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KEEP YOUR HALLOWEEN FROM TURNING INTO A FRIGHTFUL NIGHT DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

RICHMOND – Since Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, Halloween partygoers will be out beginning their celebrations earlier that day or others may celebrate with additional festivities the previous night. This makes the Halloween weekend a potentially dangerous time on Virginia roads due to impaired drivers who fail to designate a sober driver.

Nationwide, more than 50 percent of fatalities in motor vehicle crashes on Halloween night in 2008 involved a driver or motorcycle operator with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, according to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

In fact, 58 percent of all 2008 highway fatalities across the nation from 6 p.m. on Halloween night until 6 a.m. the following morning involved a driver or a motorcycle operator with a BAC of .08 or higher, which is illegal in Virginia.

“Though DUI-related deaths show a slight decline in the Commonwealth during the first half of the year compared to last year, 354 people still lost their lives in 2008* because of an individual drinking and driving,” said Colonel W. Steven Flaherty, Superintendent of the Virginia State Police. “There are simple and effective precautions individuals can take such as riding with a sober driver instead of making a foolish choice to get behind the wheel drunk.”



To ensure a safe and fun Halloween night, Virginians are reminded to follow these tips:

- Whenever you plan on consuming alcohol, designate a sober driver **before** going out and give that person your keys.
- If you're impaired, call a taxi, use mass transit or call a sober friend or family member to pick you up and get you home safely.
- Promptly report drunk drivers you see on the roadways to the Virginia State Police by dialing #77.
- Wear your safety belt while in a car or use a helmet and protective gear when riding a motorcycle. Both are your best defense against an impaired driver.
- 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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*Source: 2008 Virginia Traffic Crash Facts, DMV

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