

DeKALB POLICE SERVICES - NORTH PRECINCT
SPECIAL HALLOWEEN EDITION - OCTOBER 2002



Safety Tips

Most people think of Halloween as a time for fun and treats. However, roughly four times as many children aged 5-14 are killed while walking on Halloween evening compared with other evenings of the year. Falls are also a leading cause of injuries among children on Halloween. Many Halloween-related injuries can be prevented if parents closely supervise school-aged children during trick-or-treat activities.

Parents can help prevent children from getting injured at Halloween by following these safety tips.

Trick-or-Treaters



Walk - don't run, use flashlights, stay on sidewalks, and avoid crossing yards.

Travel in small groups- (under age 12 accompanied by adults).

Wear clothing that is bright, reflective, and flame retardant.

Stay in familiar neighborhoods.

Go only to well-lit houses and remain outside - never, ever enter any house.

Wear a watch you can read in the dark.

Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.

Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume)

Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
(If no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.
Bring all treats home for inspection by your parents before eating them.

Parents

Make your child eat dinner before setting out.
Young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
If your older children (over 12) go out on their own, be sure they wear a watch that can be read in the dark.
Make sure you know where they are going.
Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.
Children should carry correct change for a pay phone so they can call home if necessary.
If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before consuming anything.
Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect or as if it has already been opened.



Homeowners



Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip the young ones.
Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them up to protect them from cars or to keep them from inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
Battery powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame.

If you do use candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.

Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.

Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.

Also consider non-food treats such as: plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, coins, etc.

If You Must Drive

Ensure the safety of pedestrian trick-or-treaters.

Enter and exit driveways very carefully-look twice in both directions.

Drive slowly and watch for children darting out from between parked cars.



Also watch for children in the street and on medians.

Allow kids to get out of the car only on the curb side, not the traffic side.



A Few Tips About Pumpkins

Carve pumpkins on stable, flat surfaces with good lighting.

Have children draw a face on the outside of the pumpkin, then parents should do the cutting.

Place lighted pumpkins away from curtains and other flammable objects, and do not leave lighted pumpkins unattended.

Battery powered lighting is prefer-able to a real flame.



A GREAT IDEA FOR HALLOWEEN !

This year, why not set up for your trick-or-treaters outdoors and greet them outside? Grab your pumpkin, candy, lawnchair, and cell phone and set up in your driveway to hand out your treats. This not only provides for a safer environment, but when treaters slow down, you can visit with your neighbors!

Even churches, schools, shopping centers, etc. could take their activities to the parking lots. The benefits:

Kids don't have to knock on your door.

You're right outside to greet them.

You will make the parents of treaters feel safer because they are right there with their little ones, not observing from a distance.

You will have an opportunity to visit with neighbors that you don't get to see during the busy work-week.

You can keep a close eye on activity in the neighborhood.

You will assist the Police in curtailing any mischief from "rowdy tricksters."

Try it! You might like it!

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