



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
April 30, 2009**

**CONTACT:  
Sgt. Kenneth Gow  
(760) 435-4819  
kgow@ci.oceanside.ca.us**

## **Avoid DUI Taskforce DUI/DL Checkpoint for Cinco de Mayo**

*Designate a Driver before the first Margarita is Mixed*

Cinco de Mayo has become a big night out for many, particularly young adults. But it is also a very dangerous night out because of alcohol-impaired or drug-impaired drivers. Those celebrating this year should be sure to designate their sober drivers in advance – before the ‘Fiesta’ begins. Law enforcement in San Diego, in the form of the Avoid the 14 DUI Taskforce, will be out in force during this time.

“Communities everywhere will see special events, family gatherings, picnics and night spots celebrating Cinco de Mayo this year,” said Chief Frank S. McCoy, Oceanside Police Department. The Avoid the 14 law enforcement agencies throughout the county are noting that many communities will see events starting Friday, May 1, running through Tuesday, May 5, celebrating this annual event.

“Do your part to make your 2009 celebration memorable by designating drivers before the first Margarita is ever mixed,” said Chief McCoy. “Otherwise expect our Avoid the 14 DUI Operations to stop and arrest every impaired driver they find who gets behind the wheel.” Avoid the 14 will be conducting a DUI/DL checkpoint in the city of Oceanside from 8PM to 2 AM contacting drivers and checking for the signs of intoxication, conducting field sobriety tests, arresting those intoxicated and impounding vehicles of those unlicensed or suspended

DUI related crashes have recently dropped in California thanks to increased sobriety checkpoints and special DUI enforcement campaigns. However, the number one killer on our highways remains impaired driving with 1489 dead in 2007 and another 30,641 injured. (California’s latest statistics)

The Oceanside Police Department will be deploying overtime patrols, while CHP will be saturating the freeways and county roads looking for the signs of a drunk driver:

Weaving out the lane  
Wide Turns  
Failing to go on a green light

Driving below the speed limit  
Aggressive, Reckless Driving  
Drivers who appear drunk behind the wheel

“Law enforcement is working hard to keep this downward trend of alcohol-related traffic fatalities continuing,” said Christopher J. Murphy, Director of the California Office of Traffic Safety. “Stay vigilant, be part of the solution by calling 9-1-1 when you see a drunk driver. Together let’s get these dangerous drivers off the road.”

Avoid the 14 Campaign is funded by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

#####

