



VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Colleen Mestas, Chief of Police

Sergeant Amy Watkins, Public Information Officer
(559) 713-4216 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)
awatkins@ci.visalia.ca.us

NEWS RELEASE

December 13, 2011



Avoid the 18 Tulare-Kings County

MEDIA ADVISORY

For Immediate Release on December 05, 2011

**Local, Statewide & Nationwide DUI Crackdown to begin Friday Night
December 16, 2011 with First of Hundreds of DUI Checkpoints**

Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over!

WHAT: The Avoid the 18 Tulare-Kings County DUI Taskforce will have a Press Conference to re-enforce Tulare and Kings County drivers to not drink and drive during this winter holiday season with the awareness that thousands of others stand ready to report you! Fellow commuters are asked to Report Drunk Drivers - Call 911.

Descriptions and details of DUI enforcement activities occurring over the holiday season will be highlighted by local law enforcement personnel, safety advocates and local community members partnered to help save lives. Anyone requesting further information can contact Sgt. Amy Watkins.

The Avoid the 18 DUI Task Force is composed of 18 local law enforcement agencies throughout Tulare and Kings counties allied together to combat drunk driving in the cities and unincorporated areas of both counties. The program is called the Avoid DUI Campaign because motorists can "avoid" being arrested by not drinking and driving.

WHEN: Tuesday, December 13, 2011, at 1:00 PM



WHERE: Visalia Police Department District 2 Substation
4100 S. County Center, Visalia, CA

WHY: Driving while intoxicated is one of America's deadliest crimes. In Tulare and Kings Counties the loss of life in 2009 stands at 35 killed with another 465 injured in alcohol involved collisions. Law Enforcement is doing everything in their power to prevent the need to contact a loved one breaking the news that their family member died at the hands of a drunk driver this holiday season. Do your part, always plan celebrations with a Designated Driver and Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911!

CONTACT: Sgt. Amy Watkins, Public Information Officer, Visalia Police Department
Phone: 559-713-4216 Email: awatkins@ci.visalia.ca.us

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

#

