



EST. 1851

PLACER COUNTY SHERIFF CORONER-MARSHAL

MAIN OFFICE
2929 RICHARDSON DR.
AUBURN, CA 95603
PH: (530) 889-7800 FAX: (530) 889-7899

TAHOE SUBSTATION
DRAWER 1710
TAHOE CITY, CA 96145
PH: (530) 581-6300 FAX: (530) 581-6377



EDWARD N. BONNER
SHERIFF-CORONER-MARSHAL

DEVON BELL
UNDERSHERIFF

PRESS RELEASE

Date/Time of Release: Wednesday, February 20, 2013
Date/Time of Occurrence: Feb. 25 through March 8, 2013
Nature of Event: Distracted Driving Enforcement
Location of Call: Placer County, CA
Released by: Dena Erwin, PIO (530) 889-6901

SHERIFF EDWARD N. BONNER RELEASES THE FOLLOWING:

The Placer County Sheriff's Office is continuing its enforcement of cell phone laws from February 25 through March 8.

The enforcement is part of a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) to eliminate motorists' hand-held cell phone use and texting. The effort is a special federally funded pilot program using the region to test tactics that may be employed nationally in the future.

Deputies will be out in force in the city of Colfax, north Auburn and Loomis during this second phase of the enforcement to issue tickets to drivers using hand-held cell phones or texting.

"Talking or texting on a cell phone while driving on the streets of Placer County is dangerous to everyone on the roadways," said Sheriff Ed Bonner. "Deputies will be out looking, and will be ticketing with zero tolerance."

California's distracted driving law bans all drivers from using hand-held devices and texting while operating a motor vehicle. Yet, in 2011, the California Department of Motor Vehicles reported 460,487 handheld cell phone convictions, up from 361,260 in 2010.

Distracted drivers in Placer County talking on a hand-held cell phone or texting will receive a first-time ticket costing a minimum of \$159, with a second offense costing \$279. But the goal of the special enforcement operation is not to issue tickets, but to raise awareness of the dangers of distracted driving.

- Turn off your phone and/or put it out of reach.
Include in your outgoing message that you can't answer while you are driving.
- Don't call or text anyone at a time when you think they may be driving.