550 N. FLOWER STREET SANTA ANA, CA 92703 714-647-7000 WWW.OCSD.ORG

SHERIFF-CORONER SANDRA HUTCHENS

NEWS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contacts: Lt. Jeff Hallock (714) 647 7042 Gail Krause, (714) 647-1840

Orange County DUI Task Force Joins National Crackdown to Reduce Drunk Driving Fatalities 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' Campaign Will Target Drunk Drivers

SANTA ANA, California (August 15, 2013) - From mid-August through Labor Day, sheriff, police and CHP officials will be out in force as part of the annual nationwide "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" crackdown on drunk driving. The crackdown in Orange County will run from August 16 through September 2, 2013.

The effective nationwide drunk driving crackdown will include high-visibility enforcement, high-profile events, and will be supported by national paid advertising, creating a comprehensive campaign to curb drunk driving in August and through the Labor Day holiday weekend.

The DUI Task Force will be aggressively looking for drunk drivers during the crackdown and will arrest anyone caught driving drunk. Plans are in place for DUI/driver's license checkpoints, a multi-agency strike team, roving DUI saturation patrols, DUI warrant/probation sweep and DUI court stings targeting suspended drivers who were ordered by the judge not to drive.

Although it is illegal to drive with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, many people across the nation get behind the wheel after consuming too much alcohol. "Every year, about one third of all motor vehicle traffic deaths involve one or more drunk drivers or motorcycle operators," said Deputy Wayne Howard of the Orange County Sheriff's Department Traffic Bureau. "In 2011 9,878 people died in crashes involving drunk drivers. That works out to approximately one drunk driving fatality every 53 minutes. In California, 774 died due to the crime of impaired driving. Long weekends such as the Labor Day holiday are particularly dangerous".

During the Labor Day weekend in 2011, a total of 138 people were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes in the United States involving drivers or motorcycle riders with a BAC of .08% or higher. Of those fatalities, 83 percent occurred during early evening and overnight, from 6 p.m. to 5:59 a.m. In California, 11 people were killed during the holiday weekend involving a driver at a .08% BAC or higher.

Drunk driving takes a particularly heavy toll among young drivers. During the 2011 Labor Day weekend, 42 percent of 18 to 34-year-old drivers killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes were alcohol-impaired.

"Research has shown that high-visibility enforcement like the 'Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over' campaign reduces drunk driving fatalities by as much as 20 percent. By joining this nationwide effort, we will make California's roadways safer for everyone throughout the Labor Day period," said Director Chris Murphy, California Office of Traffic Safety.



550 N. FLOWER STREET SANTA ANA, CA 92703 714-647-7000 WWW.OCSD.ORG

SHERIFF-CORONER SANDRA HUTCHENS

"We want to remind everyone that getting behind the wheel drunk is a terrible idea. Unfortunately, not only does drinking impair your ability to operate a vehicle safely, it also impairs your judgment and good sense about whether you can, or should drive," said Deputy Howard. "If you have any doubt about your sobriety, do not get behind the wheel. If you do chose to drive impaired, you will be arrested. No warnings. No excuses."

When a driver is arrested for driving drunk, it brings a wide range of negative consequences into the driver's life. Drunk drivers face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, and steep financial consequences such as higher insurance rates, attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators also often face tremendous personal embarrassment.

For more information, on the "Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over" campaign visit www.TrafficSafetyMarketing.gov.

Grant funding for the DUI Task Force is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration who reminds everyone to report drunk drivers – call 9-1-1.



###