



State-wide Drink Driving Blitz to Hit 100,000 Drivers

Wednesday 4th November 2009

Minister for Police Michael Daley today announced Police will breath test more than 100,000 drivers across the state in a three day drinking driving blitz starting overnight.

Mr Daley said Operation Drink Drive II - starting at 12am on Thursday and finishing at 12am on Sunday morning - comes as Police name the top ten worst areas for drink driving in metropolitan Sydney.

"This year's road toll continues to get worse and worse," he said.

"There have now been 401 deaths on our roads to date this year, which is 92 more than at the same time last year.

"It beggars belief that there still idiots out there who still don't get the message that it's not acceptable to drink and drive.

"Police are determined to help save as many lives as they can and will be out on the roads in force from tomorrow to catch drivers doing the wrong thing.

"Copping a hefty fine, losing your license or even spending time in prison is nothing in comparison to how you'll feel for the rest of your life if you kill a loved one or an innocent person," he said.

Drink Drive Hot Spots

1. Northern Beaches LAC	589 charges
2. Botany Bay LAC	499 charges
3. Sutherland LAC	452 charges
4. Penrith LAC	445 charges
5. Kuring Gai LAC	440 charges
6. Hurstville LAC	416 charges
7. Macquarie Fields LAC	409 charges
8. Fairfield LAC	381 charges
9. Harbourside LAC	361 charges
10. Rose Bay LAC	342 charges

– Top ten most prevalent Police Local Area Commands (LACs) in metropolitan Sydney for drink driving in 2008

Mr Daley said Police would be setting up Random Breath Tests right across Sydney and the state, with extra efforts concentrated on areas that have the highest incidents of drinking driving in the state.

"There's always a good chance you'll get breath tested if you get behind the wheel when you've had too much to drink," he said.

“Over the next three days, that chance is almost a guarantee.

“Police will be out in force everywhere. We want people who insist on drink driving to be paranoid about getting caught.

“Drink driving is one of the major causes of accidents on our roads, with around 20 per cent of fatal crashes on our roads alcohol-related.

“If you’re heading out for the night, then plan how you’re going to get home if you’ve had a few drinks.

“Don’t leave the decisions until later in the night after you’ve been drinking,” said Mr Daley.

Operation Drink Drive is held twice a year in the lead up to the Easter and Christmas holidays and targets people in metropolitan and regional areas who drive while affected by alcohol.

The operation will begin at 12.01am on Thursday and run until 11.59pm Saturday.

Contact: Sally Tindall (0408 635 344)