SAN MATEO POLICE DEPARTMENT
Ed Barberini
Chief of Police

200 Franklin Parkway
San Mateo, CA 94403
(650) 522-7700
www.sanmateopolice.org

MEDIA RELEASE / COMMUNITY ALERT

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Don't Let a DUI Haunt You

Designate a sober driver to keep the streets safe this Halloween.

San Mateo, CA – October 17, 2025-The San Mateo Police Department would like to remind the community that on October 31, trick-or-treaters of all ages will be heading out for Halloween fun. To make sure the evening stays safe for everyone on the roads, The San Mateo Police Department is reminding those who are going out for parties or celebrations to have a designated sober driver or plan a sober ride home. In 2023, one person was killed every 42 minutes in a drunk-driving crash on our nation's roads.

Because of parties, trick-or-treating and other festivities, Halloween night can be especially dangerous on our roads. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), adults between the ages of 21 and 34 had the highest percentage (54%) of fatalities in drunk-driving crashes on Halloween night between 2019 and 2023.

Whether you are celebrating Halloween or enjoying the night out, The San Mateo Police Department offers the following tips to be as safe as possible and share the road safely:

Drivers

- Slow down and watch out for more foot traffic in residential neighborhoods.
- Take extra time looking for trick-or-treaters at intersections and entering/exiting driveways.
- Never drive distracted or impaired.
- If you intend to drink, use a designated sober driver, public transit, call a taxi or rideshare service, or stay the night.

Parents/Caregivers and Trick-or-Treaters

- Make sure costumes fit to prevent trips and falls.
- Decorate costumes and bags/buckets with reflective tape.
- Be visible. Use flashlights or glow sticks to make it easier for drivers to see you.
- Walk on sidewalks, when available. Avoid darting into the street or crossing between parked cars.
- Stick to familiar, well-lit routes.
- Look both ways before crossing the street.

In an effort to keep our roads safe for trick-or-treaters and others enjoying the festive spirit of the night, the San Mateo Police Department will have additional officers on patrol during nighttime and early morning hours the following day starting 10/31/2025 and will be patrolling for drivers suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs.

Funding for this program was provided by a grant from the California Office of Traffic Safety, through the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

MEDIA CONTACT
Andrew Peek
Public Information Officer
City of San Mateo Police Department
200 Franklin Parkway, San Mateo, CA 94403
650-522-7626 | pdpio@cityofsanmateo.org

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