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**HELP US SAVE LIVES THIS FOURTH OF JULY
“DUI DOESN’T JUST MEAN BOOZE”**

This Independence Day holiday, the Ventura Police Department wants to remind you to plan for a safe week of festivities by not driving under the influence of alcohol, marijuana or drugs. Doing so ensures you will not put others, and yourself, in danger by driving impaired.

“We want our community to enjoy the Fourth of July holiday, but we want them to do so responsibly,” said Sergeant Brown. “This is not a joke, and it’s not a time to test the laws. Alcohol or drug impaired driving is illegal, but it’s also deadly. We’re imploring you: Please ensure you have a sober driver lined up to get you home safely from your holiday festivities. Doing so could save a life.”

In recent years, California has seen a disturbing increase in drug-impaired driving crashes. During the 2017 four-day Fourth of July holiday in California, 17 people were killed and 430 injured in alcohol involved crashes. The Ventura Police Department supports the new effort from the Office of Traffic Safety that aims to educate all drivers that “DUI Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.” If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving or operating machinery warning on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI. Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

Prepare for the Fourth

If you will be drinking, plan how you will get around without driving. Remember these tips for a safe night:
Designate a sober driver, use public transportation or a ride sharing service to get home safely.
Take the keys away from an impaired driver and make arrangements to get them home safely.
Report drunk drivers - call 911.

The Costs of Drunk Driving

Drinking and driving is dangerous, even if you’re “just buzzed” or drug impaired. When you drive impaired, you risk the lives and safety of those riding with you and around you. You also risk a big hit on your wallet. A first time DUI arrest could cost you up to \$10,000 – which includes attorney fees, fines, very high insurance rates, car towing, an alcohol/drug education treatment program and lost time at work, not to mention jail time, years on probation, the loss of your vehicle and driver’s license.

A final statistic to remember: drunk-driving deaths are 100-percent preventable.

This enforcement effort is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. Whether by bike, car, motorcycle or walking, be a part of the solution and ‘Go Safely California.’

