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### Media Advisory

## **Nevada Department of Public Safety- Division of Parole and Probation Conducts Thirteenth Annual Halloween Operation "Scarecrow"**

*Reno, Sparks, and Washoe County, Nev.* - In an effort to promote public safety by preventing contact between children and supervised sex offenders who are prohibited contact with children, officers from the Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS), Division of Parole and Probation, conducted the 13th annual Halloween Operation Scarecrow on October 31.. This operation demonstrates the commitment of the Division to protect children in the community, and this commitment does not end with Halloween. The Division will continue to provide services to protect children from sex offenders on a daily basis.

The primary goal of Operation Scarecrow was to ensure no contact between Division-supervised sex offenders and children on Halloween. Operation Scarecrow provides enhanced community supervision by giving specific direction to certain 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 on Halloween from participating in any activity which could potentially lure children to or near their residences, including restrictions to stay at home, not answer their doors for Trick-or-Treaters, darken their residences, not display Halloween decorations and to not distribute Halloween candy.

Reno sex offender officers conducted surveillances, home and employment visits to monitor and ensure offender compliance, and to detect and enforce any violations of their Halloween restrictions.

Operation Scarecrow resulted in a total of 33 offender contacts and 21 surveillances of targeted supervised sex offenders. Enforcement action for violations was determined on a case-by-case basis and no arrests occurred. The operation was considered to be a success.

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