

# HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## News Release



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### **DWI Enforcement Targets Drunk Drivers for Halloween**

**October 29, 2009 (Minneapolis)** – Trick-or-treaters won't be the only ones out on Halloween night. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Champlin, and Dayton Police Departments will be conducting increased DWI patrols to look for impaired drivers. The holiday is a serious concern for officers and deputies as Halloween falls on a Saturday — which will likely cause an influx of revelers.

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.

Other methods of preventing impaired driving include using alternative or public transportation, or stay the night at the location of the celebration.

In 2006–2008 in Hennepin County, there were 60 alcohol-related deaths and 174 alcohol-related injuries, costing the county \$80,778,000. Last year, 7505 impaired drivers were arrested for DWI in the county. In Minnesota during this same period, alcohol-related crashes resulted in 519 deaths and 1,159 serious injuries — and 116,515 motorists were arrested for DWI.

Deputies and officers also emphasize 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.

The enforcement effort is a component of the state's Toward Zero Deaths (TZD) initiative. TZD is the state's cornerstone traffic safety program that employs a multidisciplinary approach to address traffic safety issues through enhanced enforcement, education efforts, improved engineering and efficient emergency trauma response. The Hennepin County Sheriff's Office, Brooklyn Park, Brooklyn Center, Champlin, and Dayton Police Departments will participate in additional enforcement and education campaigns during 2009–2010 to target seat belt use, speeding and impaired driving.

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