



# City of Ridgecrest Police Department

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Ronald N. Strand, Chief of Police

## Press Release

**DATE OF INCIDENT:** FISCAL YEAR 2010 - 2011

**TYPE OF INCIDENT:** ABC GRANT RESULTS

In 2010, the Ridgecrest Police Department was awarded a grant exceeding \$23,000 from the California Department of Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC). This grant is administered through the Grant Assistance Program (GAP) and ran from July 01, 2010 through June 30, 2011 (Fiscal Year 10/11).

Consumption of alcoholic beverages by persons under 21 years of age is heavily associated with crimes such as driving under the influence (DUI), batteries, sexual assaults, and other alcohol related incidents.

The Ridgecrest Police Department identified four main methods in which offending minors obtain alcohol:

- Minor purchases alcohol from off-sale establishments.
- "Shoulder Tap"- Adult purchases alcohol for minor at or near an off-sale establishment.
- Another minor or adult gives alcohol to minor.
- Minor steals alcohol.

The primary goal of the grant was to reduce minor access to alcohol. In the past twelve months, the Ridgecrest Police Department, with assistance from ABC, conducted thirty-one (31) operations that included proactive enforcement details as well as public and business education. Updated training and procedures were given to RPD personnel. The operations included:

- **LEAD** (Licensee Education on Alcohol and Drugs)

The LEAD Program is a free, voluntary prevention and education program for retail licensees, their employees, and applicants. Its mission is to provide high quality, effective, and educationally sound training on alcohol responsibility and the law. The curriculum is designed for licensees, managers, and employees.

- **IMPACT** (Informed Merchants Preventing Alcohol-Related Crime Tendencies)

The IMPACT Program is a prevention and education program. Its main objective is to teach licensees how they can help reduce alcohol-related crime. It is designed as a crime preventive approach in a relaxed atmosphere of cooperation between merchants and law enforcement officers. During an IMPACT Inspection, officers remind licensees of the responsibilities and accountability associated with the sale of alcohol. The officers also inspect licensed premises for compliance with State and local laws. If a licensee is not in compliance, the officers will tell the licensee or employee on duty what issues need to be addressed and provide copies of any laws or rules. Licensees must then correct any problems. Later, officers will conduct follow-up visits.

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- **MINOR DECOY**

This program allows law enforcement agencies to use persons under 20 years of age as decoys for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages from licensed premises. The use of underage decoys to check whether licensees are selling alcohol to minors can show a dramatic drop in the illegal activity. Any person who sells alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for selling alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).

- **SHOULDER TAP**

The Shoulder Tap Program is an enforcement program that ABC and local law enforcement agencies use to detect and deter shoulder tap activity. During the program, a minor decoy solicits adults outside ABC licensed stores to buy the minor alcohol. Any person seen furnishing alcohol to the minor decoy is arrested (either cited or booked) for furnishing alcohol to a minor (a violation of Section 25658(a) Business and Professions Code).

Other operations such as Directed Enforcement Details, Juvenile Party Patrols, and Retail Operating Standards Task Force (ROSTF) were also conducted to address specific concerns and problem areas.

As a result of the operations designed for proactive enforcement against criminal violations, sixty (60) persons were arrested for various criminal violations.

Eight (8) Minor Decoy Operations were conducted with seventy-one (71) ABC licensed premises being visited. Overall, 16.9% of the premises sold to the minor decoys resulting in fifteen (15) arrests.

Ten (10) Shoulder Tap Operations were conducted at thirty-three (33) ABC licensed premises. Two-hundred and twenty-six (226) persons were contacted resulting in eighteen (18) arrests (7.9%) for purchasing/furnishing alcohol to a minor.

Seven (7) Directed Enforcement/Juvenile Party Patrols were conducted which resulted in the arrests of twenty-seven (27) persons for various criminal violations.

Fifty-three (53) ABC licensed premises received either an IMPACT or ROSTF inspection to educate them on proper ABC laws.

Thirty (30) Community Meetings were attended to discuss grant activities and problematic locations surveys.

In all, aggressive enforcement mixed with public and business education has successfully limited the access of alcohol to minors. The Ridgecrest Police Department is extremely appreciative of the California Alcoholic Beverage Control Grant Assistance Program (GAP) in which vital enforcement and education is made possible to the City of Ridgecrest through cooperation, logistical assistance, and funding.

Prepared By: Sgt. Justin Dampier

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