



California's Avoid DUI Enforcement Campaign 'Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911'

Tips for Spotting & Reporting Suspected Drunk Drivers

How to Spot a Drunk Driver

The following clues can help motorists detect a drunk driver:

- Weaving/swerving in and out of the lane
- Weaving within the lane quite noticeably
- Travelling at speeds much slower than the flow of traffic
- Braking erratically or stopping in the lane
- Sudden stops for signal lights and slow start once they change
- Remaining at the signal lights once they turn green – asleep at the wheel
- Making wide turns and/or cutting the corner striking the curb
- Headlights off at night or on high beams
- Driving with the turn signals on
- Straddling the center line of the road or lane lines
- The Driver looks intoxicated – starring straight ahead, face close to the windshield, and/or appears to be quite sleepy...
- Finally Aggressive driving – speed, tailgating and multiple lane changes or unsafe passing may be the tell-tale signs of intoxication

How to Report a Drunk Driver

1. Call 911 and tell them you wish to report a suspected drunk driver. **You do not have to give your name.
2. Give a complete description of the vehicle, such as make, model, color and license plate number.
3. Give the exact location of the vehicle, including the name of the road, cross streets and the direction they're traveling.
4. Describe the manner in which the vehicle is being driven.
5. Do not try to stop the car or detain the driver. Leave that to a law enforcement officer.

Note: During heavy traffic period there could be delays in reaching the 9-1-1 operator on your cell Phone. Be prepared, consider calling your local police or stay on the line with your information.





Frequently Asked Questions

How many people are killed by drunk drivers each year?

In 2007, 1,491 people were killed and 30,642 were injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,597 fatalities and 31,099 injuries in 2006. This represents a 5.2 percent decrease in alcohol involved fatalities – the first decrease since 1998.

Source: CHP SWITRS 2007 provisional data.

How many people are arrested for DUI each year?

In 2007, 206,196 people were arrested in California for driving under the influence, up from 199,147 in 2006.

Source: California Department of Justice Criminal Justice Statistics Center.

How do I know if a driver is driving drunk or just a bad driver?

There are a variety of clues that might indicate a drunk driver, including: turning wide, almost striking another vehicle, weaving, swerving or turning abruptly, following too closely, erratic breaking and driving with headlights off, among others.

How can the public report a drunk driver?

Call 911 from your cell phone when it is safe to do so. If you continue to hear all operators are busy recording when calling 9-1-1, consider calling your local police or sheriff's department to report the drunk driver or stay on the line.

What happens when someone calls 911 to report a suspected drunk driver in California?

The 911 dispatcher will ask for a vehicle description (make, model, color), as well as the license plate number, the exact location of the vehicle the direction of travel and cross streets. That information will then be relayed to officers in the field.

Do I have to give my name if I call to report a suspected drunk driver?

No. You can remain anonymous.

If I see a drunk driver, should I try and stop the car or talk to the driver?

No. Leave that to trained professionals. Don't try to stop or follow the vehicle or detain the drunk driver if they stop. Do not attempt to act in the capacity of any police, fire or medical personnel unless you are properly trained and authorized to perform that function.

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Will sobriety checkpoints be taking place in my area?

Yes. California's "AVOID DUI" task forces have been expanded to include more than 450 local police Sheriff's departments, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) along with dozens of other special police districts, covering 98 percent of the state's population.

What does a DUI cost?

According to the CHP, DUI in California can cost \$7,000 or more, including:

- Vehicle tow charges & storage fees
- Bail
- Attorney fees (just to plead guilty)
- Fines, penalties and court fees
- DUI education course
- Vehicle insurance increases

Plus...

- Time in jail following conviction
- Three to five years probation
- Drivers license suspension
- Missed time off work
- DUI conviction on your record for 10 years

Additional DUI statistics can be found on the CHP web site: <http://www.chp.ca.gov/html/dui-en.html>

Where can I find complete data on California DUI collisions, by county?

For 2006 statewide and county data, visit <http://www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/>

Additional DUI arrest data is also available from the Department of Justice at:

<http://ag.ca.gov/cjsc/statisticsdatatabs/dtabsarrests.php#duiArrests>

Where can I find Information on planning, preparing & hosting a safe and sober celebration?

The US Department of Health has information on safely hosting celebrations including recipes for non-alcoholic drinks at: <http://download.ncadi.samhsa.gov/prevline/pdfs/partytips.pdf>

For more information, visit www.ots.ca.gov and www.californiaavoid.org

