



**Porterville Police Department
Press Release**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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Weekend DUI Checkpoint Planned in Porterville

Porterville, CA – The Porterville Police Department will conduct a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint on Sunday, February 5, 2012, starting at 8:00 P.M. as part of the Porterville Police Department's commitment to community safety. This checkpoint is one of several that have been or will be conducted throughout the year in the City of Porterville.

DUI Checkpoints, along with regularly scheduled high visibility DUI enforcement, serves as a deterrent with the goal of both removing impaired drivers from the road and heightening awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. Checkpoints are placed in locations that have the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence and provide the greatest safety for officers and the public.

The crime of impaired driving is a serious one. In 2009 alone, 950 people died in California DUI crashes in which a driver or motorcycle rider was at or above the legal limit. The age group with the highest percentage of alcohol-impaired-driving fatalities in motor vehicle traffic crashes was the 21-to-24 age group.

The Porterville Police Department recommends these simple tips if you plan on drinking:

- Designate your sober driver before the outing begins
- Avoid drinking too much alcohol too fast. Pace yourself – eat enough food, take breaks, and alternate with non-alcoholic drinks.
- If you don't have a designated driver, ask a sober friend for a ride home; call a cab, a friend, or a family member to come and get you.
- Never let a friend get behind the wheel of their vehicle if you think they are about to drive while impaired.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against impaired drivers.

The objective is to send a clear message to those who are considering driving a motor vehicle after consuming alcohol and/or drugs: if you drive buzzed, drunk, or impaired by drugs you will go to jail. 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.

Those arrested for DUI will face jail time, loss of their driver licenses, or being sentenced to use ignition interlocks. Their insurance rates go up. Other financial hits include attorney fees, court costs, lost time at work, and the potential loss of job or job prospects. When family, friends and co-workers find out, violators can also face tremendous personal embarrassment and humiliation.

The checkpoint was funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Please help the Porterville Police Department everyday of the week: Report Drunk Drivers – Call 9-1-1!

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