

**DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL**

3927 Lennane Drive, Suite 100, Sacramento, California, 95834

Contact: John Carr (916) 419-2525 or [john.carr@abc.ca.gov](mailto:john.carr@abc.ca.gov)Follow us on Twitter @ [https://twitter.com/ca\\_abc](https://twitter.com/ca_abc)Follow ABC on Facebook @ <https://www.facebook.com/CaliforniaABC>PR 17- 21  
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## ABC Agents will be working to increase safety this Holiday

(SACRAMENTO) As thousands of Californians plan to celebrate the Independence Day holiday with picnics and other outdoor activities, they are cautioned to arrange for one other item, a designated driver. A partnership of the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC,) California Highway Patrol (CHP), Office of Traffic Safety (OTS) and local law enforcement agencies will focus on keeping communities safe by removing impaired drivers from the roadways.

ABC agents will be on duty statewide checking ABC licensed businesses to ensure that underage or intoxicated people are not being served. “We call on all ABC licensees to be extra vigilant and check for underage drinkers and obviously intoxicated patrons,” stated ABC Director Jacob Appelsmith. “Checking identifications and promoting responsible beverage consumption can prevent DUI’s, save lives and ensure safer communities.”

During the Fourth of July holiday period from 2011 – 2015, 751 people were killed in DUI collisions nationwide. In California an average of six people are killed and 110 seriously injured during the holiday.

ABC recommends these safe alternatives to drinking and driving:

- **PLAN AHEAD:** Plan a safe way home before the fun begins.
- **DESIGNATE A DRIVER:** Before drinking, designate a sober driver.
- **DDVIP:** The California Office of Traffic Safety DDVIP mobile app is available for free download on iOS and Android devices. The DDVIP app allows users to “Map a Spot” with their current location to find DDVIP partnering establishments in their area or a “List of Spots” to search all participating bars and restaurants throughout California. Users can stay up-to-date with the latest from DDVIP and see what other users are saying via its social tab. Also through the app, for those who want to imbibe but also make it a point to plan ahead, users can easily order a sober ride all from one screen.
- **DRUGS, MEDICATION & ALCOHOL CAN EQUAL CRASHES:** Recent statistics reveal that 30 percent of drivers in fatal collisions had one or more drugs in their systems. A study of active drivers showed more tested positive for drugs that may impair driving (14 percent) than did for alcohol (7.3 percent). Of the drugs, marijuana was most prevalent, at 7.4 percent, slightly more than alcohol.
- **REPORT DRUNK DRIVERS:** If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate – “Report Drunk Drivers! Call 911!” The call you make may save a life!

Funding for the extra DUI enforcement operations is made possible by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

ABC protects communities through excellence in education and by administering prevention and enforcement programs designed to increase compliance with California’s alcoholic beverage laws. ABC licensees and their employees are encouraged to take ABC’s free four hour LEAD training classes to help achieve higher compliance with alcoholic beverage laws. LEAD stands for Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs.

ABC's mission is to provide the highest level of service and public safety through licensing, education and enforcement. To learn more about ABC programs that help protect communities, prevent alcohol-related harm and potentially save lives visit [https://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/programs\\_PE.html](https://www.abc.ca.gov/programs/programs_PE.html). ABC is a Department of the Business, Consumer Services and Housing Agency.

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