



# Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office



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## News Release

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### **HALLOWEEN PARTIERS BEWARE: The 'AVOID THE 12' YOUR COUNTY DUI TASK FORCE IS CRACKING DOWN ON DRUNK DRIVERS**

*Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over*

**Santa Barbara County, CA**— This Halloween weekend, police, sheriff and CHP Officers will crack down on drunk and drugged drivers throughout the region with an aggressive *Drive Sober or Get Pulled Over* enforcement effort. The 'AVOID the 12' DUI Task Force has given a fair warning to all partygoers: keep the party off the road.

“The scariest part of Halloween is not the spooky costumes and scary pranks, it’s the impaired drivers. All too often, partygoers don’t plan ahead and choose to drive impaired, but a costume can’t disguise drunk driving,” said Sgt. Kevin Huddle of the Santa Barbara Sheriff’s Office.

The 'AVOID the 12' – Santa Barbara County’s DUI Task Force will be deploying additional patrols on Thursday, October 31<sup>st</sup>, Friday November 1<sup>st</sup>, and Saturday November 2<sup>nd</sup> in addition to routine patrols already scheduled to stop and arrest alcohol or drug impaired drivers in Goleta and Isla Vista.

Halloween is one of the deadliest holidays of the year on our roadways. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), from 2007-2011, 52 percent of all national fatalities occurring on Halloween night involved a drunk driver. Males ages 21-34 comprised almost half of all drunk drivers who were killed in motor vehicle traffic crashes nationwide during the 2011 Halloween period. It is the deadliest night for child pedestrians of any night of the whole year.

“If you celebrate with alcohol, you don’t belong behind the wheel,” said Sgt. Huddle. “A sober and safe ride after the party is the best treat you can give yourself and everyone else on the road this Halloween.”

To keep safe this Halloween, the 'AVOID the 12 – Santa Barbara County's DUI Task Force recommends these tips:

- Before the Halloween festivities begin, plan a way to safely get home at the end of the night.
- Always designate a sober driver.
- If you are impaired, take a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation.
- Walking impaired can be just as dangerous as drunk driving. Designate a sober friend to walk you home.
- If you see a drunk driver on the road, contact local law enforcement.
- If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make safe travel arrangements to where they are going. If you think you have to ask if they are okay to drive, you already know they're not.

Funding for this operation is provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

**'AVOID the 12' is named for the 12 Law Enforcement agencies within Santa Barbara County that work together to combat impaired driving.**

**For more information contact:**

Sergeant Kevin Huddle  
Santa Barbara Sheriff's Office  
Office (805) 961-7516  
[klh2765@sbsheriff.org](mailto:klh2765@sbsheriff.org)

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