



Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 960-8811

Robert Handy, Chief of Police

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

Release Date/Time: March 11th, 2015 at 12:00 PM

Subject: DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday, March 14th

Case Number: N/A

Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Saturday night, March 14th, 2015, between the hours of 7:00 PM and 3:00 AM.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol or drug involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized DUI checkpoints and proactive DUI patrols are conducted routinely.

The Huntington Beach Police Department would like every resident and visitor to have an accident free experience while in our city. For this to happen, we all need to be on the look-out for impaired drivers. A drunk driver can strike at any place, any time, usually with drastic consequences to innocent people. A recent analysis of DUI arrests in Huntington Beach provided some insight as to how and where these DUI drivers are apprehended. About 40% of DUI drivers are identified and arrested as a result of the observations of officers in the field. The contact usually starts when officers see some suspicious driving cue(s). This proactive approach results in a significant amount of these impaired drivers being stopped before a collision occurs. Second to officer observations, nearly 36%, come from a traffic collision. These could be a hit and run collision where the driver and vehicle are located quickly or where the offender remains at the scene. The final portion of DUI drivers are reported to 911 dispatchers by citizens. These callers often see poor driving and direct officers to the violator. These citizen initiated calls for service account for 24% of DUI related arrests. In general, the Huntington Beach Police Department relies heavily on the citizens in the city to observe and report criminal activity. Motorists are often the first to spot something unusual while driving and should not hesitate to call 911 to report a suspected DUI driver. Together, we can work to reduce collisions before they happen and arrest these DUI drivers before they crash and cause injuries. Checkpoints are one form of education and enforcement which the HBPD uses to work towards our goal of ZERO alcohol involved collisions.



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Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment with officers checking drivers for proper licensing delaying motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving. Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Nearly 90 percent of California drivers approve of DUI checkpoints.

DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000 not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Huntington Beach 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'.