

## Local school shows what happens “Every 15 Minutes”

San Dimas High School students recently participated in the “[Every 15 Minutes](#)” program at the school campus. In cooperation with the Bonita Unified School District, San Dimas High School, Los Angeles County Sheriff’s and Fire Departments, and San Dimas Community Hospital, the simulation is to make students aware of the consequences of drinking and driving. This is a particular meaningful time in the school year with proms, school events, and graduation pending.

The [Every 15 Minutes](#) Program offers real-life experience without the real-life risks. This emotionally charged program, is designed to dramatically instill teenagers with the potentially dangerous consequences of drinking alcohol and texting while driving. This powerful program challenges students to think about drinking, texting while driving, personal safety, and the responsibility of making mature decisions when lives are involved.

The program is nationwide, and every year, many schools are given the opportunity to see a realistic depiction of the dangers of driving while driving under the influence, or being distracted. The students were shown an extensive simulation of a car crash. Deputies from the San Dimas Sheriff’s Station, the fire department, and Los Angeles County Coroner came to handle the accident scene, just as they would in the event of a fatal collision.



Thirty three juniors and seniors from the campus participated. Several students were taken away by actors portraying the “grim reaper” throughout the day, and these students became the “living dead.” The participating students were prohibited from returning home and from making any contact with their family or friends during the day, emphasizing the idea that they were gone, and could be gone forever. The program even included a memorial for those that died, and some of the living dead volunteered to read letters they wrote to their family before they “died.”

The program is funded through a grant administered by the California Highway Patrol. The grant covers costs of the program, including a videographer, sound system, hotel for the participants, t-shirts, and wristbands that students received after the memorial.

Deputy Everette Wade, the School Resource Deputy at San Dimas High School, remarked, "If it saves one life, or prevents a traffic accident caused by drunk driving or texting while driving, it was worth every penny spent."

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