



## 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 Tuesday, September 29, 2009, from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m. The checkpoint will be located northbound Santa Ana Avenue, at 18<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition to law breakers, the checkpoint is to bring about awareness to the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or without a valid driver license.

Drunk driving is one of America's deadliest crimes. In 2008, over 11,700 people died in highway crashes involving a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. In California, the recently released provisional data for 2008 indicates that 1,029 people died in alcohol involved collisions. This data reveals a 9 percent reduction in deaths from 2007. However, the picture for motorcycle riders is particularly bleak. In fatal crashes in 2007, a higher percentage of motorcycle riders (27 percent) had a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher than any other type of motor vehicle driver.

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."

According to Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.), driving under the influence kills someone every 37 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.

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

**MEDIA NOTE:** 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.

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

