



POLICE DEPARTMENT

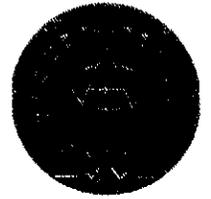
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JOSEPH J. DECARLO
CHIEF OF POLICE

October 2013

Chief's 2013 Halloween Message

Dear Resident/Educator:

With the end of October quickly approaching, it is once again time to revisit our plans to ensure that Halloween 2013 is a safe and fun filled holiday for youngsters. While the police want your children to have fun, we caution that their enjoyment should not come at the expense of damage to private or public property or in the harassment of residents or the terrorizing of younger citizens. To help ensure this, I am once again requesting the cooperation of parents, teachers, student leaders and all of our young people in helping to make this year's celebration as safe and enjoyable as possible for all our citizens.

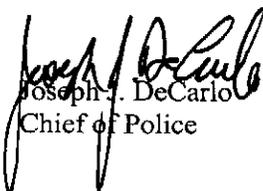
To help accomplish this I ask that parents and teachers review and implement the Halloween Safety Tips accompanying this message and impress on youngsters the need to refrain from participating in conduct that could lead to someone being injured or property being damaged. Egg throwing continues to be the major cause of the property damage occurring on Halloween. Such conduct results in the siding on homes and businesses being stained and windows being broken. It has also resulted in injuries to children who were struck in the face or head and has on several occasions caused the obstruction of drivers' views when the windshields of their vehicles were struck by eggs. It is important that parents make their children aware of the harm that can be caused by egg throwing and insist they not take part in this activity.

I also call upon our young people to do their part in helping keep Halloween safe and fun by resisting the temptation to be mischievous through avoiding those individuals and groups intending to participate in this conduct.

Notwithstanding the fact that the last two years storms on Halloween considerably limited the amount of trick-or-treaters and with the exception of a few isolated incidents, the last two years were uneventful. The Police Department will continue its policy of having additional personnel assigned to patrol neighborhood streets this Halloween. Their job will be to help ensure the safety of your youngsters and to deter acts of vandalism. As in the past, special attention will be paid to those areas where problems have previously been experienced to help deter recurrences. The police will aggressively enforce the law and youngsters discovered breaking it will find themselves facing some very unpleasant consequences. While we regret having to continue this draconian stance, we find ourselves in the position of having no other way to ensure the safety of our streets and neighborhoods.

Keeping Halloween a safe and happy occasion is our *collective* responsibility. The Police Department is determined to do its part and we hope that we can rely on your cooperation.

Sincerely,


Joseph J. DeCarlo
Chief of Police





CRIME PREVENTION BULLETIN

OCTOBER, 2013

Joseph DeCarlo

CHIEF OF POLICE

HALLOWEEN SAFETY

With Halloween approaching, the Police Department would like to remind parents and children how to ensure that Halloween is both a happy and safe holiday. To this end we offer the following safety tips.

- **Feed children prior to sending them trick or treating in order to help them resist the temptation to consume candy prior to its being inspected.**
- **Only purchase and allow children to eat wrapped or packaged candy. Impress on your children **NOR TO EAT ANY CANDY OR OTHER TREATS UNTIL YOU ARE ABLE TO FIRST CHECK IT.****
- **Make certain that younger children are accompanied by an adult or a responsible teenager, whom you know, when they go door to door. Go with them yourself if you can. Have the older children use the **BUDDY SYSTEM** when trick or treating.**
- **Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods and only approach well-lit homes.**
- **Try to have children trick or treat during daylight hours. If they must go out after dark, make certain that their costume is light in color. Consider using reflective tape on the costume to make them more visible to people driving cars. Insist they carry a flashlight.**
- **Explain to children that they should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult they know.**
- **Know which friends your children are with and what route they plan to take.**
- **Caution children about running out from between parked cars or across lawns or yards. Instruct them to cross streets only at corners.**
- **Have children walk on sidewalks. If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic.**

- **Children should only be permitted to wear costumes, masks, wigs and beards labeled "flame retardant". Remember, no fabric is fireproof.**
- **A face mask makes it difficult to see. Have them remove the mask before crossing a street. Better still, consider using makeup instead of a mask.**
- **Costume accessories, such as swords, and knives should be made of flexible material and not be sharp or have jagged edges.**
- **Try to create or select well fitting costumes. The trailing sheet or billowing cape is an invitation to an accident. Hats and scarves should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes. Children should also wear well-fitting and sturdy shoes.**

SAFETY TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Check all commercially wrapped candy that your children may bring home for tapering.**
- **Discard any fruit or unwrapped treats.**
- **Notify the police of any suspicious treats.**
- **Keep cars parked off streets, if possible. Preferably, they should be parked in the garage or driveway.**
- **Keep areas outside your home free of obstacles, including burning jack-o-lanterns, which could be hazardous. Indoor jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from curtains or other furnishings that could be ignited.**
- **Illuminate the outside of your home as much as possible.**
- **Keep the path children will walk on clear and well lit.**
- **Keep house pets inside during the period trick-or-treaters are about.**
- **When driving, be cautious of trick-or-treaters.**