

WASHINGTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE



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MEDIA RELEASE

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*Motorists Beware: Drunk Driving Will Not Be Tolerated!
Don't Let Halloween Turn into a Horror Story*

Abingdon, Va.—Halloween is a much-loved fall tradition that is enjoyed by people of all ages. But irresponsible celebrating can quickly spoil all of the fun. That is why state and local law enforcement is cracking down on drunk drivers with an aggressive *Drunk Driving. Over the Limit. Under Arrest.* Enforcement Blitz.

“With Halloween falling on a Saturday this year, we want to make sure revelers aren't taking the party to the roadways, putting trick-or-treaters and responsible motorists at risk,” said Sheriff Newman. “Law enforcement officers throughout the region will be out in full force arresting and removing drunk drivers from our roads.”

Halloween is a particularly deadly night due to drunk drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2008, 58 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night (6 pm Oct. 31 to 5:59 am Nov. 1) involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state.

“One foolish decision can turn a fun Halloween into a real-life horror story,” said Sheriff Newman. “There are simple precautions partygoers can take such as designating a sober driver in advance or taking a taxi.”

The Washington County Sheriff's Office also recommends these simple tips:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver;

- If you're impaired, and haven't designated a sober driver, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;
- Use your community's Sober Rides program if possible.
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement by calling (276) 676-6277 or 911.

For more information, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org or contact 1st Sgt. Greg Hogston at the Washington County Virginia Sheriff's Office for more information on making Washington County roads a safer place to travel.