



Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office



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News Release

'AVOID THE 12' RECEIVES GRANT TO CONTINUE ANOTHER YEAR OF COUNTYWIDE DUI ENFORCEMENT

Santa Barbara County: Drunk and drugged driving remains the number one killer on our roadways, with 774 deaths and over 24,000 injuries. The 'AVOID the 12' DUI Task Force will be combating this deadly problem through DUI enforcement efforts in Santa Barbara County. The Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office will be administering a recent **\$130,000** grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety for the entire county.

The 'AVOID the 12' DUI Task Force is named to send the message that if you don't drink or use drugs and drive, you will *avoid* getting arrested by any of the 12 participating law enforcement agencies in the county.

The grant activities will specifically target those who get behind the wheel after drinking too much or using drugs that impair driving. Officers from law enforcement agencies across the county will jointly staff DUI / Driver's License Checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols. Additionally, funding will target the 'worst of the worst' repeat DUI offenders with Warrant/Probation Sweeps and Court Sting Enforcement Operations focusing on DUI offenders with suspend licenses who drive from court hearings after being ordered not to by a judge.

A large part of grant funding will go to DUI / Driver's License Checkpoints – highly visible, highly publicized events not only meant to make arrests, but to deter impaired driving in the first place. Crashes involving alcohol have been shown to drop by up to 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent, and are supported by nearly 90 percent of California drivers.

42 of California's counties participate in the AVOID campaigns. They are the largest funded DUI crackdowns in the United States, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Motorists can expect to see special DUI campaigns during the winter and summer holiday periods as well as on Halloween, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo and during local special events with identified DUI Problems.

Agencies participating in the 'AVOID the 12' taskforce include:

- **California Highway Patrol**
- **Guadalupe Police Department**
- **Lompoc Police Department**
- **Santa Barbara Police Department**
- **Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office**
- **Santa Maria Police Department**
- **UCSB Police Department**
- **Allan Hancock College Police Department**
- **California State Parks**
- **California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control (ABC)**
- **U.S. Department of Forest Service**
- **Vandenberg Air Force Base**

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

'AVOID the 12' is named for the 12 Law Enforcement agencies within Santa Barbara County that work together to combat impaired driving.

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