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### **NEWS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Orange County DUI Task Force Holiday Crackdown on Impaired Driving**

**SANTA ANA, California** (December 13, 2012) - To help save lives this holiday season, law enforcement from 38 agencies are launching a special "*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*" crackdown to stop impaired drivers and to save lives on our roadways.

The Orange County 'Avoid the 38' DUI Task Force will aggressively look for impaired drivers and will arrest anyone caught driving under the influence. Enforcement efforts will include: five DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints, 15 local DUI saturation patrols, three Multi-Agency DUI Taskforce strike team patrols, and two DUI Warrant/Probation sweeps. The CHP will deploy all available officers during two maximum enforcement periods during Christmas and New Year's weekends. The special enforcement crackdown will take place from December 14, 2012 through January 1, 2013.

"Lots of folks will be out during this busy holiday season, enjoying themselves and the holiday festivities, and we want everyone to be safe on our roadways," said Deputy Wayne Howard with the Orange County Sheriff's Department Traffic Bureau. "We will be stepping up enforcement to catch and arrest impaired drivers. Please be forewarned. If you are caught driving impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses."

In 2010, more than 10,000 people were killed nationwide in motor vehicle traffic crashes involving an impaired driver. The same year, 791 people died in California and 51 individuals were killed in Orange County. The holiday season can be a dangerous time. During December 2010, 30% of all fatalities in motor vehicle traffic accidents involved alcohol-impaired drivers. Data also shows that among those alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities, 71% occurred when drivers had nearly twice the legal limit of .15% blood alcohol concentration or higher.

"No one ever thinks that their holiday celebration will end in jail, or worse, in a hospital or the morgue," said Deputy Howard. "But for those who include alcohol in their celebrations and then get behind the wheel, this is too often the case."

DUI violators face jail time, loss of driver license, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job.

The Orange County DUI Task Force offers three simple steps for drivers to stay safe and out of trouble:

1. Plan ahead. If you will be drinking, do not plan on driving. Designate a sober driver or find another safe way home. Even one too many drinks increases the risk of a crash while driving a motor vehicle.
2. If you are impaired, find another way home. Use a taxi, call a sober friend or use public transportation.
3. Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let them get behind the wheel. If you see an impaired driver on the road, Report Them - Call 911! Your actions may save someone's life, and inaction could cost a life.

“We want everyone to enjoy their holidays, but we also want our roadways to be safe,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS). “Police, Sheriffs and the CHP will be out in force to help save lives, and they are not going to tolerate impaired driving. So remember, ‘Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.’ They will be watching.”

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.

**Media Notes:** To schedule an interview regarding enforcement efforts, or to request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact The Orange County Sheriff’s Department Public Affairs Office at (714) 647-7042.



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