



# AVOID DUI Task Force Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

December 11, 2014

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**YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, I'M TELLING YOU WHY:  
AVOID DUI TASK FORCE IS CRACKING DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS**  
*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Riverside, CA—This is the time of year, with all the holiday parties and festive occasions, many partygoers will be drinking. If you're celebrating with alcohol this holiday season, Riverside Police Department has a message for you: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, law enforcement agencies across the country will be out in force December 12, 2014, through January 1, 2015, actively searching for impaired drivers.

The Riverside County Avoid DUI Task Force will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers this holiday season with plans in place for twelve DUI/driver's license checkpoints and twenty-seven local roving DUI saturation patrols. (\*\*See attached schedule for the 21 day mobilization for dates and city locations)

The facts are grim: on average, a third (31%) of all crash fatalities in America involves drunk driving. In December 2012 there were 830 people killed in crashes involving at least one driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher; 26 of those deaths occurred on Christmas Day. On Christmas day 2012, the percentage jumped to 36 percent. For all of 2012, more than 10,322 people are killed by drunk drivers in America, with 802 of those in California alone. In California, an additional 24,000 are seriously injured.

It's one of the primary missions of law enforcement, the California Office of Traffic Safety and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration to eliminate these tragedies. As part of the national *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement campaign period, law enforcement will be increasing their number of patrols, setting up DUI Checkpoints, and using local media to reach all drivers. If you're drinking and driving, the Riverside Avoid DUI Task Force will be out to find and arrest you – no warnings, no excuses. You'll face jail time, fines, loss of your driver's license, towing fees, and other DUI expenses, totaling \$10,000 on average. Even worse, an impaired driver can cause a traffic collision that claims someone's life or their own. Not to mention the humiliation among your family, friends, and workplace.

The only way to truly avoid a DUI is to drive sober. There are many ways to get home safely after drinking but driving isn't one of them. Designate a sober driver ahead of time, or call a friend or family member. You could also use public transportation or call a taxi. The cost of cab fare is nothing



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compared to a \$10,000 DUI or the cost of someone's life, and the 'inconvenience' of not driving your own car home is nothing compared to the inconvenience of spending the holidays behind bars.

In addition to reminding all drivers to drive sober, Riverside is calling on everyone to be alert. If you see a drunk driver on the road, Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911! — you could save a life. If someone you know is about to drive after drinking, take their keys and help them get home safely. "We've got to work together to make our roads safer this December and year-round."

Some startling data from NHTSA shows that during the holiday season in 2012, 40 percent of the drunk drivers involved in fatal crashes had at least one prior DUI on their record. And many offenders are young drivers: during that same holiday period 37 percent of the 21 to 24 year-old drivers in fatal crashes were impaired. Surprisingly, almost 1 out of 6 drivers under the age of 21 in those fatal crashes were also drunk, even though they're too young to legally buy or consume alcohol.

The Riverside County AVOID DUI Task Force advises drivers to *follow these tips* to keep the holidays safe and happy:

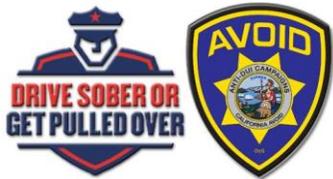
- Even one drink can impair your judgment and increase the risk of getting arrested or worse, the risk of having a crash.
- If you will be drinking, do not drive. Call a taxi, a sober friend or a family member. Use public transportation or use a sober ride program. **The Auto Club (AAA) sponsors a complimentary Topsy Tow service to members and non-members on New Year's Eve and the Fourth of July. This service offers free rides to drivers who have been drinking. Ask for a Topsy Tow by calling 1-800-400-4222.**
- Be responsible. If someone you know is drinking, do not let that person get behind the wheel.
- If you see an impaired driver on the road, contact law enforcement. Your actions may save someone's life and your inaction could cost a life.

Remember, it is never safe to drink and drive: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.*

Riverside County AVOID Task Force funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Office of Traffic Safety is offering a free mobile app – DDVIP – aimed at thanking the sober designated driver with perks and free offers at area bars and restaurants.



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## **2014 Winter Holiday Schedule of Operations**

The following schedule is current as of December 12, 2014, and is provided for media release.

### **FRIDAY, December 12, 2014**

#### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Palm Springs Police Department – 1900-0200
- Riverside Police Department – 1900-0100

#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department – 0000-0300

### **SATURDAY, December 13, 2014**

#### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Menifee Police Department

#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Palm Desert Police Department

### **SUNDAY, December 14, 2014**

#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

### **WEDNESDAY, December 17, 2014**

#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

### **THURSDAY, December 18, 2014**

#### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Coachella Police Department

#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

### **FRIDAY, December 19, 2014**

#### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Desert Hot Springs Police Department
- Temecula Police Department, 2100-0100
- Corona Police Department
- Moreno Valley Police Department

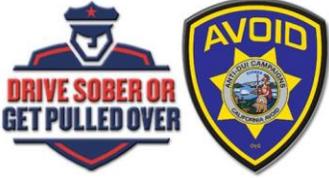
#### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Perris Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department
- Riverside Police Department – 0000-0300

### **SATURDAY, December 20, 2014**

#### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- San Jacinto Police Department – 1800-0200



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## **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Menifee Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department
- Riverside Police Department
- Palm Springs Police Department
- Temecula Police Department

## **MONDAY, December 22, 2014**

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

## **FRIDAY, December 26, 2014**

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

## **SATURDAY, December 27, 2014**

### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Perris Police Department
- Murrieta Police Department, 1900-0300

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Desert Hot Springs Police Department – 2100-0500
- Riverside Police Department
- Moreno Valley Police Department
- Palm Desert Police Department

## **SUNDAY, December 28, 2014**

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Palm Desert Police Department
- Riverside Police Department

## **MONDAY, December 29, 2014**

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

## **TUESDAY, December 30, 2014**

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

## **WEDNESDAY, December 31, 2014**

### **DUI/DL Checkpoint**

- Palm Desert Police Department – 1900-0300

### **DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department
- Temecula Police Department
- Corona Police Department
- Moreno Valley Police Department



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**THURSDAY, January 1, 2015**

**DUI Saturation Patrol**

- Riverside Police Department

Additional information about the Avoid Program and operational plans from around the region can be found at [avoidthe30.org](http://avoidthe30.org) or look for us on Facebook. *Funding for Avoid DUI Task Force operations is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.*

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