



COSTA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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PRESS RELEASE

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DUI Checkpoint Press Release

The Costa Mesa Police Department will be conducting a sobriety / driver license checkpoint on Friday evening, February 20, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The checkpoint will be located on northbound Placentia Avenue, at 20th Street. The checkpoint is to educate the public about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or without a valid driver license.

The decision of individual drivers not to drive after drinking is the single biggest factor in reducing deaths and injuries caused by alcohol related collisions. In addition, those operating a motor vehicle without a valid license have an increased likelihood of being involved in crashes. Together, they are a deadly combination.

"We have been committed to saving lives by aggressively seeking out and removing impaired drivers from the roadways of Costa Mesa for nearly three decades," said Traffic Safety Bureau Sergeant Rob Sharpnack. "For those who don't make the intelligent and safe decision to avoid driving after they drink, CMPD will diligently continue to remove them from our roadways."

Recent statistics from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) indicate that driving under the influence is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime, killing someone every 30 minutes. CMPD works closely with M.A.D.D., which provides their crashed car trailer, displayed at checkpoints as a reminder of the consequences of drinking and driving. Along with M.A.D.D. OC, we work with the O.C. Health Care Agency, to maintain a Taskforce on Drunk Driving, which focuses on education and Responsible Beverage Training. Training is free to local alcoholic beverage selling establishments. The Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce can be contact for those interested in receiving the training.

Media are highly encouraged to attend the checkpoint and requested to assist us in educating the public about the dangers of making the worst possible decision, namely to drive after drinking or without a valid driver license.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

"DRUNK DRIVING. OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST."