**Department Logo / Letterhead**

### For Immediate Release Oct. XX, 2018

### Contact: Name / Phone No. / Email

[Your Police/Sheriff’s Department] **encourages everyone to celebrate Halloween responsibly**

Halloween is a time when thousands of trick-or-treaters dressed up in their favorite costumes will be out and about having a good time collecting candy. For other adults, that means heading to local bars, restaurants or house parties to celebrate the holiday.

With so many people hitting the streets Oct. 31, [Your Police/Sheriff’s Department/Organization] wants to remind those participating in events where alcohol may be involved to celebrate Halloween responsibly.

In partnership with the California Office of Traffic Safety (OTS), [Your Police/Sheriff’s Department/Organization] is encouraging everyone to not put yourself and others at risk by choosing to drink and drive. If you plan to drink, plan a sober ride home.

“Halloween should be a fun night for kids and adults,” [Official] said. “By planning ahead, abiding by the rules of the road and driving sober, everyone can enjoy a safe night out.”

Unfortunately, Halloween night is also when there is an uptick in drunk-driving related crashes. Between 2012 and 2016, there were 168 drunk-driving deaths on Halloween night. Forty-four percent of all people killed in crashes on Halloween night were in crashes involving a drunk driver, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). Younger drivers (21-34 years old) pose the greatest risk, accounting for nearly half of all deaths in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night in 2016.

[If applicable] In an effort to crack down on those who choose to put others at risk by driving impaired, [Your Police/Sheriff’s Department] will be conducting saturation patrols Halloween night between [hours].

“We want people to enjoy Halloween, but also act responsibly,” [Official] said. “There are no excuses for driving impaired. There are so many options to get home safely.”

[Your Police/Sheriff’s Department/Organization] also supports efforts from the OTS that aims to

educate all drivers that “DUI Doesn’t Just Mean Booze.”  If you take prescription drugs, particularly those with a driving warning on the label, you might be impaired enough to get a DUI.  Marijuana can also be impairing, especially in combination with alcohol or other drugs, and can result in a DUI.

Your [Police/Sheriff’s Department/Organization] offers these tips for drivers, partygoers and parents out with children trick-or-treaters Halloween night:

* Avoid driving through residential areas where trick-or-treaters are likely to be.
* This is a night with heavy foot traffic and another reason to slow down, be extra cautious and obey all traffic signs and signals.
* Watch for children in costumes that may be harder to see at night. Look out for trick-or-treaters who may cross the street mid-block, or from behind parked cars.
* Decide **before** going out whether you plan to drink or drive. You can’t do both.
* If you plan to drink, designate a sober driver, take a cab, ride-share or public transit. Anything that doesn’t involve you getting behind the wheel.
* Party hosts: Offer non-alcoholic drinks to designated drivers and don’t allow anyone who may be impaired leave.
* Parents should plan their trick-or-treat route ahead of time and avoid busy streets.
* Have your children wear visible costumes that are easy to walk in and see. Light-colored costumes are best. Use retro-reflective tape.
* Carry a flashlight so drivers can see you.

Whether by bicycle, car, motorcycle or on foot, [Your Police/Sheriff’s Department/Organization] encourages everyone Halloween night, and every other night, to go safely.



