



PRESS RELEASE

I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: February 11, 2008.

II. TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:
Livermore Police to target aggressive driving in February 2009.

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:

Has your daily commute become an exercise in highway survival? The Livermore Police Department is increasing efforts to identify and issue citations to aggressive drivers—those who speed, tailgate, zip from lane to lane, flash high beam headlights in frustration, and engage in other dangerous driving practices.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) defines aggressive driving as "the operation of a motor vehicle in a manner that endangers or is likely to endanger persons or property". Aggressive driving can easily escalate into a more violent incident, also known as "Road Rage".

This concern from responsible motorists has prompted a pledge from The Livermore Police Department to put the breaks on aggressive driving. Respondents in a NHTSA survey rated increased police enforcement as the most effective and acceptable way to reduce unsafe and illegal driving. At the least, offenders can expect more police stops, more frequent ticketing, higher fines, and possible license suspension for repeat violations. Other measures may include radar speed displays and enforcement from aerial lift trucks.

In the meantime, you can do your part to keep our roadways safer. NHTSA offers these suggestions:

- Keep your cool in traffic; be patient and courteous to other drivers.
- Correct any of your own unsafe driving habits that are likely to endanger, antagonize or provoke other motorists. Fifty percent of those surveyed admitted they had driven recklessly, had sped, and/or engaged in other unsafe or illegal driving behaviors.
- Reduce your stress on the road: allow plenty of time to get where you're going, consider changing your schedule to avoid the worst congestion, listen to relaxing music or books on tape.

Help spread the word in your city and make a difference with your own safe, sensible driving.

IV. CONTACT PERSON: Officer Steve Vail
PHONE NUMBER: 925-371-4850

Should you require further information please call the contact person designated in this press release.

If the contact person is not available, and you have a deadline, please call the on duty Watch Commander at (925) 371-4820.

Steve Sweeney
Chief of Police

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