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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Halloween DUI Checkpoints and Patrols Scheduled for This Weekend ***Don't Let Your Halloween Turn into a Nightmare. Designate a Sober Driver***

Dover – Halloween is a favorite Fall tradition that is enjoyed by people of all ages. But irresponsible celebrating can quickly spoil a fun evening. That's why the Delaware Office of Highway Safety is reminding all Halloween partiers that *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving* and to designate a sober driver before the festivities begin.

“Halloween should be a time for scary costumes, trick or treating with the kids and good family fun,” said Andrea Summers, Community Relations Officer. “But unfortunately, Halloween has also become a very dangerous and deadly night of the year due to impaired driving.” According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), 41 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night were alcohol-related.

The Office of Highway Safety is coordinating stepped up DUI enforcement efforts this weekend. At least seven sobriety checkpoints are scheduled, with two of them set for Wilmington where the popular Halloween Loop will take place. In addition, 14 State and local police agencies will conduct DUI saturation patrols. Last year, 51 drivers were arrested for DUI on Halloween weekend.

The following sobriety checkpoints are scheduled for the weekend of October 26th:

Friday October 26 – Seaford (DSP Troop 5)
Milford (Kent/ Sussex Co. DUI Task Force)
Dover (Dover PD)
Wilmington (NcCo DUI Task Force)
Saturday October 27 - Millsboro (Millsboro PD)
Wilmington (NcCo DUI Task Force)
Newark (DSP Troop 9)

OHS is also conducting educational outreach to the public about the dangers and consequences of drinking and driving using a variety of strategies. Posters with don't drink and drive messages on

them have gone out to bars statewide, and members of OHS's Corporate Outreach Program have received DUI informational fact sheets to disseminate to their employees.

For the Halloween Loop, a popular annual event sponsored by Out & About magazine where participants visit several bars in one evening, OHS has placed posters with designated driver messages in all participating Loop bars, and has an enforcement message on all wrist bands that Loop participants wear.

The Office of Highway Safety reminds you to use the following tips when planning your adult Halloween activities this weekend:

- Be responsible and never drive impaired.
- If you plan to drink, choose your sober driver before going out. OHS launched a partnership with the HERO campaign for designated drivers in August. Visit www.herocampaign.org for more information.
- If you do choose to drink alcohol once out, use mass transit, call a cab or ask a sober friend to get you home.
- If all else fails, just stay where you are and sleep it off.
- Always buckle up – it's still your best defense against an impaired driver.
- If you are hosting a Halloween party, make sure all of your guests leave with a sober driver.

The weekend's enforcement is part of OHS's ongoing Checkpoint Strikeforce campaign. The goal is to remove impaired drivers from the roads and deter others from driving after consuming alcohol in the first place. Alcohol has been a factor in 34 (or 40%) of Delaware's 84 fatal crashes since January 1, 2007.

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