



Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SUMMER/LABOR DAY AVOID THE 30 DUI CAMPAIGN – THURSDAY UPDATE

DUI Arrests Up & DUI Fatalities Up

The Summer/Labor Day National Anti-DUI crackdown has resulted in a significant number of DUI arrests from routine traffic enforcement and special Avoid the 30 DUI deployments in Riverside County.

From 12:01 AM, Friday, August 17, 2012, through midnight, Wednesday, August 22, 2012, officers representing 30 Riverside County law enforcement agencies have arrested **242** individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In 2011, 232 DUI arrests occurred during the same six (6) day period. Notable arrests this week in Riverside include a 17-year old who was arrested for DUI. The boy's father was also in the vehicle at the time, along with several other minors. Less than an hour later, police responded to a local elementary school and contacted a driver waiting to pick up his children. This driver was arrested after he was found to be severely intoxicated and unable to stand without assistance.

Tragically, there have been three deaths due to impaired driving in our area. Early Monday morning, Samuel Felix, 33, was driving on Interstate 10 east of Whitewater and crashed into the rear of a slower moving semi-trailer truck. Felix's 62-year old passenger was killed upon impact. On Tuesday, Crystal Gray, 33, was driving and lost control of her vehicle at the end of a police pursuit. One passenger, Shelby Kraft, 21, died from her injuries from the crash at the hospital and the other passenger remains in critical condition. (**NOTE: These numbers are only provisional with some agencies yet to report**)

For the second weekend of the campaign, DUI checkpoints will be conducted in the cities of Hemet, Jurupa Valley, Moreno Valley, Murrieta and Palm Desert. Extra DUI saturation patrols will be deployed in the cities of Blythe, Coachella, Hemet, Moreno Valley, Murrieta, Palm Desert, Riverside, San Jacinto and Temecula. Multi-agency task force officers will also be deployed to the cities of Corona, Lake Perris and Riverside. CHP officers from Riverside and Temecula will conduct roving operations throughout their jurisdictions. In addition, all regularly scheduled traffic and patrol officers will focus efforts on stopping and arresting DUI drivers during their normal shifts.

Police officers, sheriff deputies and the CHP encourage all motorists to help make your community safer: Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911. Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

DUI arrest data collection will continue through Labor Day midnight, Monday, September 3, 2012.

MEDIA NOTES: Please visit the AVOID website at www.californiaavoid.org for more information on the campaign's DUI enforcements, statistical data on DUI arrests and DUI fatal crashes from earlier enforcement efforts. The checkpoint locations and saturation patrols will be made available for media opportunities or ride-a-longs each night.

The national ***Driver 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 and impaired driving deterrence with heightened public awareness through publicity. Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone to Report Drunk Driving – Call 9-1-1!

To schedule an interview regarding anti-drunk driving efforts, or to request a ride-a-long with law enforcement during this campaign, please contact Lieutenant Eric Charrette at 951-826-8777 or via email at ECharrette@riversideca.gov.



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