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NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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This Fourth of July, 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over'

SANTA ANA, Calif. – (July 2, 2014) – This Fourth of July families and friends will gather to celebrate our country with parades, parties and fireworks. For many people the celebration includes alcohol, but the holiday quickly goes from festive to fatal when people choose to drive after drinking.

To crack down on drug and alcohol impaired driving this Fourth of July the 'Avoid the 38' DUI Task Force will be out in full force, aggressively targeting those who put lives in danger. The DUI task force will be deploying deputies and officers to DUI/Driver's License checkpoints in the cities of Buena Park, Cypress, Irvine and Laguna Niguel, and DUI saturation patrols in the cities of Anaheim, Brea, Irvine, Orange, Westminster, CSU Fullerton, and several cities within the Sheriff's Department contract area. The CHP will also be deploying all available officers onto freeways and county roads as part of their Maximum Enforcement Period.

"Every Orange County law enforcement agency is ramping up their enforcement to make our roads safer this Fourth of July," said Sergeant Ray Wert of the Sheriff's Department Traffic Bureau, "For everyone's sake, don't drink and drive or you will be targeted for arrest – no excuses."

Data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) shows that in 2012 10,322 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in the United States—representing a third of all crash fatalities. Over the 2012 July 4th weekend alone, 78 people were killed in alcohol impaired-driving crashes. Also, keep in mind that aside from putting your life and the lives of others at risk, driving impaired can also lead to serious consequences. A DUI arrest can mean time in jail, loss of your license, and steep financial expenses; the average DUI costs about \$10,000.

Law Enforcement recommends these simple tips to prevent drunk driving:

- Before drinking, designate a sober driver;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to Call 9-1-1;
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

'Avoid the 38' DUI Task Force is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

