



NEWS RELEASE

Andy Skoogman, Director of Communications

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 30, 2009

CONTACT:

Nathan Bowie, 651-201-7571

Alcohol
and Gambling
Enforcement

Bureau of Criminal
Apprehension

Driver
and Vehicle
Services

Emergency
Communication
Networks

Homeland
Security and
Emergency
Management

Minnesota
State Patrol

Office of
Communications

Office of
Justice Programs

Office of
Traffic Safety

State Fire Marshal

**LAW ENFORCEMENT WATCHING FOR
“DRINK-‘N-DRIVING TRICK-OR-TREATERS”**
Saturday-Night Holiday Portends Bad Omen for Minnesota Roads

SAINT PAUL — Law enforcement across Minnesota will be trick-or-treating for impaired drivers on Halloween weekend — a serious concern for agencies as Halloween falls on a Saturday, likely causing an increased number of revelers. Halloween celebrants are encouraged to have a plan for a safe and sober ride.

Halloween has become one of the biggest party nights of the year. During Minnesota Halloween party weekends 2006–2008, seven of the 15 traffic deaths were alcohol-related. Another 40 people were seriously injured in crashes — 15 were alcohol-related. During this period, 1,487 motorists were arrested for DWI.

“Our biggest fear on Halloween weekend is impaired drivers,” says Captain Matt Langer of the Minnesota State Patrol. “This presents a threatening scenario that law enforcement will combat with DWI patrols.”

The Minnesota Department of Public Safety (DPS) urges Minnesotans to have a plan for a safe ride home before indulging: designate a sober driver, use alternative or public transportation, or stay the night at the location of the celebration.

DPS also emphasizes the importance of pedestrian safety on Halloween. Treat-seekers and parents should review basic pedestrian rules — cross at intersections or marked crosswalks, use flashlights and reflective wear, and never dart in front of traffic. Motorists should reduce speeds and remain alert at all times.



###