

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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National Save a Teen Month

ABC Director Steve Hardy's Message

May is a month full of celebrations. Young people are excitedly preparing for graduation ceremonies from high school and college, and communities are celebrating a variety of events that mark all the good things that come to us in the Spring and Summer months.

This year, the California Alcoholic Beverage Control is joining the National Liquor Law Enforcement Association (NLLEA) in an effort to try to keep youth safe with Operation Save a Teen during the month of May.

We all know that underage drinking can easily lead to tragedy and ruined lives. 188 persons under the age of 21 died in alcohol-related crashes in California during 2007. Many of us have personal experiences that demonstrate the devastating impact of underage drinking to individuals in our communities. Operation Save a Teen is the first of many national efforts to be conducted by the NLLEA, targeting a substantial decrease in underage drinking. Enforcing the minimum drinking age laws helps to save lives and create safer communities. California's ABC will be there to do its part.

I can't thank our hard working investigators enough for working long hours on weekends and at night to help keep communities strong and safe by conducting a wide variety of enforcement operations.

In addition to ABC's strong enforcement efforts, everyone is encouraged to reach out to family members, friends, neighbors and colleagues, and remind them to talk to teenagers and let them know that consuming alcohol before reaching the age of 21 is illegal, potentially dangerous and a bad idea.

Protecting the State's youth is a huge priority so take some time to talk to teenagers and educate them about the dangers of underage drinking. ABC will focus on underage drinking enforcement with a goal to save one teen at a time, one incident at a time and one day or night at a time. No one wants to see more tragedies.

As ABC's Director, I want to thank you and offer a warm-hearted wish to you and your families for a safe May full of happy celebrations.

Steve Hardy, Director