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October 24, 2011

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Media Advisory

Nevada Department of Public Safety- Division of Parole and Probation Conducts Seventh Annual Halloween Operation Scarecrow

LAS VEGAS: Officers from the Nevada Department of Public Safety – Division of Parole and Probation (DPS/NPP), in an effort to provide enhanced safety for children who may be targeted by sexual predators during the holiday, will conduct the 7th annual Halloween Operation: Scarecrow. The purpose of this operation is to eliminate contact between supervised sex offenders and children by meeting with and providing specific direction to these high risk and high profile offenders. These offenders have been directed not to respond to children in any way. They are not allowed to take any action or participate in any activity which could lure children to or near their residences, including a restriction that they cannot have home parties or pass out candy on Halloween. Additional surveillances and home contacts will be conducted to ensure offender compliance.

The Division of Parole and Probation will utilize eight two-officer teams comprised of officers assigned to the Sex Offender Unit. They will target the Las Vegas, North Las Vegas, Henderson and Boulder City areas. The objective of the teams is to target the most serious sex offenders under the Division's supervision.

Beginning October 1, 2011, and throughout the month until October 30th, officers within the Sex Offender Unit began providing their offenders with an "Offender Halloween Restrictions" handout. The sex-offenders were instructed to avoid contact with children during the Halloween holiday, and to avoid participation in any Halloween-related festivities involving or potentially involving children.

Home contacts and surveillances will be conducted at offender residences to spot potential violations of the "Offender Halloween Restrictions" literature provided to the offenders during the month of October 2011. Officers will attempt to make as many contacts as possible during the operation. Observed violations will be addressed on a case-by-case basis.

The focus of the operation is to ensure that the offenders who meet the following criteria have no contact with children:

- Tier 2 and Tier 3 offenders, whose offense involved a child victim; or
- Tier 2 and Tier 3 offenders with a “no contact with children” clause as part of their Probation, Parole or Lifetime Supervision conditions.

NOTE: The media will be permitted to ride along with one of our two-officer field teams on October 31, 2011 from 1445 hours through 2045 hrs. To schedule a ride along, please contact the NPP Public Information Officer, Sergeant Michele Jackson at (702) 486-7599 or mjackson@dps.state.nv.us as soon as possible. The Sergeants in the Sex Offender Unit will assign each media crew to a specific officer team. All media teams will be briefed concerning safety and conduct during this operation.

WHAT: Operation: Scarecrow 7th Edition
WHERE: Las Vegas and surrounding communities
WHEN: Beginning 1445 hours on Monday, October 31, 2011
CONTACT: Lieutenant Charles Combs, Risk Control Unit, DPS/NPP at (702) 486-3613

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