



## NEWS RELEASE

August 22, 2023

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### **Ventura PD urges drivers to “Go Safely” during the final days of summer**

**Ventura, Calif.** — As the summer travel season wraps up, the Ventura Police Department reminds drivers to stay safe and be responsible by never driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

“Ventura’s well-being is our top priority,” said Corporal David Curtis. “There is never a good excuse for driving after drinking or using drugs that impair. Please always have a game plan for getting home safely.”

The Ventura Police Department asks residents to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves and their families by buckling up, avoiding distractions behind the wheel, following the speed limit, and not driving impaired.

To help keep Ventura safe, the Ventura Police Department will have additional officers on patrol Tuesday, August 16 through Monday, September 4, 2023, looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs. The additional efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national enforcement campaign, Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over.

In addition to additional patrols, the Ventura Police Department will hold a DUI Checkpoint on Friday, September 8, 2023, at an undisclosed location within the City of Ventura.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,384 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2021 — that’s one person every 39 minutes.

While drunk driving is a significant traffic safety problem, driving while impaired is not just from alcohol. Prescription drugs, over-the-counter medications and cannabis products may also impair. If you plan on drinking or taking medications with a driving warning label, let someone who is sober drive. If you see someone driving impaired, call 9-1-1.

Share your thoughts about impaired driving by participating in the Go Safely Movement, a call-to-action traffic safety survey from the California Office of Traffic Safety. Take the survey at [gosafelyca.org](https://gosafelyca.org).

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

To learn more about the Office of Traffic Safety grant and VPD’s educational efforts, contact Emily Graves, Community Outreach Specialist for the Ventura Police Department, at [egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov](mailto:egraves@cityofventura.ca.gov).

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