

VILLA PARK



HIGH SCHOOL

A CALIFORNIA DISTINGUISHED SCHOOL

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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(ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR)**

Drinking and Driving Remains a Grim Reality

Villa Park High School Participates in “Every 15 Minutes” Program

Villa Park – (April 14th, 2016) – On Thursday and Friday April 14th and 15th, 2016 the California Highway Patrol Department (CHP) sponsored the “Every 15 Minutes” program at Villa Park High School. This program offered students real-life experiences without the real-life risks. This emotionally charged program is an event designed to dramatically instill in teenagers the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking and driving. It powerfully challenges students to think about drinking, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved.

On the first day, one student at a time is removed from class approximately every fifteen-minutes to simulate the statistic of someone dying due to drinking and driving. A CHP Officer and Orange County Sheriff’s Deputy enters a classroom to read an obituary, which has been written by the “dead” student’s parent(s) – explaining the circumstances of their classmate’s demise and the contributions the student has made to the school and the community. The student is then escorted out and becomes the “living dead,” complete with face make-up and a black shirt. “Victims” were not allowed to speak or interact with other students for the remainder of the school day.

At approximately 11:15AM, a simulated traffic collision was viewed by Villa Park High junior and senior students along Taft Avenue. The OCFA (Orange County Fire Authority) and Paramedics arrived on scene immediately to treat and release “injured” student participants. Firefighters also used the Jaws of Life in order to extract any “injured” students from their vehicles. A “critically injured” student was also airlifted to Orange County Global Medical Center, where he was later pronounced “dead.” The Orange County Sheriff’s Department (OCSD) played a key role in the event by investigating the traffic collision and “arresting” then “booking” the student “drunk driver.” The student “under the influence” continued her experience with an actual trip to CHP Santa Ana Booking Facility and then Harbor Court Justice Center for “arraignment.”

Whether or not students were part of the audience or in the actual event itself, they were all able to experience firsthand, the sensations of being involved in a tragic, alcohol-related collision.

The following day, April 15th, there will be a funeral assembly to honor those lost in the accident. This will include caskets, memorial photos, and parent/student eulogies.

This “Every 15 Minutes” production would not be possible without the support of the following agencies: CHP, OCSD, OCFA, Mercy Air, Care Ambulance, Orange County Global Medical Center, Fairhaven Memorial Park, Trauma Intervention Program, Film Ed Academy of the Arts, PEGLEG, T.D. Graphics, PFSO, and Deputy Cynthia Mata the Villa Park High School Resource Officer.

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ORANGE UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION RESIDENTS

Notice is hereby given that **VILLA PARK HIGH SCHOOL** in coordination with the California Highway Patrol Department, Orange County Sherriff's Department, and Orange County Fire Authority will be performing a mock critical incident drill on **Thursday, April 14th, 2016 at approximately 11:00am**. This drill will involve response from various emergency agencies as well as road closures.

ROAD CLOSURES

The following roads will be closed on **Thursday, April 14th, 2016 from approximately 9:00am – 12:30pm**: Taft Avenue at the intersections of Santiago Blvd., Nichols St., and Center Dr. There will be limited access coming in and out of Smokewood Dr., and Bixby Cir.

THIS INCIDENT IS ONLY A DRILL

