ORANGE POLICE DEPARTMENT

PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE

1107 NORTH BATAVIA STREET, ORANGE, CA 92867
PHONE: 714-744-7448
FAX: 714-744-7498
ROBERT H. GUSTAFSON, CHIEF OF POLICE

NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT: **SERGEANT DAN ADAMS**
OFFICE: (714) 744-7448

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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'Zero Tolerance' Distracted Driving Enforcement Operation

As part of this month's *Distracted Driving Awareness Month* campaign, the Orange Police Department will be offering "zero tolerance" enforcement operations for those texting or operating hand-held cell phones on April 4th, 5th, 20th and 21st. In addition to those enforcement operation dates, you can expect officers to be specifically looking for violators all month. Drivers who break the law and place themselves and others in danger will be cited. The current minimum ticket cost is $159, with subsequent tickets costing at least $279.

Distracted driving is a serious traffic safety concern that puts everyone on the road at risk. As a result, law enforcement across the state, including the Orange Police Department are increasingly cracking down on cell phone use and texting. This April will see over 225 local agencies plus the 103 CHP Area Commands conducting zero tolerance enforcements.

"We take the issue of distracted driving very seriously," said Sergeant Dan Adams. "Traffic safety is a top priority and getting cell phones out of the hands of people operating a motor vehicle is crucial. No call or text is worth someone being seriously injured or killed in a collision. Drivers need to focus on driving, not holding a phone or texting. If our officers see you in violation of this law then you can expect to get a ticket," Adams said.

Drivers who use hand-held devices are four times as likely to get into crashes serious enough to injure themselves. Younger, inexperienced drivers under 20 years old have the highest proportion of distraction-related fatal crashes. In addition, studies show that texting while driving can delay a driver's reaction time just as severely as having a blood alcohol content of a legally drunk driver.

For additional questions you can also contact: CHP Sgt. Steve Lopez at (858) 650-3600 or StLopez@chp.ca.gov.

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Sgt. Dan Adams, Public Information Officer