

TIPS FOR THE MOTORIST

- *Back your vehicle into the driveway if you plan to go out during trick or treat. This will make it easier for you to see what is in front of your car.*
- *Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.*
- *Watch for children in dark clothing.*
- *Turn corners slowly, enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly.*
- *Watch your speed. The posted SPEED LIMIT does not mean you have to drive that speed.*
- *Turn your stereo down and open the windows. This will allow you to hear children in the area.*
- *Avoid distractions while driving. PUT THE CELL PHONE DOWN!!*
- *Make sure your headlights are on and both are in working condition.*

Help us educate your children

Unfortunately with Halloween comes the mischief. Some young adults think it is fun and harmless to participate in mischief night. The truth is tick tacking sometimes causes damage to property. This is not harmless to the victim.

Throwing objects from a moving vehicle is prohibited by Pennsylvania law. Even if it is corn!

Chemicals found in soaps and shaving creams can cause permanent damage to car paint or house siding. It costs the home owner hard earned money to clean up the mess and replace the property that was damaged.

If paper products are strewn about a home owners property, it becomes a littering issue. **Littering is also a crime in Pennsylvania!**

Talk to your kids if you suspect they are involved in this kind of conduct. Tell your children the consequences associated with tick tacking. Let them know it is a criminal offense and they could be charged with a crime. If property is damaged they may also be required to pay restitution.



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HALLOWEEN SAFETY

The tradition of Halloween varies by religion and beliefs. Halloween is best known by the modern day trick or treaters as a night to get candy.

One version is from the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain. 2000 years ago Celts thought October 31 was a day that ghosts of the dead returned causing trouble and damage to crops. They would hold bonfires to celebrate good spirits in hope the bad spirits would leave. During this celebration they would dress in costumes.

Romans began to conquer Celtic territory. They combined 2 of their celebrations with the Celts. The first was to honor the passing of the dead, the second was to honor the Roman goddess of fruit and trees.

These celebrations lasted 3 days and November 1 became known as All-Hallowmas or All Saints' Day. October 31 became known as All-hallows Eve, now known as Halloween.

Whatever the traditional explanation is for your family, the Alburdis Police Department feels it is important to think **SAFETY**. Inside this pamphlet are tips to keep our kids safe while they are out looking for that treat.

Getting started for trick or treat night

Planning for trick or treat night seems simple. Put on a costume, get a candy bag and go out looking for treats. This is the average child's version. Parents see things differently. We want to make sure our children are safe and they remain safe while out for the "big" evening.

The following tips will assist in making the trick or treat night fun and safe for your children.

- Prepare the evening meal and have your child eat dinner before going out. This will help suppress the child's appetite while trick or treating.
- Dress your child appropriately for the weather.
- If you are planning to purchase a costume, look for one that is flame-retardant.
- Make sure you know where the children will be going. Let them know where you prefer they don't go.
- Make sure you know who your child is with. If you can't contact your child you may be able to contact a parent of someone they are walking with.
- Provide some loose change for a payphone in the event your child needs to call home. Cell phones are everywhere today. If your family has one in the household, give it to the child for the evening.
- If your child is going out on their own, make sure they wear a watch (preferably one that can be read in the dark)
- Younger children should be accompanied by an adult.
- Make sure the child knows to bring the candy home before eating it. Although tampering cases are rare, it is best to inspect wrappers before consuming anything.
- Think; REFLECTIVE, REFLECTIVE, REFLECTIVE. A roll of reflective tape at the local hardware store is a few dollars. Don't compromise SAFETY for a few dollars.
- Use a white or light colored bag for the candy if wearing a dark colored costume.

Costume Design Suggestions

Suggestions to consider when dressing for trick or treat night;

- ★ Reflective tape will glow in the headlights of a car.
- ★ Flashlights will provide light on dark streets and will alert approaching motorists of your presence.
- ★ Flame-retardant costumes will reduce the possibility of catching fire near jack-o-lanterns.
- ★ Well fitted shoes will enhance footing while walking.
- ★ Natural mask of cosmetics prevent lack of vision and make it easier to breath.
- ⊘ Avoid loose fitting clothing. Children could trip on clothing that hangs or drags on the ground.
- ⊘ Masks that cover or impair vision. This prevents the child from seeing vehicles, curbs, landscaping or other dangerous hazards on the ground in front of them.
- ⊘ Do Not carry any flammable liquids or materials. These items could be ignited by jack-o-lanterns. Silly string **CAN** ignite by flames.
- ⊘ Do Not carry real props. Swords, knives, clubs or weapons of any kind made of steel or wood is a potential for danger.

These are some suggestions to consider when dressing for Halloween. Make it your goal to promote safety when your children are out. These suggestions will not only help keep your children safe but they will promote safety for others around your child.

SAFETY OVERVIEW

- Carry a flashlight.
- Use reflective tape on shoes or costume.
- Stay on sidewalks.
- Obey traffic signals and laws.
- Avoid unfamiliar neighborhoods.
- Walk in groups.
- Approach houses that are lit.
- Avoid pets. Animals are unpredictable. They could easily become scared at the sight of a costume.
- Carry only soft flexible swords, knives and other props.
- Don't cut through yards.
- Stay in well lit areas.
- Don't walk between parked cars.
- Wear proper fitting clothing.
- Make sure you can see clearly with your mask on.
- Walk, don't run.
- Tell your parents where you will be.
- Keep change on hand to call home OR carry a cell phone.
- Inspect ALL candy before eating it.
- Wash fruit and cut it in small slices before eating it.
- **WHEN IN DOUBT, THROW IT OUT.**