



COSTA MESA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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<http://www.ci.costa-mesa.ca.us/cmpdpress.htm>

PRESS RELEASE

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DUI Checkpoint Press Release

The Costa Mesa Police Department will be conducting a sobriety / driver license checkpoint on Tuesday evening, March 25, 2008, from 6:00 p.m. to 1200 a.m. The checkpoint will be located on eastbound 19th Street and Pomona Avenue. The checkpoint is to educate the public about the dangers of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or without a valid driver license.

1,062 impaired drivers were removed by arrest, from the roadways in Costa Mesa in 2007. The decision of individual drivers not to drive after drinking is the single biggest factor in reducing deaths and injuries cause by DUI collisions. In addition, those operating a motor vehicle without a valid license have an increased likelihood of being involved in collisions. Together, they are a deadly combination.

Traffic Safety Bureau Sergeant Sharpnack said, "We have been committed to saving lives by aggressively seeking out and removing impaired drivers from the roadways of Costa Mesa for nearly three decades. For those who don't make the intelligent and safe decision to avoid driving after they drink, CMPD will diligently continue to remove them from our roadways."

Recent statistics from Mothers Against Drunk Driving (M.A.D.D.) indicate that driving under the influence is the nation's most frequently committed violent crime, killing someone every 30 minutes. CMPD works closely with M.A.D.D., who provides their crashed car trailer, displayed at checkpoints as a reminder of the consequences of drinking and driving. Along with M.A.D.D. OC, we work with the O.C. Health Care Agency, to maintain a Taskforce on Drunk Driving which focuses on education and Responsible Beverage Training. Training is free to local establishments. Please contact the Costa Mesa Chamber of Commerce for upcoming dates.

Media are highly encouraged to attend the checkpoint and requested to assist us in educating the public about the dangers of making the worst possible decision, namely to drive after drinking or without a valid driver license.

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

"DRUNK DRIVING. OVER THE LIMIT. UNDER ARREST."