



CITY OF HUNTINGTON BEACH

2000 MAIN STREET
P.O. BOX 70

POLICE DEPARTMENT

CALIFORNIA 92648

Tel: (714) 960-8811

Kenneth W. Small
Chief of Police

PRESS RELEASE

Release Date: 9/17/2013

Time: 2:00 PM **Prepared by:** Sergeant D. Dereszynski

Type of Incident: Sobriety/Driver's License Checkpoint

Location: City of Huntington Beach

Date/Time of Occurrence: September 21st, 2013 @ 9:00 PM

Case Number: N/A

Details:

DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint planned this weekend

The Huntington Beach Police Department's Traffic Bureau will be conducting a DUI/Drivers License Checkpoint on Saturday, September 21st, 2013 at 9:00 PM. Impaired driving puts everyone on the road in danger, and we are doing everything we can to ensure that motorists enjoy a safe, crash-free start to the school year.

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 alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. Officers will be contacting drivers passing through the checkpoint for signs of alcohol and/or drug impairment. Officers will also check drivers for proper licensing and will strive to delay motorists only momentarily.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA) 2007 National Roadside Survey, more than 16 percent of weekend, nighttime drivers tested positive for illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter medications. More than 11 percent tested positive for illicit drugs. Between March 2012 and June 2013, the Huntington Beach Police Department arrested 1141 DUI drivers. Our research showed 106 of the arrests, or 9%, were under the influence of illegal, prescription, or over-the-counter medications. While 9% seems low, it is a significant number of impaired drivers on the roads. Over the next few years, the HBPD will be educating our officers further on the effects prescription medications and illicit drugs have on drivers. Our goal is to carry that education over to the members of the community who are affected by these impaired drivers.

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 continue to work together to bring an end to these tragedies. If you see a Drunk Driver – Call 9-1-1.