

COMMUNITY COMMENT

November 13, 2012

This is Officer Matt Harvey with the California Highway Patrol for community comment.

It's that time of the year to be thankful for many things in one's life, and one of those things should be for the careful and defensive driving by family, friends, and other motorists on the road.

Designated drivers, buckled-up vehicle occupants, and undistracted motorists adhering to the speed limit along the north coast's roadways are just a few of the items that appear on the California Highway Patrol's wish list this holiday season.

This time of year more people travel, celebrations increase, and the weather can be a challenge. Here are just a few reminders to ensure that you, as well as other drivers, have a safe and fun holiday season as you travel the north coast's vast and rural roadways.

Plan ahead by checking roadway and weather conditions and make sure you have the proper tires and equipment for the roadway being traveled.

Check your tires. Make sure your tires have sufficient tread depth and, if necessary, have them replaced.

Make sure your vehicle is in good working condition. Check your fluid levels, brakes, lighting system, and windshield wipers.

Be more attentive, observant, and slow down during inclement weather conditions. Slick roadways increase stopping distances, so leave more distance between your vehicle and the vehicle in front of you.

Keep a full tank of gas in case you change routes or experience unexpected delays.

Keep an emergency kit inside your vehicle including a first aid kit, water, food, a change of clothes, cash, and a fully charged cell phone in case your vehicle becomes disabled or you experience a lengthy delay.

It's important to remember as the holiday celebrations kick into high gear during the next couple of weeks, always designate a driver before the party begins.

Whether it's impaired or distracted driving, speeding because you're in a hurry, or you forget to buckle up, a careless decision made in an instant can hurt a family for a lifetime.

As you prepare for the holiday traffic and winter weather, remember to plan ahead and leave yourself some extra time to make the trip. Rest assured that the CHP will be out there to assist you whenever there is a need.

The CHP will be keeping a watchful eye on motorists as they head out on their road trips during the Thanksgiving Maximum Enforcement Period which begins Wednesday, Nov. 21st and continues through Sunday, Nov. 25th.

Our goal is to encourage motorists to make safe choices to prevent tragedies.

Be patient and attentive while traveling on the north coast's roadways this holiday season. People are

eager to see friends and loved ones, but it's important to get to your destination safely.

The CHP reminds all motorists to buckle up, observe the speed limit, and not to drink and drive. For more information on current laws and safety tips, you can contact your local CHP office or check out the the CHP's website at chp.ca.gov

This has been Officer Matt Harvey with the California Highway Patrol for Community Comment wishing you a safe and blessed holiday season.