



## VISALIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**\*\*\*NEWS RELEASE\*\*\***

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## Avoid the 18 Tulare and Kings County DUI Taskforce

### **TULARE AND KINGS COUNTY LAW ENFORCEMENT RECEIVES GRANT FOR COUNTY-WIDE DUI ENFORCEMENT CAMPAIGN FOR 2013-2014**

Drunk and drugged driving remains the number one killer on our roadways, with nearly 774 deaths for 2011 in California. The "Avoid the 18" DUI Task Force will be attacking this problem head on through DUI enforcement efforts in Tulare and Kings Counties as a result of a recent \$204,000 grant awarded by the California Office of Traffic Safety to the Visalia Police Department. Visalia Police Department will administer the grant for both of the counties.

The "Avoid the 18" DUI Task Force is named to send the message that if you don't drink or use drugs and drive, you will *avoid* getting arrested by any of the 18 participating law enforcement agencies in the county.

The grant activities will specifically target those who get behind the wheel after drinking too much or using drugs that impair driving. Officers will be staffing DUI/Driver License Checkpoints, multi-agency DUI Task Force deployments, and local DUI saturation patrols for each partnering. Additionally, funding will target the 'worst of the worst' repeat DUI offenders with Warrant/Probation Sweeps and Court Sting Enforcement Operations focusing on DUI offenders who leave court hearings and drive away on suspended licenses after being ordered not to drive by a judge.

A large part of grant funding will go to DUI/Driver's License Checkpoints – highly visible, highly publicized events not only meant to make arrests, but to deter impaired driving in the first place. Crashes involving alcohol drop by an average of 20 percent when well-publicized checkpoints are conducted often enough. 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 yielding considerable cost savings of \$6 for every \$1 spent.

Motorists can expect to see special DUI campaigns during the winter and summer holiday periods as well as on Halloween, Super Bowl Sunday, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo and during local special events with identified DUI



Problems. Funding for the grant comes from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

Agencies participating in the ‘Avoid the 18’ task force include:

Visalia Police Department  
Dinuba Police Department  
Farmersville Police Department  
Woodlake Police Department  
College of the Sequoias  
Tulare County Probation Department  
Lemoore Police Department  
Corcoran Police Department  
California Highway Patrol offices in both Tulare and Kings County

Tulare Police Department  
Exeter Police Department  
Porterville Police Department  
Tulare County Sheriff’s Office  
Hanford Police Department  
Kings County Probation Department  
Avenal Police Department  
Kings County Sheriff’s Office

