



Choosing a Safe Costume

- Apply reflective tape to the costume and treat buckets to increase their visibility for cars.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
- Attach your child's name and address to the inside of their costume.
- Instead of a mask, which could impair vision, use non-toxic and hypoallergenic face paint. If you use a mask, make sure the eyeholes don't obstruct vision.
- Choose costumes that are flame-resistant.

Trick-Or-Treat Safety

- Carry a flashlight.
- Walk on sidewalks and driveways.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Only visit homes that have front porch lights on.
- Adults should always accompany children under 12.
- Trick-or-treat in groups when possible.

Children are four times more likely to be hit by a car on Halloween than any other night of the year.

Safety at Home

- Keep indoor jack-o-lanterns with candles away from curtains and furnishings that could catch fire.
- Keep walkways, steps and porches clear of obstacles that could trip trick-or-treaters.
- Never allow a child to use a sharp knife to carve a pumpkin. Use a carving kit with a special cutting tool instead, or let the child draw the pattern and an adult carve it for them.
- Never leave outdoor lighted luminaries unattended.
- Make sure all outdoor lights are operational.
- Keep a porch light turned on so that trick-or-treaters will know to visit.
- Secure your pets to protect both visitors and your pets.
- Never give children costume accessories that look like real weapons.

Board of County Commissioner goals are to reduce property crime, violent crime and overall crime by 2015. These tips are intended to increase your awareness and help avoid crime. If you have a proven prevention or awareness tip that can be shared, fax it to 813-276-2630 for consideration for a future Crime Prevention and Safety Tip. If you have questions, regarding this tip, call 813-276-2033.