



EL CENTRO POLICE DEPARTMENT

150 North 11th Street, El Centro, CA 92243

OFFICIAL NEWS RELEASE

Every Hour, Every Day



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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El Centro Police Department Reminds Drivers to Keep the Final Days of Summer Fun, Not Fatal

El Centro, Calif. — August 8, 2024 — As the end of summer approaches and families prepare for Labor Day celebrations, the El Centro Police Department reminds everyone to prioritize safety on the roads. Drivers are encouraged to make responsible choices behind the wheel by never driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

“We want everyone to enjoy their end of Summer travels and Labor Day festivities, but it's imperative to do so responsibly,” said El Centro Chief of Police Robert Sawyer. “Driving under the influence not only puts your life at risk but also endangers everyone else on the road. Our goal is to reduce preventable crashes and save lives.”

The El Centro Police Department offers the following tips to Go Safely:

- **Plan Ahead:** If you know you'll be drinking, arrange for a designated driver, use a ride-sharing service, taxi or public transportation.
- **Buckle Up:** Wearing a seatbelt is one of the simplest ways to protect yourself in the event of a crash.
- **Stay Alert:** Avoid distractions such as texting or eating while driving. Keep your focus on the road.
- **Follow Speed Limits:** Speeding reduces your reaction time and increases the severity of crashes.
- **Watch for Pedestrians and Bicyclists:** With more people enjoying outdoor activities, be extra vigilant and share the road responsibly.
- **Take Breaks:** If you're traveling long distances, take regular breaks to rest and avoid fatigue.

To help keep our community safe, there will be additional officers on patrol from August 16 through Labor Day (September 2). They will be looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. These additional efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national enforcement campaign called "Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over."

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,524 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2022 — 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 who appears to be driving while impaired, call 9-1-1.

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