

South Tahoe officers on the prowl Halloween weekend

As party-going ghosts and goblins celebrate Halloween, the Avoid the 6 El Dorado County DUI Task Force reminds everyone to keep the party off the road. Two extra DUI saturation patrols will be out in force with extra officers looking to stop and arrest drunk or buzzed drivers.

Additionally, every patrol officer and traffic officer on routine patrol countywide will be on alert for the telltale signs of impairment.

“There isn’t a Halloween costume clever enough to hide an impaired driver who’s made the poor decision to get behind the wheel,” South Lake Tahoe police Sgt. Shannon Laney said in a press release. “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 this weekend and Halloween night is one of the deadliest times of the year for impaired drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, 48 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night (6pm Oct. 31 to 5:59am Nov. 1) in 2009 involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08 percent or higher.

DUI checkpoints along with regularly scheduled high visibility DUI enforcement serves as a proven deterrent with the goal of removing impaired drivers and heightened awareness of the dangers of driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol.

The Avoid the 6 DUI Task Force recommends these simple tips for a safe Halloween celebration:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
- Before drinking, designate a sober, non-drinking' driver.
- If you're impaired, take a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.
- If you happen to see a drunken 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.

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