

DEPARTMENT OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE CONTROL

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October 27, 2008
PR 08-65

California Alcoholic Beverage Control Ramps up Enforcement Efforts for Halloween

SACRAMENTO— The California Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) today announced that it will have officers in several cities throughout California to help make Halloween celebrations this week as safe as possible.

“Too many young Californians under the age of 21 are dying in alcohol-related crashes and we’re hoping our enforcement efforts will prevent tragic crashes from occurring,” said ABC Director Steve Hardy.

Enforcement efforts will focus on ABC licensed businesses, large parties and adults who furnish alcohol to minors. “By getting the message out now, we are hoping for increased compliance,” said Hardy.

There are many large Halloween events held in California each year and there will be many on Friday, October 31. The ABC will work with local police, colleges, and youth organizations to reduce youth access to alcohol. ABC also wishes to remind any adults of legal drinking age to designate a non-drinking driver to get them home safely following celebrations where alcohol is involved.

ABC will use Minor Decoy and Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations in its effort to increase public safety. A Minor Decoy Operation involves minors under the direct supervision of the investigators, who attempt to purchase alcohol from retail licensees.

Decoy Shoulder Tap Operations deal with the problem of adults who purchase alcohol for people less than 21 years of age. Under the program, a minor under the direct supervision of a peace officer will stand outside a licensed business that sells alcohol and ask patrons to buy them alcohol. The minor indicates in some way he or she is underage and cannot purchase the alcohol. If the adults buy alcohol, investigators then arrest and cite them for furnishing alcohol to the minor. The penalty for furnishing alcohol to a minor is a minimum \$1,000 fine and 24 hours of community service.

ABC is a Department of the Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, which is under the direction of Secretary Dale E. Bonner, a member of the Governor’s Cabinet.