

MEDIA RELEASE

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CONTACT: David Tovar,
OTS Grant Coordinator
(805) 981-9115
David.Tovar@ventura.org

County Updates DUI Message: Drugs Are Growing Problem Crashed Car Trailer Now Sends Drugged Driving Prevention Message

(Ventura, Calif) – Ventura County Behavioral Health, in collaboration with Ventura Police Department, is taking steps to raise awareness about the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol. The joint project features a new wrap for the DUI Crashed Car Trailer, and continues a history of cooperative work between the two departments over the last ten years.

“This is a dramatic way to start a discussion about impaired driving; it’s a visual that helps drivers understand it’s not just alcohol that can cause impairment. Impairing effects can be caused by marijuana, prescription and illicit drugs,” said Bernadette Compean, Alcohol Enforcement Officer for the Ventura Police Department.

The new messaging on the trailer provides the public with an expanded understanding of “Driving Under the Influence” also known as a DUI. A DUI arrest can result in a criminal conviction due to the impairing effects of marijuana, alcohol, and prescription drugs, or any combination of drugs and alcohol. Driving under the influence of drugs (DUID) is a concerning and growing trend in Ventura County as well as around the nation.



“Since 2012 when the trailer was unveiled, approximately 288,760 people have view it. When people take a second to examine the trailer at an event in Thousand Oaks or in downtown Ventura, they are very curious about what happened,” said David Tovar, the Traffic Safety Grant Coordinator for the Ventura County Behavioral Health Department. “We want these conversations to move beyond curiosity, it’s about connecting people to the very real consequences of impaired driving in order to change behavior. No one should drive if they have been drinking or if they are under the influence of drugs, legal or not.”

The trailer is a combined effort between law enforcement agencies and Ventura County Behavioral Health. It is a custom fabricated display trailer, with an actual crash vehicle from a fatal DUI collision that occurred in Ventura County. The trailer displays an all-too-common reality: an impaired driving crash, a preventable tragedy. The mobile exhibit is enhanced with lighting, video displays and signage for use at health fairs and community events.

For more information about the grant and the messaging on the trailer, contact David Tovar at (805) 981-9115 or David.Tovar@Ventura.org. Funding for the updated messaging on the trailer is provided by the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. For more information, go to www.venturacountylimits.org.

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