

Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

Residents can expect to see super-heroes, princesses, and goblins in their neighborhoods this Halloween. The primary concern is the safety of the children as they enjoy trick-or-treating! Some costumes can be very dark. Consider adding reflective material, flashing lights and/or glow sticks to costumes to make them visible to passing motorists.

Trick-or-Treat will be held on October 31st from 6-8pm.

1. Don't wait until Halloween to lay out the trick-or-treat ground rules. Kids are too excited to pay close attention. Start reviewing your safety rules several weeks in advance.
2. Most children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit – and stay with a group.
3. Masks can obstruct a child's vision. Facepainting is a good alternative.
4. Always walk on the sidewalk. If there is no sidewalk, walk close to the curb, facing oncoming traffic.
5. Remind children to look both ways (left-right-left) before crossing the street. Don't assume that motorists see you or will yield to you. Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them. Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children never to dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
6. Crossing a street in mid-block increases your risk of an accident. Please cross only at intersections. Walk, don't run, across the street.
7. Put electronic devices down and keep heads up.
8. Limit your territory to familiar streets or neighborhoods. Parents: make it clear if certain areas or houses are off limits. If possible, trick-or-treat with a group. There is safety in numbers and it's more fun.
9. This is a great time to remind children about "Stranger Danger"! Teach children to be polite but cautious around neighbors they are not familiar with. **Never**, ever enter a stranger's home or car.
10. Beware of homeowner's pets or other nocturnal animals. Halloween, with its constantly ringing doorbells and large amounts of people, can make even calm pets nervous. Advise children to steer clear of pets they do not know.
11. Don't let children sample their treats until you inspect them. Inspect the treats closely, discarding those with loose wrappings and homemade treats, unless you personally know the baker.
12. Prepare your property for visiting trick-or-treaters. Clear the walkway of wet leaves and other obstacles. Turn on lights for everyone's safety. If the front porch light isn't lit, chances are they do not want to participate.
13. When carving a pumpkin, never let young children near the carving tools. Non-toxic paint and stickers are safe decorating alternatives. Instead of candles, illuminate your pumpkin with a safe battery-operated light source.