

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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

CONTACT: John Carr
916-419-2525



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ABC Visits 19 Locations in Woodland Minor Decoy Operation *Five Locations Sell Alcohol to Minors*

(Woodland) - Investigators of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) visited 19 on-sale licensed businesses in Woodland during a minor decoy operation on Saturday, April 26, 2008 and five locations sold alcohol to a minor.

The operation involved minors under the direct supervision of ABC Investigators who attempted to purchase alcohol from 19 retail licensees in the City of Woodland.

ABC is conducting the compliance checks state-wide to reduce the availability of alcohol to minors. Statistics have shown that young people under the age of 21 have a higher rate of drunken driving fatalities than the general adult population.

Persons who sell to a minor face a minimum fine of \$250, and/or 24 to 32 hours of community service for a first violation. In addition, ABC will take administrative action against the alcoholic beverage license of the business. That may include a fine, a suspension of the license, or the permanent revocation of the license.

The operation coincides with the national recognition of April as Alcohol Awareness Month. According to the U.S Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), parents can also help prevent their underage children from drinking alcohol. Studies say parents who communicated and were involved with their children at ages 10 and 11, set clear expectations for their children's behavior, practiced good supervision and consistent discipline, and minimized conflict in the family had children who, at ages 11 and 12, were more likely to see alcohol use as harmful and less likely to initiate alcohol use early. They were also less likely to misuse alcohol at ages 17 to 18. Lack of parental support, monitoring, and communication and lack of feeling close to their parents have been significantly related to frequency of drinking.

Minor Decoy operations have been conducted by local law enforcement throughout the state since the 1980's. In 1994, the California Supreme Court ruled unanimously that use of underage decoys is a valid tool of law enforcement to ensure that licensees are complying with the law.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. ABC is a department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor's Cabinet.