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Immediate Release
Halloween Safety Traffic Enforcement
Drivers Beware: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over

There will be Halloween overtime enforcement October 27 thru 31, especially targeting impaired driving, restraint use, speed, and other risky driving behaviors.

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Lima, Ohio [October 24, 2016]— Halloween is scary enough without the added terror of drunk drivers on the road. Every year, while some people are trick-or-treating, others are drinking and driving. “There isn’t a Halloween costume clever enough to hide an impaired driver who has made the poor decision to get behind the wheel,” said Evelyn Smith. “Whether you’ve had one too many - or way too many - it is just not worth the risk. Remember, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over.”

Nighttime is an especially dangerous time to be on the road, but Halloween night is often one of the deadliest nights of the year for impaired drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), over the last five years (2009-2013), almost half (43%) of all highway fatalities across the nation, on Halloween night (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1), involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state. That percentage is higher than the overall percentage of drunk-driving fatalities nationwide – nationally about one-third of fatal crashes involve an impaired driver.

October 27 through October 31, the Allen County Sheriff's Office, Lima Police Department, and the Ohio State Highway Patrol will be working overtime to stop and arrest impaired drivers. Law enforcement will be out all over Allen County on the lookout for impaired drivers.

The Safe Community Coalition recommends these simple tips for a safe Halloween:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a non-drinking driver;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact law enforcement;
- And remember, Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over. If you know someone who is about to drive, or ride a motorcycle, while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

For more information, please visit <http://www.trafficsafetymarketing.gov/>

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