



State of Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control

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News Release

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NEARLY 200 UNDERAGE DRINKING-RELATED ARRESTS AT COUNTRY THUNDER

To control underage drinking at Country Thunder, a four-day musical event held in Florence, Arizona, the collaboration of four law enforcement agencies was required. More than 190 people were arrested on underage drinking-related charges. Beginning Wednesday evening, April 1st until the event concluded at 1am, Sunday, April 5th, officers wrote 272 citations, with many individuals receiving multiple citations. "All but 10 of the violations were directly related to underage drinking," said Sgt. Wes Kuhl of the Arizona Department of Liquor Licenses and Control. "We averaged about 50 arrests per night, Friday night being the worst with 67 arrests," Kuhl added.

CITATION STATISTICS BY VIOLATION

- 134 - Liquor in the body of an underage person
- 111 - Underage possession/consumption of liquor
- 8 - Unlawful use of a driver's license
- 7 - Use of false ID to consume liquor
- 2 - On-duty employee consuming liquor
- 2 - Sale of liquor to underage
- 8 - Other

"The youngest person arrested is 17 years old," said Sgt. Kuhl. "We saw blood-alcohol content (BAC) as high as 0.246. That's a staggering number considering it takes 9 drinks for the average 140 pound man to reach a BAC of 0.24. Impairment begins at with a BAC of 0.04 and at 0.08 you are legally intoxicated."

Special Investigators from the Department of Liquor Licenses and Control coordinated the Country Thunder underage drinking detail with three other law enforcement agencies; the Department of Public Safety, Pinal County Sheriff's Office and Scottsdale Police Department. "Country Thunder receives law enforcement attention every year. Combining resources is critical for events of this size. Last year we made 186 underage drinking-related arrests, and this year, more than 190," Sgt. Kuhl concluded, "We encourage parents to check all of their kid's wallets for fake IDs, even the most unsuspecting. Fake IDs are more common -- and more accessible -- than most parents would imagine."

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