



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

March 13, 2013

Contact: Officer Mark McCullough

(619) 818-4860

mmccullough@pd.sandiego.gov

DUI Checkpoints Planned for This St. Patrick Day Weekend

San Diego, CA – San Diego Police Department Traffic Unit will be conducting DUI/Drivers License Checkpoints on Friday, March 15, 2013 and again on Sunday, March 17, 2013 at undisclosed locations within the city limits between the hours of 9:00 p.m. to 3:30 a.m. To augment these checkpoints, the San Diego Police Department will be staffing DUI saturation patrols throughout the weekend. Research shows that crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20% 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. Drivers caught driving impaired can expect jail, license suspension, and insurance increases, as well as fines, fees, DUI classes, other expenses that can exceed \$10,000.

In 2011, nearly 10,000 people were killed nationwide in motor vehicle traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of .08% or higher. In California, this deadly crime led to 774 deaths because someone failed to designate a sober driver. “Over the course of the past three years, DUI collisions have claimed 40 lives and resulted in 2444 injury crashes, harming 2478 of our friends and neighbors,” said Officer McCullough.

“DUI Checkpoints have been an essential part of the phenomenal reduction in DUI deaths that we witnessed since 2006 in California,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the Office of Traffic Safety. “But since the tragedy of DUI accounts for nearly one third of traffic fatalities, San Diego needs the high visibility enforcement and public awareness that checkpoints provide.”

Funding for this checkpoint is provided to the San Diego 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.

MEDIA NOTES: To schedule an interview regarding the San Diego Police Traffic Safety Operations, please contact Mark McCullough at (619) 818-4860 or via email at mmccullough@pd.sandiego.gov

###