

SUNNYVALE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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For Immediate Release

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YOU BETTER WATCH OUT, I'M TELLING YOU WHY: COPS ARE CRACKING DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVING *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

Sunnyvale, CA — This time of year, with holiday parties and festive occasions, many partygoers will be drinking. If you're celebrating with alcohol this holiday season, Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety has a message for you: *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*. Due to the increase in drunk-driving-related fatalities around the holidays each year, law enforcement agencies will be out in force actively searching for drunk drivers. The Avoid the 13 DUI Task Force has plans in place for a DUI/Driver's License Checkpoint in Sunnyvale on December 19, 2014.

The facts are grim – on average, a third (31%) of all crash fatalities in America involves drunk driving. In 2012, more than 10,322 people were killed by drunk drivers in America; 802 of those were in California alone, with an additional 24,000 seriously injured. In December 2012, 830 people were killed in crashes involving at least one driver or

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motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher and 26 of those deaths occurred on Christmas Day.

In 2013, Sunnyvale DPS made over 260 DUI arrests. Sunnyvale also conducted two Safety and Sobriety Checkpoints to educate people on the perils of drunk driving. Even with these efforts, there were 94 drunk driving accidents last year in Sunnyvale. Nineteen of those accidents resulted in injury.

In addition to reminding all drivers to drive sober, the Sunnyvale Department of Public Safety is calling on everyone to be alert. If you see a drunk driver on the road, report them by calling 911. You could save a life. If someone you know is about to drive after drinking, take their keys and help them get home safely. We've got to work together to make our roads safer this December and year-round.

Avoid the 13 DUI Task Force funding is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. The Office of Traffic Safety is offering a free mobile app – DDVIP – aimed at thanking the sober designated driver with perks and free offers at area bars and restaurants.

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