



NEWS

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CHP PREPARING FOR A SAFE HOLIDAY TRAVEL SEASON

SACRAMENTO - The Thanksgiving holiday traditionally means heavy traffic on California's roadways. However, holiday travelers won't be the only ones making the trip this year. The California Highway Patrol (CHP) will mount a focused campaign against safety belt violators during the Thanksgiving holiday.

"Wearing a seatbelt is the easiest and quickest way to save a life" said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow. "It takes two seconds to buckle up."

Thirty-three people were killed on California roadways during the Thanksgiving holiday in 2008. Among the 20 vehicle occupants killed in CHP jurisdiction, 35 percent were not wearing a seat belt at the time of the crash.

In addition to keeping an eye out for vehicle occupants without seatbelts, officers will be especially watchful for impaired drivers during the period.

"Throughout the holiday travel season officers will also emphasize DUI enforcement to help remove these most dangerous drivers from California's roadways," said Commissioner Farrow.

Starting at 6 p.m. on Wednesday, November 25 through midnight, Sunday, November 29, the CHP will be implementing the annual Thanksgiving enforcement period. During this time all available officers will be out on the road.

"The roadways get crowded during the four-day weekend and on the day after Thanksgiving with holiday shopping traffic congestion," said Commissioner Farrow. "The message is simple, drive safe, sober and remember to buckle up."

Thanksgiving is also an Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort) holiday. Operation CARE is a joint program of the nation's highway patrols that places special safety emphasis on interstate highways during holiday periods. CARE highways in California include Interstates 80, 40, 15 (San Bernardino to the Nevada border) and 5 (Bakersfield north to the Oregon line).

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