



Ukiah Police Department

Safety, Professionalism, Community Service

Chris Dewey
Chief of Police

Press Release: Hit and Run / DUI drug arrest UPD case # 16-1752

On June 16th at about 10:26 am, UPD officers were dispatched to the area of School Street and Perkins, regarding a hit and run traffic collision call. Officers were advised that the reporting party was following the suspect's vehicle, which was located in the 400 block of South Oak Street. A UPD officer performed a traffic stop on the suspect's vehicle and contacted the driver, who was identified as Michael Eldridge age 25. As the officer spoke with Eldridge about driving away from the traffic collision, the officer suspected that Eldridge was under the influence of some type of intoxicant and began a DUI investigation. During this investigation it was determined that Eldridge was impaired by being under the influence of nitrous oxide when he caused the collision and drove off. Additionally, over 1,000 used small canisters of nitrous oxide were located inside his vehicle. Eldridge was placed under arrest for the hit and run traffic collision and DUI drugs. The case will also be reviewed for the additional charge of driving a motor vehicle while being addicted to drugs. Eldridge was booked into county jail. 16-1752

I would like to take this opportunity to provide some tips in reporting a suspected DUI driver:

- *Use a hands free type device to call 911 and tell the dispatcher you suspect a driver maybe impaired. (If you don't have a hands free device, safely pull over, park and then make the call).*
- *Be aware that you will be asked questions such as your location, the suspect vehicle location, direction of travel, vehicle description, license plate number, manner in which the vehicle is being driven, etc...Be patient with the dispatcher as they are often talking with you and dispatching officers to respond at the same time.*
- *Don't follow too close to the suspected impaired driver or attempt to stop the suspect vehicle yourself.*

For more helpful information you can visit the UPD's web site at www.ukiahpolice.com, and click on the Crime Prevention Flyers tab.

As always, our mission at UPD is simple: to make Ukiah as safe as possible. If you would like to know more about crime in your neighborhood, you can sign up for telephone, cell phone and email notifications by clicking the Nixle button on our website: www.ukiahpolice.com.