

Media Advisory

For Immediate Release

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LAW ENFORCEMENT TO CRACK DOWN ON MEMORIAL DAY PARTIERS RETURNING FROM MEXICO

Number of Late-Night Border Crossers Is Up Again

WHAT:

Operation Safe Crossing—San Diego Police will coordinate a multi-agency enforcement operation at the San Ysidro/Tijuana border crossing in an effort to combat underage drinking and prevent people from driving home drunk after partying in Mexico.

WHERE:

Southbound pedestrian turnstiles—San Diego Police will be checking IDs, turning away everyone under 18 not accompanied by a guardian, detaining those with false identification and enforcing curfew. Volunteers will be handing out fliers to inform the public about roving DUI patrols and promoting sober driving.

Northbound pedestrian crossing—Enforcement of alcohol and public safety laws, arresting intoxicated pedestrians and drivers using a zero tolerance approach.

DUI Operations—San Diego Police will conduct Roving DUI patrols in the border zone and partner with federal agents to intervene with impaired drivers at the Port of Entry (Fri. and Sat., 10:00 PM to Dawn) **CHP** will conduct roving DUI patrols on South Bay Highways (Fri., Sat., Sun., and Mon., 11:00PM to Dawn) and a DUI Checkpoint on Tues. May 28th.

WHEN:

Friday, May 24, 2002 -- Operation Safe Crossing at the border goes from 9:00 pm to dawn

Saturday, May 25, 2002 -- 9:00 pm to dawn

* **INTERVIEWS:** Sgt. Max Verduzco will be available for interviews after 1:00 pm on Thursday and after 9 PM on Friday and Saturday at the southbound border crossing.

WHY:

To stem the tide of intoxicated border crossers returning from Mexico. Aggressive marketing practices by the alcohol industry lure thousands of high school, college, and university students from across the region to drink in Mexico. The goal of Operation Safe Crossing is to provide the necessary resources to enforce current laws, reducing the number of alcohol-related incidences.

WHO:

San Diego Police Department, Chula Vista Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Probation, State Parole, Shore Patrol, Federal Protection Agency, Transit Police, and Alcohol Beverage Control.

Journalists covering issues related to alcohol and drugs can find current facts, reports, contact information and other resources at the Substance Abuse Newsroom, www.alcoholdrugnewsroom.org.