

Tricks for Keeping Safe on Halloween

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To help keep trick-or-treaters safe this Halloween, the Charles County Sheriff's Office will increase its patrols of residential areas and is reminding parents, children and motorists of important safety tips to remember for this holiday.

"I know as the Sheriff and as a parent that Halloween can be a lot of fun for our kids but there are safety hazards we all have to be cautious of," said Charles County Sheriff Frederick E. Davis. "The best thing a parent can do is talk to their children about the dangers they could encounter on Halloween and make sure the kids know ahead of time what to do in an emergency."

The Sheriff's Office suggests parents remind their children to call 911 in an emergency or, if they are not near a phone, to yell for help. Children should also know to "stop-drop-and-roll" should their costume catch fire. Parents and children should have planned route and a designated meeting location should they get separated.

Charles County Sheriff's Office court security officers will scan Halloween candy through the x-ray machine at the Charles County Courthouse Halloween night from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. and Nov. 1 from 10 a.m. to noon. The x-ray will detect any metal objects that may be inside the candy but it can not detect any other substances, so parents are still encouraged to check over each piece of their children's candy to ensure it hasn't been tampered with.

"We've been scanning candy since we acquired the x-ray machine about three years ago," said Sheriff Davis. "I strongly urge parents to take advantage of this opportunity because you can never be too cautious, especially concerning your children."

Additionally, the Sheriff's Office is offering the following additional Halloween safety tips and encourages parents to share them with their children:

For Trick-or-Treaters:

- * Young children should always go trick-or-treating with an adult and older children should never trick-or-treat alone.
- * Be careful crossing the streets; cross at the corner and be sure to look both ways.
- * Stay to the side of the street or, where possible, on a sidewalk.
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