



NEWS RELEASE

Today's Date: Tuesday, March 4, 2014
District: District 2 - Redding
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

MAN WHO DROVE THROUGH CONSTRUCTION ZONE CONVICTED IN COURT

REDDING – A Plumas County man who drove through a construction zone on State Route 70 last summer has been found guilty of misdemeanor reckless driving by a jury of his peers. California Highway Patrol officers say the man was driving a green Dodge pickup on SR 70 near Quincy on July 11, 2013, when he ignored a Caltrans maintenance flagger and drove into the middle of a work zone. CHP officers cited him for reckless driving, failure to obey a flagger and no registration.

On February 27, 2014, the defendant was found guilty as charged and received two years probation. "I asked for 30 to 45 days in jail because I believe the Defendant presented a very serious safety risk," said Plumas County Deputy District Attorney Alexis Klein. Although the judge stayed the jail sentence, the fine the defendant will have to pay was doubled to \$1,874.

Thankfully, the Caltrans flagger was able to alert the crew of the oncoming vehicle that day and no one was injured. "Our number one priority is the safety of our crews and the traveling public," said District 2 Director John Bulinski. "This driver put our employees at risk and that is unacceptable. We are pleased with the outcome of this trial. This ruling sets a precedent by showing there will be legal consequences if drivers disobey flaggers and safety personnel in Caltrans construction zones."

Caltrans would like to remind the traveling public to move over or slow for stopped emergency and maintenance vehicles. It's the law.

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NOTE: An electronic version of this news release is available on the Internet at the following web address: <http://www.dot.ca.gov/dist2/news.htm>