



Hernando County Sheriff's Office

P.O. BOX 10070 – BROOKSVILLE, FL 34603-0070 FAX 352 796-0493 PHONE 352 754-6830

Media Release

From: Denise M. Moloney
Public Relations Manager, 352-797-3609

Re: Halloween Safety Tips - 2023

Date: October 26, 2023

Sheriff Al Nienhuis and the men and women of the Hernando County Sheriff's Office want everyone to have a spooktacular Halloween, and to be safe while doing so.

If your little ghosts and goblins, witches and wizards, or vampires and zombies are headed out to collect some treats this year, please take a few minutes to go over our Halloween Safety Tips.

TRICK OR TREAT TIPS

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks, if available. Look left, right, and left again before crossing. Keep looking while crossing.
- Put electronic devices down. Keep your head up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Children should make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Watch for cars that are turning and/or backing up.
- Plan costumes that are bright/reflective and that are flame retardant.
- Consider adding reflective tape to costumes and/or trick or treat bags.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent tripping.
- Consider non-toxic make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and may obstruct vision.
- Kids should stay in groups. Parents should accompany young children.
- Older children, who are going out without an adult, should take a cell phone with them.
- Older children should stop at ONLY familiar houses and only when the lights are on.

- If possible, trick or treat before it gets dark.
- If trick or treating after dark, kids should have a flashlight or a glow stick with them.
- Make sure children know their home address and telephone number and how to use 9-1-1 properly.
- Teach children how to say "NO" in a loud voice if someone tries to get them to go somewhere, tries to offer anything other than a treat, or tries to get them to leave with them.
- Teach children to NOT approach vehicles.

MOTORISTS

- Exercise extreme caution while operating your vehicle.
- Be alert for excited youngsters who may dart in front of your vehicle.
- Slow down, especially in residential areas.

CHILDREN

- Do not go inside anyone's home.
- Do not accept rides from strangers.
- Keep a safe distance from moving cars.
- Do not take shortcuts through back yards, alleys or parks.
- Do not eat any candy until a parent has inspected it.
- Be cautious around pets/animals, as the costume may scare them.

ADULTS

- Welcome trick-or-treaters with any exterior lights ON.
- Sweep leaves from sidewalks and steps.
- Clear the entryway and front yard of any obstacles a child might trip over.
- Restrain household pets.
- Use a glow stick in the jack-o-lantern instead of a candle.
- Patrol your neighborhood, occasionally, and report any speeding, acts of mischief, and/or suspected crimes.
- Report any and all suspicious activity to your local law enforcement agency, immediately.
- Keep all the doors locked at your home (even if you are "just out front" handing out candy). Halloween is a night when many homes are burglarized because parents are out with the kids.
- Do not give out homemade or unwrapped treats to children.

Have a happy and safe Halloween.