



OFFICIAL MEDIA RELEASE KENT COUNTY SHERIFF DEPARTMENT



Halloween Safety Tips

October 31, 2013

Keep Your Little Goblins and Ghouls Safe!

Kent County's sidewalks and streets will soon be filled with ghosts, goblins and perhaps a few Jr. Deputies as well! Halloween brings out the kid in all of us and the Sheriff Department wants to make sure everyone has a Happy and SAFE holiday.

Before you head out on Halloween night, here are a few safety tips:

- Choose bright, flame-retardant costumes or add reflective tape to costumes and candy bags so children are easily seen in the dark. In addition, trick-or-treaters should carry a glow stick or flashlight.
- Keep flammable items, such as your jack-o-lantern, away from small children, pets and flammable materials such as draperies, furniture and paper decorations. Never leave a candle burning unattended.
- Watch costumed children around pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened, especially if the child is using a prop such as a sword or dagger.
- Avoid hard plastic or wooden props, opting instead for items made of foam rubber, which is soft and flexible.
- Plan a trick-or-treating route in familiar neighborhoods with well-lit streets. Avoid unfamiliar neighborhoods, streets that are isolated or homes that are poorly lit inside or outside.
- Never send young children out alone. They should always be accompanied by a parent or another trusted adult. Older children should always travel in groups.
- Always walk younger children to the door to receive treats and don't let children enter a home unless you are with them.
- Be sure children do not approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless you are with them.
- Watch for traffic and avoid walking in the street whenever possible.
- Know the route your children are following. Children should always walk together to the front door of each house and only cross the street at crosswalks.
- Make sure your children know your phone number(s) and address in case you get separated.
- Teach your children to say "NO!" and "this is NOT my mother/father" in a loud voice if someone tries to get them to go somewhere, accept anything other than a treat, or leave with them. Also teach them to make every effort to get away by kicking, screaming and resisting.
- Remind your children not to eat any candy until you get home and can inspect it.
- Remember to drive slowly and carefully on Halloween, especially through neighborhoods. Some children may be wearing costumes which make them difficult to see.

The Sheriff Department wishes you a safe and happy Halloween!

701 Ball Avenue NE, Grand Rapids, MI 49503
Media Line (616) 632-6236