



For Immediate Release
October 29, 2018

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HPD Offers Halloween Safety Tips

Harrisonburg, Va. - The Harrisonburg Police Department reminds its citizens to be safe this Halloween season.

As children take to the streets on Halloween to trick-or-treat, their risk of being injured greatly increases. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that Halloween is one of the top three days for pedestrian-related accidents, and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that children are four times more likely to be struck by a vehicle on Halloween than any other day of the year. Motorists and parents must be more alert because excited young trick-or-treaters often forget about safety.

Motorists should:

- drive under the posted speed limits in residential neighborhoods
- watch for children crossing streets
- carefully enter and exit driveways
- consciously scan into yards while looking for movement
- don't drink and drive.

Parents should:

- accompany young children on neighborhoods rounds
- plan and/or discuss a route to follow
- only visit homes with lights on
- never enter a stranger's home
- establish a return time
- ensure costumes incorporate reflective material
- discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween night

Trick-or-Treaters should:

- not obstruct their vision with poor-fitting masks
- not wear oversized costumes that are a trip hazard
- put a lit flashlight or glow stick in the candy bucket
- stay on sidewalks
- look before entering roadways
- cross at intersections
- stay in a group
- minimize using cell phones to reduce distraction and enhance situational awareness

HPD will be sending out extra patrols to help keep our community's streets safe.

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to everyone's safety. Let's all do our part to ensure this Halloween season is fun, safe, and "trick" free.

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