



State of Illinois  
Bruce Rauner, Governor



Illinois Department of Transportation  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**  
October 29, 2015

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## Halloween Partiers, Beware: Costumes Won't Stop Police from Catching Impaired Drivers This Weekend

*Don't let the night get scary – keep the party off the road*

**CHICAGO** – The Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) and the Illinois State Police (ISP) today issued this simple message to Halloween revelers this weekend: Keep the party off the road. Even the best disguise won't make you invisible to law enforcement cracking down on drunk drivers and seat belt law violators throughout the weekend.

Joining ISP will be local law enforcement throughout Illinois to pull over and arrest impaired drivers as part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over campaign. Police will have zero tolerance for impaired drivers.

“The scariest part of Halloween is not the spooky costumes and scary pranks, it’s the alcohol- and drug-impaired drivers,” said IDOT Director of Traffic Safety Jared Thornley. “All too often, partygoers don’t plan ahead and choose to drive impaired, but a costume can’t disguise drunk driving. Planning for a safe ride home should be part of everyone’s party preparations.”

Between 2010 and 2014 in Illinois, 16 people lost their lives and 1,474 were injured in motor vehicle crashes on Halloween. Five of those fatalities were a result of crashes that involved alcohol.

“The ISP would like for everyone to have a safe and enjoyable Halloween weekend,” said ISP Colonel Tad Williams. “If your Halloween celebration includes alcohol, remember to celebrate responsibly and designate a driver. Motorists are also reminded to watch their speed, limit distractions, and buckle up on their way to and from the celebration.”

### Illinois Motor Vehicle Fatalities with Alcohol Involvement Occurring on Halloween\*

Year	Total Fatalities	Alcohol involved**	Percent Involving Alcohol
2014	2	1	50%
2013	1	0	0%
2012	2	0	0%
2011	6	1	16.7%

2010	5	3	60%
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*\*October 31, midnight -11:59 p.m.*

*\*\*Crashes involving at least one driver with a blood alcohol content of 0.01 or greater.*

Drivers who fail to plan ahead before drinking can turn the roads into a real-life horror show. Here are a few simple tips to avoid an impaired driving nightmare:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin.
  - Designate a sober driver.
  - Save the number to the local taxi company in your phone.
  - Take public transportation.
  - Use your community's Sober Rides program, where available.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact police as soon as it is safe to do so.

The Halloween crackdown is part of the Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over and Click It or Ticket programs funded with federal traffic safety dollars, administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation. Visit our [website](#) or follow us on [social media](#) for more information on IDOT's traffic safety efforts.

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