



NEWS

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CHP TO LEAD DUI ENFORCEMENT SWEEP THROUGHOUT STATE

SACRAMENTO, Calif. – Driving under the influence (DUI) continues to be a major traffic safety concern in California. According to the Statewide Traffic Records System, in 2008 there were 790 people killed in collisions in California where the primary collision factor was DUI. That same year, more than 217,000 DUI arrests were made by law enforcement agencies, statewide. Unfortunately, after the arrest some individuals fail to appear in court to be held accountable for their actions.

In an aggressive approach to combat this problem and make the state's highways safer for the motoring public, the CHP will seek out and serve warrants on drunk drivers who have been charged with DUI, but failed to appear for court.

“The people who are wanted made the poor choice to drink and drive and were arrested for DUI. Afterward, they ignored court orders, failing to appear and refusing to pay the imposed fine and address other court sanctions,” said CHP Commissioner Joe Farrow.

In an effort to hold these people accountable for their actions, a warrant is issued by the court for their arrest. With the help of a federal grant, the CHP will rein in those with outstanding DUI felony and misdemeanor arrest warrants by establishing teams of officers whose specific purpose is to serve DUI warrants throughout the state.

Over the next several months, the teams will focus their attention on counties with an overwhelming number of outstanding warrants within four of the CHP's Divisions including: Southern, Central, Valley and Golden Gate Divisions. It is expected that more than 6,000 warrants will be served through September 30, 2010.

“Those individuals with outstanding DUI warrants can also turn themselves in to their local CHP Area office for the purposes of surrendering themselves on their own terms,” added Commissioner Farrow. “Otherwise, they will be arrested wherever they are found, which may prove to be quite inconvenient and perhaps embarrassing.”

Funding for the “DUI Warrant Service Project” is provided by a \$311,568 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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