



MEDIA RELEASE

Department of Public Safety

Ohio Department of Public Safety • Thomas P. Charles, Director
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BE SAFE - DON'T LET HALLOWEEN TURN INTO A NIGHTMARE

Law Enforcement, Safety Partners Remind Everyone Safety is Top Priority This Holiday

(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*.

“Halloween should be a fun time involving costumes and trick-or-treating with the kids,” said ODPS Director Thomas P. Charles. “The Department is committed to keeping everyone safe and ensuring nobody’s holiday turns into a nightmare because of poor decision making.”

Nighttime is always a dangerous time on the road, but Halloween can be particularly scary if you get behind the wheel drunk. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 41 percent of all highway fatalities throughout the nation during the Halloween period in 2010 (6 p.m. Oct. 29 to 5:59 a.m. Nov. 1) involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 grams per deciliter or higher.

As a clear reminder that drunk or unsafe driving will not be tolerated, 82 local law enforcement agencies have planned more than 2,500 hours of enforcement as well as at least 22 checkpoints and more than 1,800 hours of saturation patrols around the state. The Ohio State Highway Patrol will have a visible presence on the state’s highways. Other partners including the Ohio Investigative Unit (OIU) and the Office of Criminal Justice Services (OCJS) (divisions of ODPS) along with Safe Community organizations have been out at community events and in liquor permit premises reminding people and establishment owners that over-serving is against the law and to always designate a sober driver. During the weekend, OIU agents will be focusing on permit premises looking for underage drinking and over-serving violations throughout the state. Agents will also be working with local OVI/DUI task forces, looking for the source of alcohol for those who have been over-served.

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 #677 for the Highway Patrol;
- Drink Responsibly. Your bartender or your friends are not monsters for refusing to serve you; over-serving is against the law.
- Don’t drink if you’re not 21.

- more -

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Also, please don't forget the trick-or-treaters as you are driving. Trick-or-treat can be held anytime in different communities around the state and pedestrian safety is another important part of making sure everyone has a safe, fun Halloween. As parents gear up for trick-or-treat, please remember:

- Parents need to accompany children, making sure they are visible and model safe pedestrian behavior;
- Make costumes "fall proof." Falls are one of the leading causes of injury on Halloween night.
- Clear walkways, yards and driveways of tripping hazards in advance;
- Carry a flashlight and adhere reflector stickers to your child's costume.

Child pedestrians are four times more likely to be killed on Halloween than on any other evening of the year. Well over half of the Halloween pedestrian fatalities involving children occur at non-intersections, suggesting that midblock crossings (children darting out from between parked cars and other unexpected crossing behaviors) may have contributed to their deaths.

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

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ODPS works to reduce deaths and injuries and improve the quality of life for Ohioans through the coordinated efforts of its Divisions, which include OSHP, OIU and OCJS. OSHP enforces traffic laws and OIU enforces liquor, tobacco and food stamp laws in liquor permit premises as well as works to educate bar owners and servers about liquor laws, including over-serving. OCJS funds the efforts of OVI Task Forces and other grants for law enforcement to combat impaired and unsafe driving and increase seat belt use. OCJS also promotes educational programs, coalition-building efforts and campaigns for highway safety.