



## News from: Oakland Police Department

For Immediate Release

August 17, 2017



### This Labor Day, the Oakland Police Department Reminds Citizens to *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Labor Day traditionally marks the end of summer. It's also when we enjoy picnics, pool parties, and barbecues with families and friends. But the Labor Day holiday is also one of the deadliest. Alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers endanger themselves and others on America's roadways.

Impaired driving is not only illegal, it is a matter of life and death. Statistics nationwide show a dangerous trend in impaired driving. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that drunk driving killed 10,265 people in 2015. That's three percent more than in 2014. Translation? Impaired driving killed roughly one person every 51 minutes in 2015. That's equal to 20 jumbo jets crashing with no survivors, each year!

This year, the Oakland Police Department is joining CHP and law enforcement agencies in a statewide campaign to save lives. The California effort is part of a high-visibility national enforcement campaign. From August 18 through September 4, 2017, the motto is: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. During that time, more officers will be on the road, working with routine patrols to reduce impaired driving. Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment.

Specially trained officers will be available to evaluate anyone suspected of drug-impaired driving. In recent years, California has seen an increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. That is why the Office of Traffic Safety aims to educate all drivers that *DUI Doesn't Just Mean Booze*. If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning on the label, don't drive. You could end up with a DUI. Marijuana use, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, can also result in a DUI.

During the 18-day DUI campaign, OPD Traffic Operations will conduct roving DUI Saturation Patrols. The goal is to stop and arrest alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers. Traffic Operations will also conduct DUI/Driver's License checkpoints on August 18 and September 21 at undisclosed locations from 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Plan your sober ride home before the end of summer party begins. It is never okay to drive impaired.

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Remember:

- Even if you're only having one alcoholic beverage, arrange for a ride with a sober driver or plan to use public transportation to get home safely.
- Download the Designated Driver VIP (DDVIP) free mobile app for Android or iPhone. You can use it to find places nearby that offer free non-alcoholic drinks, free appetizers and more to your sober driver.
- Have family or a friend who is about to drive buzzed or impaired? Take the keys away and make arrangements to get your friend home safely. The cost of a ride home is cheap.
- Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, license suspensions and other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

Funding for these DUI operations is provided to the Oakland Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to “Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1.”



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