



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

August 14, 2023

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**Santa Cruz Police Encourages Drivers to Go Safely  
During the Final Days of Summer**

Santa Cruz, CA – As the summer travel season wraps up, the Santa Cruz Police Department reminds drivers to stay safe and be responsible by never driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

“The community’s well-being is our top priority, so we’re asking that if you know you’ll be out drinking to have a game plan for how to get home safely,” Lieutenant Wes Morey of the Santa Cruz Police Department said. “There is never a good excuse for driving after drinking or using drugs that impair.”

Santa Cruz Police asks residents to take the necessary precautions to protect yourself and your family by buckling up, avoiding distractions behind the wheel, following the speed limit, and not driving impaired.

To help keep our community safe, the Santa Cruz Police Department will have additional officers on patrol from Aug. 16 through Labor Day (Sept. 4), looking for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. The additional efforts to prevent impaired driving are part of a national enforcement campaign, *Driver Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

In addition to patrols, Santa Cruz Police Department will hold a DUI Checkpoint on Friday, August 18, 2023, from 10:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m. on the Ocean Street corridor within the City of Santa Cruz.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 13,384 people were killed in drunk-driving crashes in 2021 — 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 driving impaired, call 9-1-1.

Share your thoughts about impaired driving by participating in the Go Safely Movement, a call-to-action traffic safety survey from the California Office of Traffic Safety. Take the survey at [gosafelyca.org](https://gosafelyca.org).

Funding for this program is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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