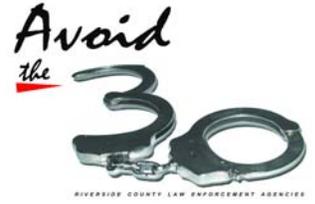




Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Thursday, July 9, 2009

CONTACT:

Supervisor Karen Haverkamp
Riverside Police Department - Traffic Bureau
951-353-7980 or khaver@riversideca.gov

Avoid the 30 Riverside County Announces a Successful July 4th Crackdown on Drunk Drivers

INDEPENDENCE Day Weekend AVOID campaign – Final Report

DUI Arrests Up

The Independence Day Weekend DUI crackdown on drinking drivers has ended and resulted in a significant number of DUI arrests from the Sobriety Checkpoint, Special Saturation Patrols and routine patrol in the Riverside County “AVOID” DUI Campaign overnight.

From 12:01 AM Friday July 3, 2009 through Midnight Monday, July 6, 2009, officers representing 30 county law enforcement agencies have arrested **144** individuals for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In 2008, 103 DUI arrests occurred during the same time period. Tragically, there were two deaths attributed to a drunk driver in the Moreno Valley area. Last year there was one alcohol related death during this same time period.

(**NOTE: These numbers are only provisional with many agencies yet to report**)

These numbers are in comparison to last years’ totals during a 4 day holiday period for the July 4th weekend. Law enforcement officials will be conducting more Avoid anti DUI efforts throughout the county and region during the three week campaign August 21st through Labor Day.

Avoid programs, named for the number of police agencies in each county, also concentrate on the Independence Day weekend as well as the 18-Day August/Labor Day period. In recognition that summer season is among the deadliest time of the year, law enforcement agencies throughout the county will be making every effort to arrest drunk drivers before another life is lost.

Police, Sheriff and the CHP encourage all motorists to help make your community safer: Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1.



Funding for the “Avoid” program is provided by a grant form the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, visit the California Avoid Web Site at www.californiaavoid.org and Riverside County Avoid Web Site at www.avoidthe30.org .

