

# WESTMINSTER POLICE DEPARTMENT

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JEFFREY SPAULDING  
CHIEF OF POLICE



## MEDIA RELEASE

### IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Westminster Police Department encourages the citizens of Westminster to have a safe and fun Halloween night.

#### Safety Tips for Children

- Sunday, October 31, 2010 from dusk to 8:00 PM is the official trick or treating time
- Children 12 and under are allowed to trick or treat
- Children should wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight
- Adults should supervise younger children
- Only trick or treat at homes with their porch lights on
- Watch for cars while crossing the streets
- Always trick or treat with friends or an adult
- Have an adult check your treats

#### Safety Tips for the Adults

- Welcome trick or treaters by turning on your porch lights
- Make a safe path for your visitors
- Drive slowly, watching out for trick or treaters
- Contact the police department if any suspicious activity occurs

Halloween is a much-loved fall tradition that is enjoyed by people of all ages, but irresponsible celebrating can quickly spoil the fun. That is why state and local law enforcement is cracking down on drunk drivers with an aggressive *Drunk Driving - Over the Limit - Under Arrest* enforcement blitz. "We want to ensure that revelers are not taking the party to the roadways, putting trick-or-treaters and responsible motorists at risk," said Westminster Police Chief Jeff Spaulding. "Law enforcement officers throughout the region will be out in full force arresting and removing drunk drivers from our roads."

Halloween is a particularly deadly night due to drunk drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), in 2008, 58 percent of all highway fatalities across the nation on Halloween night (6 pm Oct. 31 to 6 am Nov. 1) involved a driver or a motorcycle rider with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher, which is illegal in every state. "One foolish decision can turn a fun Halloween into a real-life horror story," said Chief Jeff Spaulding. "There are simple precautions partygoers can take such as designating a sober driver in advance or taking a taxi."

Chief Spaulding also recommends these simple tips if you plan to drink on Halloween

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin
- Before drinking, please designate a sober driver
- If you're impaired, and haven't designated a sober driver, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement