

Happy Halloween

The Fairfax County Police Department
Reston District Station

Think SAFETY for October 31

As children take to the streets on HALLOWEEN to trick-or-treat, their risk of being injured by motorists increases greatly. In fact, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that HALLOWEEN is consistently one of the top three days for pedestrian injuries and fatalities, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that children are four times more likely to be struck by a motor vehicle on HALLOWEEN than any other day of the year. Because excited trick-or-treaters often forget about safety, parents must be even more alert. Here are some tips for helping keep young ones safe on HALLOWEEN:

Parents

- * Ensure an adult or older, responsible youth is available to supervise children under age 12.
- * Plan and discuss the route your trick-or-treaters will follow.
- * Instruct children to travel only in familiar areas and along established routes.
- * Teach children to stop only at well-lit houses and to never enter a stranger's home or garage.
- * Establish a time for children to return home.
- * Tell children not to eat any treats until they get home.
- * Review trick-or-treating safety precautions, including pedestrian and traffic safety rules.
- * Make sure HALLOWEEN costumes are flame-retardant and visible with retro-reflective material.

Trick-or-Treaters

- * Be bright at night - wear retro-reflective tape on costumes and treat buckets to improve visibility to motorists and others.
- * Wear disguises that don't obstruct vision, and avoid facemasks. Instead, use nontoxic face paint. Also, watch the length of billowy costumes to help avoid tripping.
- * Carry a flashlight containing fresh batteries, and place it facedown in the treat bucket to free up one hand. Never shine it into the eyes of oncoming drivers.
- * Stay on sidewalks and avoid walking in streets if possible.
- * If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- * Look both ways and listen for traffic before crossing the street.
- * Cross streets only at the corner, and never cross between parked vehicles or mid-block.
- * Trick-or-treat in a group if someone older cannot go with you.
- * Tell your parents where you are going.



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A Fairfax County, Va. Publication



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Halloween is a wonderful holiday, but because of increased foot traffic and the fact that Trick-or-Treaters are out at night, the potential for automobile related accidents with young pedestrians increases four times on this night according to a CDC (Center for Disease Control) study. Streets are literally crawling with all sorts of witches, ghosts, goblins, vampires and other costumed people. This makes for added responsibility for drivers to make sure that they drive safely.

Halloween Safety Tips for Motorists

Remember, children and parents tend to be preoccupied and may not be as much paying attention to safety as they should be.

- * Don't use your cell phone or other electronic device while driving on Halloween night. Virginia has a law that prohibits texting while driving every day of the year.
- * Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road. Kids tend to walk along the curbs, cutting across streets to get to other homes.
- * Be aware that children may not shorter than parked cars and wearing dark clothing.
- * Drive below the posted speed limit in residential area during trick or treating hours. This allows you time to brake if you see a child dart in front of you.
- * Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway, they could be dropping off children
- * If you are dropping off or picking up you kids on a road, pull off the road into a safe spot and turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists.
- * Carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.



<http://www.halloween-safety.com>



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