

California's 2007 DUI Enforcement Crackdown
Report Drunk Drivers – Call 911

Frequently Asked Questions

How many people are killed by drunk drivers each year?

In 2006, 1,597 people were killed and 31,099 were injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,574 fatalities and 30,810 injuries in 2005.

How many people are arrested for DUI each year?

In 2005, 182,414 people were arrested in California for driving under the influence.

How do I know if a driver is driving drunk, or just a bad driver?

There are a variety of clues that might indicate a drunk driver, including: turning wide, almost striking another vehicle, weaving, swerving or turning abruptly, following too closely, erratic breaking and driving with headlights off, among others. For a complete list of clues on how to spot a drunk driver, visit www.ots.ca.gov.

How can the public report a drunk driver?

Call 911 from your mobile phone. If you continue to receive a busy signal when calling 911, call your local police or sheriff's department to report a drunk driver.

What happens when someone calls 911 to report a suspected drunk driver in California?

The 911 dispatcher will ask for the exact location of the vehicle, a vehicle description (make, model, color), as well as the license plate number. That information will then be relayed to officers in the field.

Do I have to give my name if I call to report a suspected drunk driver?

No. You can remain anonymous.

If I see a drunk driver, should I try and stop the car or talk to the driver?

No. Leave that to trained professionals. Don't try to stop or follow the vehicle or detain the drunk driver if they stop. Do not attempt to act in the capacity of any police, fire or medical personnel unless you are properly trained and authorized to perform that function.

What are sobriety checkpoints?

At sobriety checkpoints, law enforcement officials evaluate drivers for signs of alcohol or drug impairment at certain points on the roadway. Vehicles are stopped in a specific sequence, such as every other vehicle or every fourth, fifth or sixth vehicle.

Are sobriety checkpoints legal?

In 1990, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld the constitutionality of sobriety checkpoints in *Michigan v. Sitz*. The court ruled that the interest in reducing the incidence of impaired driving was sufficient to justify the brief intrusion caused by a properly conducted sobriety checkpoint.

Will sobriety checkpoints be taking place in my area around the holidays?

Yes. More than 480 police and sheriff's departments in 41 counties, including numerous CHP area commands, will be conducting sobriety checkpoints in California.

What are saturation patrols?

Saturation patrols, which are legal in all 50 states, are concentrated enforcement efforts that target impaired drivers by observing moving violations such as drunk driving, speeding and aggressive driving.

What does a DUI cost?

A DUI in California can cost anywhere between \$5,200 to \$10,000, including vehicle towing and storage, increases in auto insurance premiums, fines, court assessments, DUI classes, attorneys fees and more.

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