



NEWS RELEASE

Date: June 29, 2017
District: District 12
Contact: [Lindsey Hart](#)
Phone: (949) 279-8931

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Stormwater Pollution Prevention Campaign Reminds Motorists to Secure Loads and Properly Dispose Trash

Travelers Encouraged to Reduce Pollutants that Affect Water Quality

HUNTINGTON BEACH – As hundreds of thousands are expected to visit state beaches this Fourth of July, Caltrans, California State Parks, and the California Coastal Commission reminded motorists today of the importance of performing routine vehicle and tire maintenance, properly disposing of litter, and securing loads to reduce pollution and protect wildlife.

“Motorists should have their vehicles checked before traveling to prevent stormwater pollutants, such as sediment, metals from tire and brake wear, fluid leaks and contents from unsecure vehicle loads,” said Chris Flynn, Caltrans District 12 Deputy Director of Environmental Analysis. “It’s important to ‘Protect Every Drop’ and reduce the pollutants that affect water quality in California’s streams, rivers, lakes and coastal waters, keeping them drinkable, swimmable and fishable. All of us here in Orange County love our ocean and beaches, and it will take a combined effort to ensure current and future generations can enjoy them as well, without fear of toxic waste or pollution.”

Each year, nearly 350,000 people visit Huntington State Beach alone to celebrate the Fourth of July.

“Whether you’ve loaded up your vehicle to head out of town or to the local beach for the holiday weekend, properly securing the items in the back of, or on top of, your vehicle is crucial,” said Flynn. “The fallen or discarded debris is not only a safety hazard, the items that end up on roadways and highways can enter storm drains, pollute our waterways and endanger fish and wildlife.”

Caltrans demonstrated how to properly tarp and tie loads when transporting common items to the beach so they do not fall out or fly off onto roadways and highways. Caltrans’ [Protect Every Drop](#) campaign educates Californians about stormwater pollution, and works to reduce toxic pollution on state highways, like the Pacific Coast Highway (PCH).

“California State Parks within Orange County are visited by more than 11 million people annually,” said California State Parks Supervisor Kevin Pearsall. “One of the largest challenges facing these beaches is the massive amount of trash that is left by visitors and the tons of waste that washes onto the beaches from connecting rivers. These parks are some of the most



BE WORK ZONE ALERT



ProtectEveryDrop.com



NEWS RELEASE

beautiful beaches in the nation and are treasures to the state of California. It is crucial to protect them to ensure a lifetime of memories for all.”

Caltrans owns and operates storm drain systems along 15,000 miles of the state highway system, which discharge into major watershed of the state.

“All rivers run to the sea,” said Jack Ainsworth, Executive Director for the California Coastal Commission. “If you want clean beaches keep your litter and cigarette butts off the roads and in trash cans.”

Roadway debris falling from improperly secured loads is dangerous both to drivers and California waterways. A load is secure when nothing can slide, shift, or fall onto the roadway. Here are some tips on properly securing a load:

- **Tie it down.** Large or heavy items, like ice chests, beach chairs, and kayaks, should be secured with appropriate straps, bungee cords, or netting for travelling speeds.
- **Secure it.** For loose items like grass, tree clippings or flotation devices, a tarp or netting can be used to keep items in place.
- **Don't dispose of litter in pick-up beds.** Litter in pick-up truck beds, like water bottles, soda cans, sandwich wrappers and debris from the beach and even fireworks can fly out when the vehicle reaches highway speed. Dispose of litter properly.
- **Re-check your load.** Loads can shift and settle during a trip. When safe to do so, stop to re-check your load during your trip. Tighten and adjust your load if necessary.

###



BE WORK ZONE ALERT



ProtectEveryDrop.com