



CONTACT: Fran Clader
(916) 657-7202

Media Relations Office
2555 First Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

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CHP EMPLOYS GRANT TO REMOVE IMPAIRED DRIVERS FROM THE ROAD

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Driving under the influence (DUI) continues to be a major problem for California. Last year, according to the Department of Justice, 217,201 people were arrested statewide for DUI; the California Highway Patrol (CHP) was responsible for roughly 45 percent of those arrests.

“Sadly, despite aggressive enforcement and public awareness efforts by our officers, impaired driving continues in California,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. “Every time you get behind the wheel after drinking, you put your life and the lives of others at risk.”

In an effort to save lives by removing impaired drivers from the roadways, the CHP received nearly \$5.6 million for the “Border-to-Border DUI Enforcement Campaign.” The overall goal of the campaign is to reduce alcohol-involved collisions and victims, statewide by at least five percent.

According to CHP’s Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System there were 65,929 fatal and injury collisions in the CHP jurisdiction in 2008. Among those 9,568 were alcohol-involved collisions. These same collisions resulted in 837 victims killed and 13,140 victims injured.

CHP officers throughout the state, have the mission of apprehending impaired drivers. In addition to enforcing DUI laws, officers will enforce all other traffic safety laws such as speeding, unsafe passing and occupant violations. The CHP will also conduct sobriety/driver license checkpoints and DUI task force operations.

Another component of the year-long grant is education. The CHP will conduct local traffic safety presentations and Designated Driver Programs to thousands of people throughout California during the course of the grant period which ends September 20, 2010.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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