

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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ABC Investigators, Anaheim Police work together to make Southern California Supercross Event Safer

ANAHEIM – California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Investigators will be visiting the AMA Supercross Event scheduled at Angel Stadium in Anaheim on Saturday, January 19. The Department is working closely with Anaheim Police to try to make the event the safest one yet.

In 2006, the City of Anaheim drafted and enacted some local codes related to off-road vehicles in the stadium parking lot. The enforcement of the codes made the parking lot much safer during the past two events. Last year ABC and Anaheim Police teamed up to enforce no drinking of alcoholic beverages laws and other codes in the parking lot of the events with great success. The events turned out to be safer, and the goal this year is to make them even more safe.

Both agencies want to remind the public that underage drinking is against the law and that adults who furnish alcohol to minors can be cited and fined a thousand dollars plus community service. In addition, it is against the law to consume alcohol in the parking lot.

Last year on January 20, 2007 and February 3, 2007, several citations were issued in the parking lot, many involved persons 18-20 years of age and persons 17 years old or younger. Most of the citations involved minors in possession of alcohol, but some were also written for other violations such as possession of marijuana, possession of fake identification and adults who gave alcohol to minors. The citations were written outside the stadium in the parking lot and involved persons who brought alcohol from outside the stadium.

ABC has been conducting enforcement operations state-wide in order to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. This operation is part of a continuing partnership involving the ABC and local law enforcement. "Alcohol is still the number one drug of choice among high school aged youth and we have to do everything we can to prevent tragedies that often accompany underage drinking," said ABC Assistant Director Joseph Cruz.

Last year over 200 young persons under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes in California. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency which is under the direction of Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.