



# CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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CHP Media Relations: (916) 843-3310

## **TOP FIVE CHP STORIES OF THE WEEK**

*#ICYMI: This week, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) made headlines with several notable incidents, including a recap of CHP's past and ongoing efforts to support Wildfire recovery in Southern California, CHP Oakland apprehending a fleeing driver while firearms and narcotics were recovered, CHP Madera officers arresting a suspect for DUI and speeding, CHP welcoming CTC V-24 on "Pick-Up Day," and CHP's CTC IV-24 reports to duty.*



The list below includes the headline (with a link to the full text) and an excerpt from each announcement. Click on the headlines to access accompanying assets that are available for download.

### **1. [CHP ANSWERS THE CALL](#)**

On the one-month anniversary since the worst firestorm in southern California's history began, the CHP highlights the cooperation necessary to recover from a disaster of that magnitude. The CHP swiftly responded to the LA County wildfires, activating its Emergency Operation Center, placing all Southern Division personnel on tactical alert, and partnering with the CA National Guard. A special response team secured affected communities, preventing looting and unauthorized entry. During recovery, CHP, with support from the National Crime Insurance Bureau and DMV, cleared roads and stored over 370 identified vehicles, ensuring safe access for first responders, evacuees, and utility workers.

## **2. CHP OAKLAND APPREHENDS FLEEING DRIVER; FIREARM AND NARCOTICS RECOVERED**

On February 5, 2025, units from the CHP Oakland Area witnessed a white BMW X6 exceeding speeds of 120 mph on the I-580 eastbound at Harrison Street. Despite officers initiating enforcement action, the driver exited the freeway at high speed, consequently losing control of the vehicle and causing a crash. Upon detention of the driver, further investigations revealed a loaded handgun, several pill bottles suspected to contain narcotics, a digital scale, and small plastic bags indicative of drug traffic. This led to the driver's consequent arrest and booking into Santa Rita Jail under multiple misdemeanor and felony charges related to the discovered items.

## **3. CHP MADERA OFFICER PERFECTS QUICK MATH: DUI + SPEEDING = ARREST**

On January 30, Officer J. Herrera observed a silver Ford Focus speeding westbound on Avenue 14, considerably over the speed limit. The vehicle was clocked at 87 mph in a 55 mph zone. Despite attempts to initiate a traffic stop, the driver was reportedly slow to acknowledge the patrol vehicles' sirens and lights. Following a 2-mile stretch, the driver heeded the stop signals. Upon interaction, evidence of alcohol impairment was detected, which led to the driver's subsequent arrest for suspected DUI. Officer Herrera was acknowledged as the top-ranking officer for DUI arrests (131) in 2023.

## **4. CHP ACADEMY WELCOMES CTC I-25 ON "PICK-UP DAY"**

On February 3, the CHP welcomed 160 new cadets to the Academy as they began training to become officers. Known as "pick-up day," it is the cadets' first encounter with the CHP Academy's recruit training officers, who will help guide them during their 26 weeks of training. All CHP cadets undergo the same intensive training covering academics, exercise, high-speed driving and self-discipline to prepare cadets for a career of service.

During this time, cadets form connections, learn from each other and build a foundation for long-lasting friendships through these shared experiences.

## 5. [OUT TO THE FIELD: NEW OFFICERS REPORTING FOR DUTY](#)

Last week marked a significant milestone for 106 graduating officers from CTC IV-24, as they officially started their duty at their respective area offices across California. During their field training period, seasoned Field Training Officers (FTOs) will guide these officers through various stages. This journey symbolizes their transition from academy education to practical, on-the-ground service. For more information about a rewarding and life-changing career with the CHP, visit our [website](#).

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

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California Highway Patrol  
601 N 7th St, Sacramento, CA 95811

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