



# HALL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

## CRIME PREVENTION UNIT



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### CRIME PREVENTION TIP

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**DATE:** October 24, 2009  
**SUBJECT:** Halloween Safety

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A few safety tips to follow this Halloween to help the kids stay safe:

To ensure that trick-or-treaters, you, and your house stay safe, remember the following tips.

- Clear your yard and sidewalk of any obstacles or decorations that may be hard to see in the dark.
- Keep your house well lighted, both inside and out.
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or local citizen's group to tour your community during trick-or-treat time.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the Sheriff's Office.

To make sure even the scariest costumes are safe, keep the following in mind when buying or designing one.

- Try makeup instead of masks; it's more comfortable and doesn't obstruct vision the way masks can.
- Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.
- Keep costumes short to ensure that the only trip taken is the one around the neighborhood.
- Look for brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and remind trick-or-treaters to carry glow sticks and flashlights.
- If a costume involves any sort of fake weapon, make sure that it is made of a flexible material such as cardboard or foam.

Keep in mind the next few tips to make sure your trick-or-treater's night in the neighborhood will be safe and fun.

- Older kids should trick-or-treat in groups; kids walking around alone are never as safe as those in groups, and especially not at night. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent or trusted neighbor.
- Review the route for trick-or-treating beforehand and set a time set when kids should be home. Also, have a plan if your child gets separated from his or her friends or from you.
- Remind your children not to enter strange houses or cars.

After a successful and safe night around the neighborhood, remember that the treats still need scrutiny before anyone eats them.

- Remind your children not to eat treats until they've come home. To help ensure this, feed them a meal or a substantial snack before they go out.
- Check all treats at home in a well-lighted place. Be especially wary of anything that is not wrapped by the factory or that is no longer sealed.

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