



Milwaukee County Office of the Sheriff

Kim Brooks
Chief Public Information Officer
Phone: 414-278-5015
Fax: 414-223-1852
kbrooks@milwcnty.com

NEWS RELEASE

David A. Clarke Jr.
Sheriff

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Milwaukee County Sheriff's Deputies Target Drunk Drivers This Halloween Weekend

Milwaukee, WI – According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's national statistics, drunk drivers kill **more than three times** as many people on Halloween than on New Year's Eve. As a result, the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office, with help from the Wisconsin State Patrol, will deploy a minimum of 26 patrol officers and four supervisors this Halloween weekend.

Deputies will target drunk drivers in Death Valley – an area where the data shows that drunks are most likely to travel. Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke defines "Death Valley" as the stretch of freeway that includes: I-94, I-794, I-894. Its borders go from 124th street (on the west) to the lake (on the east.) The North/South borders go from Capitol Drive (North) to Edgerton Avenue (South.). The name "Death Valley" refers to the number of fatal accidents that have occurred on this stretch of highway.

When members of the Milwaukee County Sheriff's O.W.I Task Force stop a drunk driver:

- The average prohibited alcohol (breath) concentration is **.16**. This is twice the legal limit which is **.08**.
- Impairment (the inability to perform) starts at **.03**.
- At the current rate, MCSO deputies will arrest approximately 1,700 drunk drivers by the end of the year. In 2007, Milwaukee County Sheriff's deputies arrested 951 drunk drivers. In 2006, MCSO deputies arrested 1,051 drunk drivers.

"Our task force has received specialized OWI training that helps them to detect, access and arrest drunk drivers in a way that will be upheld in court," Milwaukee County Sheriff David Clarke Jr. says. "We'll take them off the road, immediately removing the threat. However, the bigger problem, based on my experience, is the judicial leniency that continues to slap drunks on the wrist after multiple arrests for driving drunk."

Note: Arrest Numbers for Halloween Weekend will be provided Sunday afternoon.

For more information about the Milwaukee County Sheriff's Office,
visit our website at www.mksheriff.org.