

DeKALB POLICE SERVICES - TUCKER PRECINCT

SPECIAL HALLOWEEN EDITION

NEIGHBOR NEWS



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 eats 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 preferable 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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