



Public Service Announcement: Halloween Safety

Halloween can be a fun holiday for children, but a worrisome one for parents. The safety of your child is a legitimate concern, but fear not! To make Halloween a treat, follow these safety tips!

Children should:

- Cross streets only at corners. Never cross between parked cars.
- Carry a flashlight and/or glow sticks.
- Walk facing oncoming traffic if there is no sidewalk.
- Beware of vehicles at all times! They may be turning or backing out of driveways.
- Don't eat any candy before parents have a chance to inspect it!
- NEVER go into a stranger's home. Remain on the porch at all times. Be sure to tell a parent or trusted adult about any inappropriate behavior by a stranger.
- ALWAYS stay with the group! Don't go off by yourself. Wait for everyone else before going to the next house.

Parents should:

- Consider organized events as an alternative to trick or treating.
- Know the route their children should be taking. Create a map of a safe trick-or-treating route and set a time limit for them to be out.
- Be aware of any sex offenders that live in the area. You can go to our website to verify:
<http://www.hooverpd.com/registered-sex-offenders.php>
- Make sure that trick-or-treaters are with a group. Parents should accompany young children.
- Make sure that children stop at only familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Make sure that children will be safe when they are visiting YOUR home. Provide a well-lit entrance (porch and any other exterior lights) to the front door and keep walkways clear of obstructions (toys, bicycles, sprinklers, etc.). Keep family pets away from the front door to reduce the chances of a negative interaction.
- Remind children about the DANGERS of the street: Keep a safe distance from moving vehicles, look in all directions before crossing the street and do so only at an intersection (cross only at corners, never diagonally across intersection). Do not take shortcuts through back yards or alleys. Never accept rides from strangers. Do not approach ANY vehicle, occupied or not.
- Instruct children NOT to eat treats until they return home and you have a chance to inspect those treats. One "trick" to keep them from digging in while they're still out: feed them a meal or snack before they go!
- Discard any homemade, unwrapped or suspicious looking treats. If you don't recognize the candy, don't let them eat it. If you suspect drugs or tainted candy, notify HPD. Check out a recent statement regarding 'rainbow fentanyl' —fentanyl pills and powder that come in a variety of bright colors, shapes, and sizes:
<https://www.dea.gov/press-releases/2022/08/30/dea-warns-brightly-colored-fentanyl-used-target-young-americans>



- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to HPD immediately. Teach children how to call 911 in an emergency.
- “Patrol” your street occasionally to discourage speeding motorists, acts of malicious mischief and crimes against children.
- Do not give out homemade or unwrapped treats to children.
- Consider giving safe alternatives to candy, for example: stickers, erasers, crayons, coloring books, etc.
- Check out all candy in a well-lighted place when your child gets home.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats in original wrappers. Don’t forget to inspect fruit and other goodies for anything suspicious or dangerous. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they’ll have quite a tummy ache!

Costumes:

- Costumes should be flame resistant.
- Costumes should be light, bright, and clearly visible to motorists. Use reflectorized stripes.
- Avoid cumbersome, floor-length or vision-impairing costumes.
- Make-up is safer than a mask, which can obscure vision.
- Wear comfortable, safe shoes (avoid high heels-they can trip).
- Consider putting the child’s name and your contact information (address/phone number) in case of an accident or they get lost.

Halloween Hazards:

- Dangerous roadways
- Dangerous dress (loose costumes, unsafe shoes, bulky trick-or-treat bags, masks which reduce vision, sharp or pointed toy weapons, dark costumes)
- Open flames
- Treacherous “treats”, for example: razor blades inside of fruit, tacks or poison in popcorn
- Do not allow children to carve pumpkins without adult supervision and guidance

Motorists:

- Exercise extreme caution when driving your vehicle. Be on the lookout for excited youngsters, whose vision may be obscured by masks or the others in the group. Watch out for them darting out into traffic.
- BE PATIENT! We all were that age once, regardless of how old we are now. So, no matter what the circumstances are, be patient while you are behind the wheel and in the neighborhood.

For more Halloween Safety Tips, visit our website: <http://www.hooverpd.com/crime-prevention.php>

If you need us, call us! 911 for Emergencies and (205) 822-5300 for Non-emergencies.