

CITY OF FAIRFAX POLICE DEPARTMENT

3730 OLD LEE HIGHWAY, FAIRFAX, VIRGINIA 22030-1806



Colonel Richard J. Rappoport
Chief of Police

Community Bulletin

Halloween Safety Recommendations

While Halloween is a fun time for children and adults, the City of Fairfax Police Department reminds all participants to act responsibly, stay safe and be alert to help ensure that the day is enjoyable for everyone.

To promote awareness and safety, City of Fairfax Police recommend the following tips:

Safety for Kids

- Wear light colored clothing that is bright, reflective, and can be seen easily.
- Consider using face paint in place of masks that could slide and obstruct vision.
- Avoid wearing long, baggy, loose clothing that could cause the wearer to trip.
- Carry a flashlight or glowstick that will increase visibility and stay on sidewalks.
- Trick-or-treat at houses that are well lit, and **never** go into a stranger's house even when invited.
- Travel in small groups and always make sure that there is an adult acting as a chaperon.

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- Bring candy home and do not eat it before an adult has the opportunity to inspect it.
- Use props that are made of foam rubber which is soft and flexible rather than those that are made of wood or hard plastic.

Safety for Adults

- Encourage your kids to eat a meal that is filling so that they will not be tempted to eat any candy while trick-or-treating.
- Know the route your kids will be taking if you are not accompanying them, provide them with a cell phone to check in, and agree on a curfew.
- Get to know the kids who will be in your child's trick-or-treating group.
- Stress to your kids the importance of staying together in a group and not speaking with strangers.
- Show your children how to cross the street properly by teaching them to look both ways, cross at corners and crosswalks, and to hold the hand of those who are not comfortable crossing the street on their own.
- Become familiar with activities that your child may be attending which would include parties, and school or mall functions.
- Inspect all candy that is brought home and do not allow your child to consume any before it has been examined.

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- Keep costumed children away from pets. Pets may not recognize the child and become frightened or act aggressively.

Motorists' Safety Tips

- Drive slowly, pay extra attention, and watch for children in the street and on the medians.
- Exit driveways and alleyways carefully.
- Do not pass cars stopped in the roadway that could be dropping off children.
- If dropping off or picking up children, find a safe location off the roadway to do so. If forced to stay on the road, activate the hazard lights on your car so that the vehicle is visible to both trick-or-treaters and other motorists.

The City of Fairfax Police Department encourages everyone to have a safe and happy Halloween.

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