



# MEDIA RELEASE

## Criminal Justice Services

Ohio Criminal Justice Services • Karhlton F. Moore, Executive Director  
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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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## Impaired Drivers Can't Hide in Halloween Costumes

*Drivers Beware: Law Enforcement is Cracking Down on Drinking and Driving*

(COLUMBUS) – As party-going ghosts and goblins celebrate Halloween this October, the Ohio Department of Public Safety (ODPS) is reminding everyone to be responsible by keeping the party safe and off the road. ODPS and partners around the state will be out this Halloween cracking down on drunk drivers to remind everyone to *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*.

“There isn’t a Halloween costume clever enough to hide a drunk driver who’s made the dangerous decision to get behind the wheel,” said ODPS Director Thomas P. Charles. “Law enforcement officers are committed to keeping the roads safe for everyone to enjoy the holiday.”

Nighttime is always a dangerous time on the road. But Halloween is one of the deadliest nights of the year for impaired drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 48 percent of all highway fatalities throughout the nation on Halloween night (6 p.m. Oct. 31 to 5:59 a.m. Nov. 1) in 2009 involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter or higher, which is illegal in every state.

“The Patrol takes the crime of impaired driving seriously. And that is what impaired driving is – a crime,” Colonel John Born, Patrol superintendent said. “Impaired driving is a crime that puts innocent people in danger, and all too frequently results in tragic consequences.”

As a clear reminder that impaired or unsafe driving will not be tolerated, 79 local law enforcement agencies have planned more than 1,700 hours of enforcement as well as at least 14 checkpoints and more than 1,000 hours of saturation patrols around the state. The Ohio State Highway Patrol will have an increased presence on the state’s highways throughout the weekend.

Following these simple tips can help ensure that everyone enjoys their Halloween celebration:

- Plan a safe way home **before** the festivities begin; designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you’re impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, don’t hesitate to contact local law enforcement or I-877-7-PATROL for the Highway Patrol on state highways;
- Drink Responsibly – Your bartender or your friends are not monsters for refusing to serve you – over-serving is against the law.

For more information, please visit: <http://publicsafety.ohio.gov>

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*ODPS works to reduce alcohol-related deaths and injuries on Ohio’s roads through the coordinated efforts of all of its Divisions. The Ohio Investigative Unit enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises and the Ohio State Highway Patrol enforces traffic laws. The Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) funds the efforts of OVI Task Forces and other grants for law enforcement to combat impaired and unsafe driving.*