



Avoid the 30 Riverside County PRESS RELEASE



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Police, Sheriff & CHP Urge Motorists to Drive Responsibly this Thanksgiving Weekend - *Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins*

Riverside, California – **AVOID the 30** is urging the public to help keep the streets safe this Thanksgiving holiday by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before the celebration.

The Riverside County **AVOID the 30** will be having special DUI saturation patrols throughout the weekend. The number one killer on our highways is the impaired driver. In 2008, alcohol attributed to 1,029 deaths in California with more than 30,000 injured, many still suffering with life long disabilities.

“The Riverside Police Department wishes everyone a safe Thanksgiving Holiday” said Supervisor Karen Haverkamp, the Riverside County **AVOID the 30** coordinator. “We encourage people to celebrate responsibly, use designated drivers, and to buckle up and stay alive. As always, DUI laws will be strictly enforced.”

The Riverside County **AVOID the 30** agencies recommend the following tips:

- Plan a safe way home before your celebration begins
- Designate a sober driver before any drinking begins
- If you’re impaired, call a sober friend or family member so you get home safely
- If you know someone who is about to drive while impaired, take away the keys and help make other arrangements for a safe ride home
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate – Call 9-1-1

“Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is an extremely risky and dangerous thing to do,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. “If you plan on using alcohol, plan ahead with a sober driver. And remember, friends don’t let friends drive drunk.”

According to NHTSA research, impaired driving remains one of America’s deadliest problems. In 2007, 41,059 people nationwide were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of that number 12,998 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

For more information, please visit
www.StopImpairedDriving.org or www.avoidthe30.org



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