



## Tips for a Safe Halloween

Halloween can be a fun holiday for kids, but a worrisome one for parents. With October 31st right around the corner, the South Euclid Police Department would like to offer a few helpful safety tips to trick-or-treaters, parents, and motorists to help make this holiday a safe and happy one.

### ADULTS

- Make sure the path to your door is clear, welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and turn on any exterior lights.
- Patrol your street occasionally to discourage speeding motorists, acts of malicious mischief and crimes against children.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police department immediately.
- Do not give homemade or unwrapped treats to children.

### MOTORISTS

- Exercise extreme caution when driving a vehicle. Be on the alert for excited youngsters, whose vision may be obscured by masks, darting out into traffic.
- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions in your car so you can concentrate on the road and surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn on your headlights.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 – 9:30 p.m., so be extra alert during those hours.

## **TRICK OR TREAT TIPS**

### **Make sure your kids dress up safely**

- Make sure costumes are flame retardant so children aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips and falls in the night.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable, and they can obstruct a child's vision, a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down steps.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.

### **Make trick-or-treating trouble free**

- Create a map of a safe trick-or treating route and set a time limit for your children to “trick-or-treat”.
- Trick-or-treaters should always be in groups so they aren't a tempting target for potential predators. Parents should always accompany young children.
- Make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so you will know where they are going. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Try to get your kids to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark, make sure someone has a flashlight, add reflective tape to costumes and bags, and pick well-lighted streets.
- Do not go inside anyone's home. Remain on the porch at all times.
- Do not accept rides from strangers and be sure children do not approach any vehicle, occupied or not.
- Remind kids to keep a safe distance from moving cars.
- Cross only at street corners, never between parked cars, and never diagonally across an intersection.
- Look in all directions before crossing the street, and obey all traffic signals. Walk, never run, across the street, and use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.
- Do not take shortcuts through back yards, alleys or parks.
- Do not eat any treats until parents have inspected them.
- Discard any homemade or unwrapped treats.
- Teach children how to call 9-1-1 in an emergency.

## **Check all treats before eating**

- It's hard for kids to hold back from eating their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand.
- Check out all candy in a well-lighted place when your trick-or-treater gets home.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious.
- Halloween can be a lot of fun for parents and kids alike--if everybody remembers the tricks and treats of playing it safe.

## **COSTUMES**

A note to parents:

- Make sure your children's costumes are not flammable.
- Do not permit your children to wear cumbersome, floor length or vision-impairing costumes.
- Reflectorized stripes make your costume more visible.
- In lieu of masks, we recommend face make up.
- Wear comfortable, safe shoes.
- **Call 9-1-1 if you suspect any tainted candy.**