



## 'Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911'

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### How many people are killed by drunk drivers in California each year?

In 2009, 950 people were killed and 25,914 were injured in alcohol-related crashes in California, compared to 1,025 fatalities and 28,463 injuries in 2008. This represents a 7.3 percent decrease in alcohol involved fatalities between 2008 and 2009 and a staggering 26.8 percent drop since 2005. Alcohol impaired fatalities account for approximately 31 percent of total traffic fatalities in California.

*Source: Fatality Analysis Reporting System (FARS) and CHP SWITRS 2009 provisional data.*

#### What are the reasons behind the significant decline in alcohol-related fatalities in California in recent years?

A variety of factors have contributed to the substantial improvements in DUI fatality rates, including increased DUI enforcement, widespread DUI checkpoints, regional Avoid DUI Task Forces and the *Report Drunk Drivers. Call 911* campaign. Collectively, this combination of unrelenting enforcement and public education are continuing to bring the numbers down.

#### How many people are arrested for DUI each year?

In 2009 in California, 208,531 people were arrested for DUI. That's down from 214,811 in 2008 and but higher than the 203,866 in 2007.

*Source: Department of Motor Vehicles.*

#### 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. For a complete list of clues on how to spot a drunk driver, visit [www.ots.ca.gov](http://www.ots.ca.gov).

#### How can the public report a drunk driver?

Call 911 from your mobile phone when it is safe to do so. In the case of an emergency, drivers should pull over before making a call, if the situation safely permits. The best place to stop is in a designated parking space. If you continue to receive a busy signal when calling 911, call your local police or sheriff's department to report a drunk driver.

#### 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, and color), the exact location, as well as the license plate number. 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.

**What does a DUI cost?**

A DUI in California can cost anywhere from \$5,200 to \$10,200 or higher, including:

- Vehicle tow charges \$125
- Bail \$110
- Attorney fees \$500 (just to plead guilty), \$2500 and up (to contest)
- Penalties and court fees \$1,500 to \$2,500
- DUI school \$650
- Insurance rate increase (for three years) \$2,500 to \$5,000

Plus...

- Two days in jail
- Three years probation
- Drivers license suspension
- Missed time off work
- DUI conviction on your record for 10 years

*Source: The Century Council.*

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

For 2009 statewide and county data, visit <http://www.chp.ca.gov/switrs/>