



For Immediate Release:
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Contact:
Commander Chuck Gerhart
Arroyo Grande Police Department
473-5122

‘AVOID the 14’ Holiday DUI Enforcement in San Luis Obispo County Begins Friday, December 18, 2009

Regional & Statewide Holiday Crackdown – 300+ DUI Checkpoints Planned

(Arroyo Grande, CA) - Drunk driving is one of America’s deadliest crimes. In 2008, 11,773 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In California 1,029 were killed on state and local roads driving with a .08 BAC or higher with another 28,457 injured in Alcohol Involved Collisions.

That is why ‘Avoid the 14 – San Luis Obispo County’ announced today they will be joining with law enforcement across California and the nation from December 18th to January 3, 2010, to take part in the ‘*Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest*’ crackdown on impaired driving. Across the state there will be 300 DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints, DUI Task Force operations, and hundreds of local DUI roving patrols in an effort to make this holiday season free from another senseless drunk driving death.

“We continue to see far too many people suffer debilitating injuries and loss of their loved ones as a result of impaired driving. This careless disregard for human life must stop,” said Arroyo Grande Chief Steven Annibali. “To help ensure that this happens, the Avoid the 14 partners are dedicated to arresting impaired driving. To help, we ask everyone; ‘Report Drunk Drivers, Call 9-1-1!’”

Avoid the 14 – San Luis Obispo County law enforcement agencies will staff officers at 1 checkpoint in the city of Pismo Beach, a multi-agency task force operation in the Five Cities area and 14 local DUI Patrols throughout San Luis Obispo county. CHP will be staffing 80% of all available officers during the 4 Day Christmas and New Years holiday weekends. In 2008, 2505 individuals were arrested for DUI in San Luis Obispo County, there were 10 DUI related deaths with 276 DUI related injuries.

“Drunk driving is simply not worth the risk. Not only do you risk killing yourself or someone else, but the trauma and financial costs of a crash or an arrest for impaired driving can be significant,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. “Violators often face jail time, the loss of their driver’s license, higher insurance rates, attorney fees, time away from work, and dozens of other expenses. So don’t take the chance. Remember, if you are over the limit, you are under arrest.”

This DUI Enforcement Campaign is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information visit www.californiaavoid.org & www.Stopimpaireddriving.org.

NOTE: All non-local statistics are from CHP's State Wide Integrated Traffic Records System 2008 provisional data, the California Department of Justice, and the NHTSA Fatality Analysis Reporting System. See attached Schedule of Enforcement Operations of Dates/Times and Locations of County DUI Operations this Campaign Period.



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Editor's note: To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts, or request a ride-along with law enforcement during the holiday period, please contact Commander Chuck at 473-5122 or via email at cgerhart@arroyogrande.org.