



## PRESS RELEASE

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I. DATE AND TIME OF PRESS RELEASE: 03/30/09 0900

II. TYPE OF INCIDENT/SITUATION/ANNOUNCEMENT:  
Livermore Police focus on speeding drivers/vehicles in April 2009.

III. FACTUAL INFORMATION:  
The month of April is Speed Enforcement month and the Livermore Police Department will be intensifying its enforcement efforts against speeders throughout the City of Livermore.

Two of the three 2008 fatal collisions in the City of Livermore were caused by unsafe speed. Unsafe speed was the primary collision factor in 29% of the 265 injury collisions for the same year. Speeding drivers, however, are not only a local problem, but a problem across the nation.

In the State of California, collision statistics are collected by the California Highway Patrol's – Statewide Integrated Traffic Records System, also known as SWITRS. Per SWITRS, for the year of 2006, unsafe speed was the primary collision factor in 16% of the fatal collisions and 29% of the injury collisions.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) collects collision statistics from across the United States. Per NHTSA, more than 13,000 lives were lost across America in speed related traffic collisions during 2005. In 2005, speed was a contributing factor in 30% of all fatal crashes nationally.

Nationally in 2005, 86% of all speed-related traffic fatalities occurred on non-interstate roadways where the posted speed limits were 55 miles per hour or less. According to NHTSA, a crash on a road with a speed limit of 65 mph or greater is twice as likely to result in a fatality than a crash on a road with a speed limit of 45 or 50 mph, and nearly five times as likely as a crash on a road with a speed limit of 40 mph or below. Only 14% of the nation's speed related fatalities occurred on interstate highways that year.

Among drivers involved in fatal crashes, young males are most likely to have been found speeding. In fact, during 2005, 38% of male drivers ages 15 – 20 who were involved in a fatal crash were speeding at the time of the crash.

Speeding motorcyclists are also over represented in crashes. In 2005, 34% of all motorcyclists involved in fatal crashes were speeding at the time of the crash, compared to 22% for passenger car drivers, 18% for light-truck drivers and 7% for large-truck drivers.

Both SWITERS and NHTSA consider a collision to be speed related if the driver was charged with a speed-related offense, or if the responding officer indicates that the driver was driving too fast for conditions at the time or was exceeding the posted speed limit.

In summary, speeding vehicles translate to death on our roadways. Speed greatly reduces a driver's ability to slow a vehicle when necessary, steer safely around another vehicle, a hazardous object, or an unexpected curve. In school zones and neighborhoods, this can include children or animals running across the road. Speeding drivers put themselves, their passengers, other drivers, and pedestrians at tremendous risk.

The goal of the Livermore Police Department is to save lives. Too many lives are lost each year in speed related collisions. Even one life lost to speeding is one too many. During this crackdown on speeders, officers will be aggressively targeting and ticketing speeding drivers.

The Livermore Police Department would like to remind drivers to stay alert and to watch for and obey all posted speed limits. Drivers need to remember that there is a reason posted speed limits exist. Roadways can be a dangerous place and the speed limits are designed to protect everyone – drivers, passengers, pedestrians – everyone! So the next time you get behind the wheel, please remember to **Stop Speeding Before It Stops You.**

IV. CONTACT PERSON: Lt. Mike Peretti  
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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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