



City of Missoula
Police Department

Press Release

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Extra DUI Patrols Set for Halloween

A recent national study found that 58 percent of drivers involved in fatal crashes on Halloween are driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. That's higher than the impaired driving rate of New Year's Eve.

The Missoula Police Department wants to make sure that Missoula is different. Its officers will conduct a Halloween DUI Saturation Patrol on Saturday, Oct. 31, in an effort to protect children and combat impaired driving. The extra patrols will begin in the afternoon and will end the morning of Sunday, Nov. 1. The emphasis will be to protect children while they are trick-or-treating as well as to reduce or eliminate DUI-related injury crashes throughout the Missoula area.

The saturation patrols will be conducted by five officers who are working extra shifts, rather than on-duty officers. These officers will be hired using grant funds provided by the Missoula County DUI Task Force and traffic safety funds provided by the State of Montana. The five officers working these extra patrols Saturday night through Sunday morning will focus on the neighborhoods earlier in the evening while children are out trick-or-treating, shifting toward the

downtown and bar areas later in the evening. The officers will be aggressively looking for impaired drivers and will process and arrest all impaired drivers they encounter.

This is the latest saturation patrol in a continued effort by Missoula law enforcement to address DUIs, underage drinking, over-serving, and injury crashes as part of the Comprehensive Alcohol Enforcement Plan. The object of the plan is to reduce those behaviors. The Halloween plan more specifically will address the safety of children who are trick-or-treating, incidences of driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs and DUI-related crashes.

It is the hope of Missoula Police Department staff that these continued patrols and education efforts can have an even greater effect on reducing impaired driving and DUI-related injury crashes.

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