EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

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For Immediate Release:

Subject: ***Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*** **This Holiday Season**

El Segundo, CA - The holiday season can be one of the deadliest and most dangerous times of the year due to an increase in impaired driving. In December of 2006, 1,076 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcyclist with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher.

That's why **The El Segundo Police Department** is joining with National, State and local highway safety officials to remind everyone who will be celebrating during the Holidays that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving* and to never forget to plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.

"The consumption of alcohol, drugs and driving just don't mix," said El Segundo Police Chief David Cummings. "Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk of killing yourself or someone else. Don't ever get behind a wheel of a vehicle when you are impaired."

Following these easy steps, a driver can enjoy a safe and festive holiday without jeopardizing their life and the lives of the others who may be on the road:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement

- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

"Saving lives on our roads is a top priority and we need everyone's help to do it," said Cummings. "This holiday season; don't let your year end in an arrest—or even worse, death. Make smart decisions. Plan ahead, so you can assure a safe way home."

Whether you've had way too many or just one too many, it's not worth the risk.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org, or by calling Lieutenant Raymond Garcia of the El Segundo Police Department's Special Operations Division at (310) 524-2254. To report suspected drunk drivers, please dial 911.