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NEWS

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Law Enforcement DUI Task Force Cracking Down On Impaired Drivers This Fourth of July

SANTA ANA, CA (July 2, 2013) - Most Americans may not realize it, but the Fourth of July is one of the deadliest holidays of the year due to alcohol-impaired driving crashes.

This Fourth of July, law enforcement throughout Orange County are stepping up enforcement efforts as part of the ongoing DUI Task Force, joining thousands of agencies statewide in the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" enforcement crackdown to catch and arrest impaired drivers who put themselves and others at risk. The deputies and officers of the task force will be out in full force this Fourth of July holiday weekend showing zero tolerance for impaired drivers.

Impaired-driving crashes killed more than 10,000 people in 2010, accounting for 31% of all traffic-related fatalities in the United States. That's an average of one alcohol-impaired-driving fatality every 51 minutes.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 392 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes during the Fourth of July holiday in 2010. Of those fatalities, 39 percent were in crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08% or higher.

To save lives on our roadways the Orange County DUI Task Force will be cracking down on drug and alcohol impaired driving, deploying officers to DUI/driver's license checkpoints, and DUI saturation patrols. The CHP will be deploying all available officers onto freeways and county roads for its Maximum Enforcement Period (MEP).

The DUI Task Force recommends these simple tips for a safe Fourth of July:

- Plan a safe way home before the fun begins;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to report it - Call 911!
- And remember, "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over." If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.
- For more information, please visit www.nhtsa.gov/drivesober.

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