



**SHERIFF-CORONER DEPARTMENT
COUNTY OF ORANGE, CALIFORNIA**

550 NORTH FLOWER STREET – P.O. BOX 449
SANTA ANA, CALIFORNIA 92702-0449 (714) 647-7042

**SANDRA HUTCHENS
SHERIFF-CORONER**

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Gail Krause, (714) 647-1840

Orange County DUI Task Force Crackdown on Impaired Driving
Law enforcement reminds drivers to end the summer on a safe note

SANTA ANA, California (August 16, 2012) – Do not drink and drive in Orange County. The Orange County “Avoid the 38” DUI Task Force is partnering with law enforcement throughout the state for the “***Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over***” campaign August 17 to September 3, 2012. The Task Force will be aggressively looking for all impaired drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone they find driving impaired.

DUI/ Driver’s License Checkpoints, Multi Agency DUI Task Force deployments and roving DUI patrols are scheduled locally in partnership with law enforcement nationwide during the Summer/Labor Day Campaign.

The crime of impaired driving is a serious one. In 2010 alone, 791 people died in California in crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was at or above the legal limit. The age group with the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes was the 21-to-24 year old age group.

On average there is one alcohol impaired driving-related fatality every 51 minutes across America. Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” campaign can reduce these fatalities by as much as 20 percent.

“We hope the campaign will remind people that if they plan on drinking, to never get behind the wheel,” said Deputy Wayne Howard with the Orange County Sheriff’s Department Traffic Bureau. “But if someone does choose to drive impaired, we will arrest them. No warnings. No excuses.”

According to the Task Force, violators will face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, or be sentenced to use ignition interlocks. Their insurance rates go up and other financial implications may include attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job or job prospects. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators can also face tremendous personal embarrassment and humiliation.

The “*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*” crackdown is led by the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), with the California Avoid DUI Task Force Campaign combining high-visibility enforcement, heightened public awareness and impaired driving deterrence through publicity.

Grant funding for the Avoid Campaign is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone to report drunk driving – call 911.

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