



News Release

October 29, 2009

Contact: Capt. Michael J. Trice (804) 365-6292

HALLOWEEN SOBRIETY CHECKPOINT & DUI PATROLS

The Hanover County Sheriff's Office will be conducting a Sobriety Checkpoint in Hanover on **Friday, October 30th, 2009** followed by DUI Patrols on **Saturday, October 31st, 2009**. The exact times and locations are not being released. Officers will stop all vehicles passing through each checkpoint. Each driver will be advised of the purpose of the checkpoint and requested to present their drivers' license. Any driver suspected of operating a vehicle while under the influence of drugs or alcohol will be directed to a safe area off of the roadway for further observation and possible testing for intoxication.

Statistics from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles indicate there is an increase in intoxicated drivers and alcohol-related traffic crashes around holidays. Although some head way has been made in reducing the number of intoxicated drivers, an increase in the death rate and the average blood alcohol content of tested drunk drivers indicates significantly more progress is needed.

The maximum penalty in Virginia for the first conviction of driving under the influence is 12 months in jail, a \$2500 fine and a 12 – month suspension of driving privileges.

Hanover County Traffic Data	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Vehicle Crashes	1453	1454	1324	1425	1360
Alcohol Related Crashes	141	140	147	114	131
Alcohol Related Crashes With Injuries	64	59	77	54	66
Persons Injured In Alcohol Related Crashes	76	83	109	73	93
Fatality Crashes	13	7	11	17	6
Alcohol Related Fatalities	4	3	3	2	4
DUI Arrests	297	337	294	292	398

XXX