



CITY NEWS

Wichita Police Department
455 N. Main Wichita, KS 67202
(316) 268-4340 FAX (316) 858-7704



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CONTACT: Gordon Bassham
316-268-4340

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**** News Release ****

WPD Halloween Safety Tips for Children

The Witching Hour

- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- **Have an adult inspect all treats. Do not eat candy if the package is already opened.**
- Battery powered jack-o-lanterns are much safer to use than real candles in a carved pumpkin. However, if you plan to use real candles, they should be kept well away from the path for trick-or-treaters.
- Take it slow while driving. Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.

For Young Pumpkins

- Plan costumes that are bright, reflective and flame resistant. Assure that shoes fit well and that costumes are not too long, which will prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.

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- Think about adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and/or trick-or-treat bags for better visibility.
- Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly inside Halloween attire or on a necklace, anklet or bracelet.
- Reconsider using simulated knives, guns or swords as part of the costume. If such props must be used, be certain they do NOT appear authentic -- AND are soft and flexible to prevent injury.
- Make sure to have flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- Teach children their home phone number and to how call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost.
- Review fire safety -- "Stop-Drop-Roll."

For Pre-teen/Teen Ghosts and Goblins

- Know what activities the child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions.
- Make sure the child understands what time he/she should be home and that he/she understands how important it is for them to be home on time.
- Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Vandalizing, including throwing eggs, may seem like fun but they need to know the reality of their actions, including clean up, damages and possible criminal charges that may the result.
- Assure that children know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but also punishable by law and will not be tolerated.
- Do not use props that appear authentic or could be mistaken for an actual weapon.