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Media Release

Nevada Department of Public Safety – Division of Parole and Probation Conducts Ninth Annual Halloween Operation Scarecrow

RENO, SPARKS, and WASHOE COUNTY: Officers from the Nevada Department of Public Safety – Division of Parole and Probation (NDPS/DPP), in an effort to provide enhanced safety for children who may be targeted by sexual predators during the holiday, conducted the 9th annual Halloween Operation: Scarecrow.

The purpose of this operation was to ensure there was no contact between division supervised sex offenders and children. Operation Scarecrow provides enhanced community supervision giving specific direction to high risk sex offenders whose criminal histories include sexual convictions against minors, and those having special conditions prohibiting contact with children during their terms of supervision. Offenders were restricted from participating in any activity which could lure children to or near their residences, including restrictions to stay at home, turn off their porch lights, to not have home parties and to not pass out Halloween candy.

Beginning October 1, 2013, and throughout the month of October, Division officers began providing these sex offenders with an “*Offender Halloween Restrictions*” handout. These sex offenders were instructed they must avoid any contact with children during the Halloween holiday, and must avoid participation in any Halloween-related festivities involving or potentially involving children.

Officers across Nevada conducted surveillances and residential and employment contacts to ensure offender compliance and to detect and enforce any violations of the “*Offender Halloween Restrictions*” provided to the offenders. Officers made as many contacts as possible during the operation. Enforcement action regarding observed violations was determined on a case-by-case basis.

Operation Scarecrow resulted in a total of 141 home contacts and 20 surveillances of supervised sex offenders. Two arrests were made; one for alcohol intoxication; and one for Probation Violation and pending felony charges of Sex Offender Failure to Register. No controlled substances were seized during the operation. Overall, Scarecrow was considered another success.

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