



# CALIFORNIA HIGHWAY PATROL NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **TOP FIVE CHP STORIES OF THE WEEK**

*#ICYMI: This week, the California Highway Patrol (CHP) made headlines with several notable incidents, including a North Sacramento officer recognized for saving a driver from a burning vehicle, an illegal firearm and 20 pounds of suspected methamphetamine recovered during traffic stop in Merced, Oroville officers seize ghost gun and various drugs during DUI arrest, a Valley Division K-9 officer finding a stolen vehicle containing explosives and a CHP dispatcher honored at 9-1-1 For Kids Heroes Awards Ceremony.*



The list below includes the headline (with a link to the full text) and an excerpt from each announcement. Click on the headlines or links within the paragraph to access the accompanying assets that are available for download.

1. [\*\*NORTH SACRAMENTO OFFICER SAVES DRIVER FROM BURNING CAR\*\*](#)

During National Work Zone Awareness Week, April 21-25, the CHP reminded the public to reduce speed, remain vigilant, and “move over” when approaching construction zones. These areas are workspaces and environments where workers' lives are at stake daily.

Recently, in a construction zone, North Sacramento Area's Officer Andrews exemplified extraordinary bravery by putting himself in harm's way to save another individual's life. A crash had occurred near the work zone he was assigned to, and without hesitation, he approached the vehicle that was on fire, forced entry, and swiftly worked to extinguish the flames mere seconds before they could reach the passenger compartment. His heroic actions saved a life and averted what could have been a tragic incident.

## **2. MERCED SEIZES ILLEGAL FIREARM & 20 POUNDS OF SUSPECTED METHAMPHETAMINE**

On April 15, a Merced CHP officer stopped a vehicle traveling southbound on SR-99 near Applegate Road due to a traffic violation. During the stop, the driver and passenger exhibited extreme nervousness and provided conflicting stories regarding their travel history. Based on these observations and the officer's training and experience, a request for consent to search the vehicle was made, which was subsequently denied. A K9 unit from the CHP Central Division was requested. K9 “Shei” arrived to assist. Shei alerted to the presence of narcotics, establishing probable cause for a vehicle search. During the search, officers discovered approximately 20 pounds of suspected methamphetamine and an unregistered handgun. Both occupants were arrested and transported to the area office, where task force members assisted with the investigation.

## **3. OROVILLE OFFICERS SEIZE GHOST GUN AND VARIOUS DRUGS DURING DUI ARREST**

On April 16, the Oroville CHP conducted a traffic stop on a speeding black Kia Optima. The driver had a suspended license from a prior DUI and was on probation for the same offense. After a DUI evaluation, officers confirmed the driver was under the influence of alcohol. A search of the Kia was completed, where officers discovered two loaded pistols in the center console, one polymer “ghost gun,” and an additional pistol that had been reported stolen. Further investigation revealed several types of illicit drugs, including methamphetamine, cocaine, MDMA (ecstasy), fentanyl, mushrooms, concentrated cannabis, and miscellaneous prescription medications. Also located were multiple digital scales and various packaging used for illicit drug sales. The driver was arrested for DUI, drug possession with intent to sell, and numerous firearm offenses.

#### **4. VALLEY DIVISION K9 UNIT RECOVERS STOLEN VEHICLE CONTAINING LIVE MILITARY EXPLOSIVE**

Last week, officers from the CHP Valley Division K9 Unit recovered a stolen vehicle, but what they discovered inside was remarkably unusual: a live military explosive.

This military-grade munition, a 60mm mortar, was not under military control and had been modified, rendering it even more hazardous. Fortunately, our highly trained CHP Bomb Squad responded swiftly and collaborated with the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team from Beale Air Force Base to safely neutralize the device.

This incident underscores the unpredictable nature of law enforcement and exemplifies the exceptional teamwork among agencies dedicated to ensuring the safety of our communities.

#### **5. CHP DISPATCHER HONORED AT 9-1-1 LOCAL HEROES AWARDS CEREMONY**

On March 11, Golden Gate Communication Center Public Safety Dispatcher (PSD) Sarah Critchley received a 9-1-1 call from a distressed teenager during a domestic violence incident. Recognizing the urgency, PSD Critchley adapted her approach to earn the teen's trust, acknowledging his trauma as he reported his father assaulting his mother. She used closed-ended questions to gather crucial information and employed the "Rapid Deploy" geo-locating system to track their location. After guiding the teen to activate the car's hazard lights, CHP officers located the vehicle quickly. The situation ended safely, with the father detained and medical assistance provided to his mother. PSD Critchley's attentive communication was vital in ensuring the well-being of all involved, leading to a resolution with minimal harm. Due to PSD Critchley's heroic actions, she was recognized with a Local Hero award.

The CHP is actively hiring Public Safety Dispatchers to join our Department at communication centers across the state. We're looking for calm, focused individuals who can handle high-pressure situations and want to make a real impact. If you're ready for a rewarding career with purpose, apply now on our [website](#) and "Be the Voice" that helps save lives.

The mission of the CHP is to provide the highest level of Safety, Service, and Security.

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