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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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## **Drunk Drivers Can't Hide Behind Halloween Costumes** *Drivers Beware: Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*

Redondo Beach, CA - As party-going ghosts and goblins celebrate Halloween this October, The Redondo Beach Police Department reminds everyone to keep the party off the road.

Roving DUI Saturation Patrols and a DUI/Driver License Checkpoint are planned this weekend as part of the Department's ongoing efforts to lower impaired driving in Redondo Beach and the region. The DUI Patrols will be working on both Friday, October 29 and Saturday, October 30, prior to the little ones heading out for Trick-or-Treating on Sunday evening. The Redondo Beach Police Department will conduct a Sobriety/Driver License Checkpoint on Friday, October 29 from 8:00 P.M. until 3:00 A.M.

"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 Joe Leonardi, Chief, Redondo Beach Police Department. "Whether you've had one too many or way too many, it is just not worth the risk. Remember, *Buzzed Driving is Drunk Driving*."

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), in 2008, 58 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night (6 p.m. Oct. 31 to 5:59 a.m. 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.

Tragically, 433 individuals have been killed or injured in Alcohol Involved Collision during the past 5 Halloween in California. (2005-2009)

"The scariest part of Halloween isn't the costumes and scary pranks," said Chief Leonardi. "It's the fact that too often impaired drivers don't plan ahead, and they make the roads more dangerous and scary than a horror movie."

The Redondo Beach Police Department recommends these simple tips for a safe Halloween:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober 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 call 911;

- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Funding for this operation is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

For more information, please visit [www.StopImpairedDriving.org](http://www.StopImpairedDriving.org) or [www.californiaavoid.org](http://www.californiaavoid.org).

**MEDIA NOTES:** To schedule an interview regarding the Redondo Beach Traffic Safety Operations, please contact Officer Scot Martin at 310-379-2477 x 1-2805 or via email at [scot.martin@redondo.org](mailto:scot.martin@redondo.org) To schedule an interview regarding impaired driving efforts and programs in California please contact Chris Cochran, California Office of Traffic Safety at (916) 905-3063 or via email at [ccochran@ots.ca.gov](mailto:ccochran@ots.ca.gov).