE

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VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR TULARE AND KINGS COUNTIES DUI ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN

The primary cause of deaths on our local streets and highways remains Drunk Driving and the 'Avoid the 18' DUI Task Force will continue with its DUI enforcement in Tulare and Kings County as a result of a recent \$272,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the Visalia Police Department. The Visalia Police Department will administer the grant for the both counties.

"The 'Avoid the 18' DUI enforcement grant has been very effective in combating impaired driving in the past, and the agencies involved, plan to continue that enforcement in both Tulare and Kings Counties. The grant also allows for opportunities to increase awareness and educate the public to this problem," said Sergeant Chris McLain of the Visalia Police Department.

The 'Avoid the 18' DUI Campaign is named to send the message that if you don't drink and drive, you will avoid getting arrested by any of the 18 participating law enforcement agencies in the counties.

The grant activities will specifically target those who drink too much and get behind the wheel. Officers will be staffing DUI/Driver License Checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols for each partnering. Additionally, funding will target the 'worst of the worst' repeat DUI offenders with



Warrant/Probation Sweeps and Court Sting Enforcement Operations focusing on DUI offenders who leave court hearings and drive away on suspended licenses after being ordered not to drive by a judge.

“The Avoid DUI Task Forces have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths on our roadways in the last five years in California,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “Tragically, DUI deaths remain the largest sector, at over 30 percent of traffic fatalities. This grant will help combat that, making Tulare and Kings Counties safer places to live and work.”

DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints are a key component of the grant. These highly visible, highly publicized events are meant to deter impaired driving, not to increase arrests. Research shows that crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

Motorist can expect to see special DUI campaigns during the winter and summer holiday periods as well as on Halloween, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick’s Day, Cinco de Mayo and during local special events with identified DUI Problems. Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Agencies participating in the ‘Avoid the 18’ taskforce include:

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| Visalia Police Department | Tulare Police Department |
| Porterville Police Department | Dinuba Police Department |
| Farmersville Police Department | Woodlake Police Department |
| Exeter Police Department | College of the Sequoias Police Department |
| Tulare County Sheriff’s Department | Tulare County Probation Department |
| Hanford Police Department | Kings County Sheriff’s Department |
| Lemoore Police Department | Corcoran Police Department |
| Avenal Police Department | Kings County Probation Department |
| California Highway Patrol offices in both Tulare and Kings Counties. | |



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