



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

*Jason Salazar, Chief of Police*

Liz Jones, Public Safety Police & Fire PIO,  
Media & Communications Manager  
(559) 713-4370 (office) / (559) 713-4807 (fax)  
Elizabeth.Jones@visalia.city

\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\*

August 15, 2024

### Visalia PD Reminds Drivers to Keep the Final Days of Summer Fun, Not Fatal

As the end of summer approaches and families the Visalia Police Department reminds everyone to prioritize safety on the roads. Drivers are encouraged to make responsible choices behind the wheel by never driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Visalia PD offers the following tips to Go Safely:

- **Plan Ahead:** If you know you'll be drinking, arrange for a designated driver, use a ride-sharing service, taxi or public transportation.
- **Buckle Up:** Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself in the event of a crash.
- **Stay Alert:** Avoid distractions such as texting or eating while driving. Keep your focus on the road.
- **Follow Speed Limits:** Speeding reduces your reaction time and increases the severity of crashes.
- **Watch for Pedestrians and Bicyclists:** With more people enjoying outdoor activities, be extra vigilant and share the road responsibly.
- **Take Breaks:** If you're traveling long distances, take regular breaks to rest and avoid fatigue.

To help keep our community safe, the Visalia Police Department will have additional officers on patrol Aug. 16 through Labor Day (Sept. 2) looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The additional efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national enforcement campaign, *Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

In addition to patrols, Visalia PD will hold a DUI Checkpoint Friday August 16th at an undisclosed location within the city of Visalia.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,524 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2022 — that's one person every 39 minutes.

While drunk driving is a significant traffic safety problem, driving while impaired is not just from alcohol. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and cannabis products may also impair. If you plan on drinking or taking medications with a driving warning label, let someone who is sober drive. If you see someone who appears to be driving while impaired, call 9-1-1.

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



