



NEWS RELEASE

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**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.



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- 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