



# PRESS RELEASE



## REPORT DRUNK DRIVERS.....CALL 911! HALLOWEEN WEEKEND OPERATIONS

**DATE/TIME:** October 27<sup>th</sup> & October 31<sup>st</sup>, 2007

**INCIDENT:** Victorville DUI Task Force Halloween Operations

## OPERATION SAFE HALLOWEEN DUI TASK FORCE RESULTS

Deputies from the Victorville Police Station conducted two (2) DUI operations for Halloween this year in an attempt to make it a safe holiday. On Saturday night, October 27<sup>th</sup>, a sobriety checkpoint was conducted in Victorville. The objective of the checkpoint was to create a perceived risk to drivers about consequence of drinking and driving. The perceived risk created through sobriety checkpoints that are conducted in combination with DUI Saturation patrols have been found to be a very effective method to prevent and reduce drinking and driving injury and fatal collisions resulting from this serious violent crime. In addition to the checkpoint on Saturday night, deputies conducted a DUI Saturation patrol on Halloween night, Wednesday, October 31<sup>st</sup>. The saturation operations focus was to seek out and arrest those drivers who have failed to listen to the warning about drinking and driving. The Halloween DUI Saturation aggressively sought out DUI driver and removed them from the roadways in an attempt to prevent any of the many trick or treaters from being injured by them.

### **Sobriety Checkpoint Results/DUI Saturation Results**

A total of 365 vehicles were driven through the sobriety checkpoint during the evening. A total of 17 drivers were arrested for DUI driving during the night. Another 86 received citations for a variety of violations ranging from driving without a valid license or driving with suspended license to driving without valid car insurance (\$391 court fine) violations. A total of 14 vehicles were towed for the night and impounded for 30 days. An additional 8 drivers were arrested for DUI on Halloween night during the DUI Saturation.

**25 Arrests for DUI**

**22 Vehicles impounding for 30 days.**

**9 citations for driving on suspended license**

**105 citations**

Once again the danger to deputies at a Sobriety Checkpoint was experienced. During the checkpoint one driver was so intoxicated he was unable to drive into the checkpoint without driving over the roadway cones. This driver drove within about 8 feet of deputies, nearly striking them and was arrested for DUI. A second DUI driver arrested drove into the checkpoint at a high rate of speed, never recognizing the checkpoint he was in and skidded to a stop.

The sobriety checkpoint program includes increased enforcement in selected locations and enhanced public awareness and education about traffic safety and the dangers of driving while impaired. The goal of the program is to educate drivers in the City of Victorville about traffic safety and reduce the number of traffic collisions due to unsafe driving. The checkpoint was funded through local funds and from a \$597,000 grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

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