

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
(916) 419-2500

CONTACT: John Carr

ABC Public Information Office (916) 419-2525



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**Novato man Charged in Connection with Alcohol-Related Crash**  
*ABC TRACE Investigation Determines 22 year-old man Supplied Alcohol to Minor*

**Novato (Marin County)** – The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that a Target Responsibility for Alcohol Connected Emergencies (TRACE) investigation has determined that a Novato man, Jon Ruiz, 22 years old, supplied alcohol to a group of juveniles on November 19, 2012. One of the juveniles in the group crashed his car that night and injured several passengers.

The crash occurred at about 12:30 a.m. November 20, 2012. The driver, a 17 year-old male from Novato, was driving with five passengers southbound on Sutro Avenue traveling between 60 and 80 mph, in a 25 mph residential zone. The vehicle crashed into a fire hydrant and a tree before coming to rest in a creek bed. The passengers in the vehicle were three boys and three girls, all 17 and all from Novato. There were various injuries incurred as a result of the crash, including one female who suffered major injuries. The teen driver, who admitted to consuming alcohol and smoking marijuana, pled guilty to a felony charge of driving while intoxicated causing injuries.

ABC filed charges against 22 year-old Ruiz for supplying alcohol to the teens prior to the crash. The Marin County District Attorney's Office has charged him with furnishing alcohol to a minor as well as contributing to the delinquency of minors. The investigation was initiated based off the crash report taken by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). The ABC Agent who worked on the TRACE case conducted a series of interviews and an examination of evidence and determined that Ruiz supplied alcohol to juveniles prior to the crash.

TRACE is a nine year-old ABC program. The program allows for ABC Agents to conduct investigations throughout California which involve minors, alcohol and serious injuries or fatalities.

The TRACE program is made possible by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) through the National Highway Transportation and Safety Administration. The grant provides funding for in-depth ABC investigations of serious incidents including car crashes, but also alcohol overdoses, poisonings and assaults that result from alcohol consumption by minors.