



# Huntington Beach Police Department

2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648

(714) 960-8811

Robert Handy, Chief of Police

## MEDIA ADVISORY

Sergeant D. Dereszynski, Traffic Unit

**Release Date/Time:** April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2015 at 3:30 PM

**Subject:** DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>

**Case Number:** N/A

### Details:

The Huntington Beach Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint this Friday night, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015, between the hours of 7:00 PM and 3:00 AM.

The deterrent effect of DUI checkpoints is a proven resource in reducing the number of persons killed and injured in alcohol or drug involved crashes. Research shows that crashes involving an impaired driver can be reduced by up to 20 percent when well-publicized DUI checkpoints and proactive DUI patrols are conducted routinely.

The Huntington Beach Police Department would like every resident and visitor to have an accident free Spring Break while in our city. For this to happen, we all need to be on the look-out for impaired drivers. A drunk driver can strike at any place, any time, usually with drastic consequences to innocent people. While Spring Break is a time to take leave from school, enjoy the warm weather, and hang out with friends, it has been overshadowed by an excess of DUI related collisions, injuries, fatalities, and arrests. A recent analysis of DUI investigations in Huntington Beach show that approximately 62% of the time the DUI drivers reported consuming two or less drinks but were found to have an average of .12% breath alcohol content, or one and one half times the legal limit. Beer was reported to be the most common type of alcohol consumed, followed by mixed drinks and wine. The common serving size of these drinks is 12 ounces of beer, five ounces of wine, and one and a half ounces of hard liquor. Always remember to drink responsibly and be aware that increasing the serving sizes of drinks can lead to greater impairment over a shorter period of time. Checkpoints are one form of education and enforcement which the HBPD uses to work towards our goal of ZERO alcohol involved collisions.

Officers will be looking for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment with officers checking drivers for proper licensing delaying motorists only momentarily. When possible, specially trained officers will be available to evaluate those suspected of drug-impaired driving. Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal crashes had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.



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According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), checkpoints have provided the most effective documented results of any of the DUI enforcement strategies, while also yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent. Nearly 90 percent of California drivers approve of DUI checkpoints.

DUI Checkpoints are placed in locations based on collision statistics and frequency of DUI arrests affording the greatest opportunity for achieving drunk and drugged driving deterrence. Locations are chosen with safety considerations for the officers and the public.

Drivers caught driving impaired can expect the impact of a DUI arrest to include jail time, fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000 not to mention the embarrassment when friends and family find out.

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the Huntington Beach Police Department by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, reminding everyone to 'Report Drunk Drivers –Call 9-1-1'.