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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Officer Wayne Lyons
805-756-5571

Commander Lori Hashim
805-756-5183

Drunk Driving-Over the Limit, Under Arrest

Cal Poly University Police Department Joins National Campaign to Combat Impaired Driving

SAN LUIS OBISPO - Cal Poly's University Police Department is part of a nationwide crackdown on drunk drivers that began Aug. 18 and will continue through Sept. 4. The "Drunk Driving - Over the Limit, Under Arrest" campaign combines high-visibility law enforcement with a media campaign to deter impaired driving.

UPD and local law enforcement agencies are patrolling in greater numbers and for longer hours to arrest impaired drivers.

"There will be no warnings or second chances for drunken drivers," said UPD Commander Lori Hashim, "It doesn't matter if you're driving a pick-up, a mini-van or a motorcycle, or if you're within a block of your house; if you're over the limit you will be arrested."

Fifty percent of Americans will be involved in an alcohol-related traffic collision sometime during their life, according to the National Traffic Safety Administration.

Penalties for a drunken driving arrest include losing a drivers license, fines, court costs, increased insurance premiums and other expenses. Drivers who refuse a blood or breath alcohol test may lose their license and may have their vehicle impounded. Repeat offenders face jail time.

Studies from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that nearly 97 percent of Americans consider drunken driving as a major threat to their communities.

"One American life is lost every 22 minutes in an alcohol related traffic collision," said Commander Hashim. "In California, you legally are not allowed to drive with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 or greater. Drivers under 21 years old may be arrested if their blood alcohol concentration is as little as .01."

Instead of risking an arrest for impaired driving, UPD suggests choosing a sober designated driver prior to going out, using mass transit, calling a cab or asking a sober friend to drive home. Some taverns and restaurants have programs that provide patrons with a safe ride home.

For more information about the national "Drunk Driving - Over the Limit, Under Arrest" campaign, visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org

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