



**Immediate Release**

**Halloween Safety Traffic Enforcement**

***Drivers Beware: Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over***

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

Contacts:

Evelyn Smith, Lima-Allen County Regional Planning Commission - 419- 228-1836, or 419-303-5205

Victoria Gonzalez, Allen County Sheriff's Office – 419-227-3535

Lt. Tim Grigsby – Lima Post, Ohio State Highway Patrol – 419-228-7072

Lima, Ohio [October 26, 2020]— Halloween is scary enough without the added terror of impaired drivers on the road. Every year, while some people are trick-or-treating, others are driving impaired. Nighttime is an especially dangerous time to be on the road, but Halloween night is often one of the deadliest nights of the year.

Nationwide, from 2014 thru 2018, during the Halloween holiday period (6 p.m. October 31 to 5:59 a.m. November 1), 145 people died, or 41% of all traffic fatalities involved an impaired driver. That percentage is higher than the typical overall percentage of impaired-driving fatalities – nationally about one-third of fatal crashes involve an impaired driver. Those drivers age 21 thru 34 accounted for the most fatalities (39%) in impaired-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2018.

**Now through October 31, the Allen County Sheriff's Office, Ohio State Highway Patrol, and other local law enforcement agencies 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. Remember to look out for trick or treaters who sometimes forget to be careful; so, watch out for especially small pedestrians.**

"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."

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, ride a motorcycle, or even walk home while impaired, help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

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