

# Newbury Police Department Trick-or-Treat Safety Tips

It's that time again when children enjoy dressing up and roaming the neighborhoods, trick-or-treating in search of some of their favorite candy. To keep your little goblins safe, just take a minute and read Newbury Police Department Safety Tips for Halloween...! Have a great and safe time this Halloween season....!!!

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## Trick-or-Treaters

- Carry a bright flashlight to illuminate sidewalks, steps and paths.
- Use fresh flashlight batteries. Check it BEFORE you leave the house.
- Chemical GLOW in the DARK LIGHT STICKS can be used along with flashlights.
- Go to the bathroom just before going trick and treating.
- Always WALK, do not run. You can slip and fall down... OUCH...!!!
- Stay on the Sidewalks.
- (If there is no sidewalk) walk on the left side of the road.
- Walk SINGLE file, facing the traffic.
- Obey ALL local traffic signals.
- Cross only at corners, with adults.
- DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT wear and use rollerblades to go out trick-or-treating.
- You can trip on your costume, fall because of uneven sidewalks, and crash into other Halloween trick-or-treaters using the crowded sidewalks. You will have problems with yard decorations and climbing porch stairs. Its very dark outside, and you cannot see or react fast enough to a sudden problem. You will become the problem in an ambulance going to the hospital with broken bones. OUCH and DOUBLE OUCH...!!!
- DO NOT assume you have the right of way.
- Because one car stops, doesn't mean others will...!
- Trick-or-Treat only in familiar neighborhoods.
- DO NOT cut across strangers yards or driveways. Trip on hoses, rakes...!
- Wear a watch you can read in the dark.
- Set the watch alarm if you have time limit for Trick-or-Treating.
- Make sure your costumes don't drag on the ground.
- You could trip and hurt yourself. OUCH Again...!!!
- Wear comfortable walking shoes, and they should fit properly.
- Make sure your shoe laces are tightened tight. You can trip...!!!
- Avoid wearing your mask while walking from house to house.
- Carry only flexible knives, swords or other props.
- Avoid pointed props such as spears, or wands that endanger other children's eyes.

- Wear clothing and costumes with reflective tape or "Glow in the Dark" markings.
- A flashing In Sight At Night Safety Strobe Light can also be attached to children AND adult costumes. Proper SAFETY knows no age barrier...!
- Visit houses that have lights on, especially houses with Halloween decorations.
- Always use the front door, NEVER go to the back of a house.
- Stay away from any animals that you don't know.
- Please don't pet animals you know or don't know you.
- Always carry a spare Halloween bag just in case yours breaks.
- It would be very upsetting for you to lose all those delicious collected treats.
- Always be polite. And don't forget to say "Thank You".

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## Parents

- Make sure your child eats a good dinner before going out Trick-or-Treating. They need proper energy tonight...!!!
- If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material.
- Make sure you work into your child's OR adult Halloween costume, reflector strips, a FLASHING safety light or the very popular GLOW LIGHT STICKS to make everyone more visible and much safer at night. SAFETY FIRST tonight of all nights...!
- Teach your child how call 9-1-1 (or your local emergency number) if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be dialed free at any payphone.
- Bring your child for a visit to your local police or fire department.
- Children should carry several quarters so they can call home.
- Let them borrow the FULLY CHARGED family cell phone, with home number ready.
- Ideally, young children of any age should be accompanied by an adult.
- If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch, preferably one that can be read in the dark.
- Set their watch alarm if you have time limit for Trick-or-Treating.
- DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT allow your children to wear and use rollerblades to go out trick-or-treating.
- They can trip on the costume, fall because of uneven sidewalks, and crash into other Halloween trick-or-treaters using the crowded sidewalks. They will have problems with yard decorations, and climbing porch stairs. Its very dark outside, and they cannot see or react fast enough to a sudden problem. They will become the problem in an ambulance going to the hospital with broken bones. OUCH and DOUBLE OUCH...!!!
- Avoid streets under construction. There are holes and pits. Use common sense.
- Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.

- Older children should trick-or-treat in groups.
- You should know **WHERE** they're going and with **WHO** they are going with.
- Although product tampering is rare, tell the children to bring **ALL** the candy home to be inspected **BEFORE** consuming anything.
- Look at the wrapping carefully and toss out anything that looks like tampering.
- If you child has an **ALLERGY**, **VERY IMPORTANT** to look at the ingredients of the treats they bring home.
- Limit the amount of treats they consume on Halloween to avoid any sickness.

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## Homeowners

- Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, garden hoses, dog leashes and low flower pots. These objects can trip the young trick-or-treater.
- Be sure the path and stairs to your front door are well illuminated and clear of obstacles. Double check **ALL** the outside lights...!!!
- Pets get frightened on Halloween. Put them in a kennel tonight, to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater. **OUCH...!!!**
- **GLOW LIGHT STICKS** or battery powered jack-o-lantern light are preferable to real flame candles.
- If you do use candles, place the carved jack-o-lantern well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.
- Make sure that paper or cloth decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
- **NEVER** leave any flaming candle unattended.
- **BE PREPARED.** Have a **FULLY CHARGED** fire extinguisher handy, just in case...! **BE PREPARED.**
- Pass out healthy food alternatives for visiting trick-or-treaters. Include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
- Non-food treats: PEZ candy dispensers, small note pads, pencils, pens, stickers, erasers, coins.

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## Halloween Party

- Coordinate a neighborhood costume or pumpkin carving party. Have each parent bring a pumpkin, small grab bag present and a small snack such as cookies or brownies. You can set up various games such as:
  - Bobbing for apples.
  - Guess who carved the jack-o-lantern.
  - Guess the number of jellybeans in a canning jar.
  - Guess who is dressed under the costume.
  - Halloween Charades Party Game. Lots of party tips and suggestions...!!!
- Have a ghost story telling sessions with the lights down low and playing Halloween spooky music in the background...!!! Of course the person telling the story should be wearing a "spirited ghost" costume...! Have a great HALLOWEEN.

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## Pet and Animal Owners

- Halloween can be a very traumatic and even dangerous time for your pet.
- Don't leave your pet out in the yard on Halloween.
- Many strangers visiting in strange costumes can be scary for a dog.
- Be careful your cat or dog doesn't dart outside when you open the door.
- DO NOT, repeat, DO NOT dress the dog or cat in a Halloween costume.
- This action puts a lot of STRESS on the animal...!!!
- Trick-or-treat candies OF ANY TYPE are not for pets.
- Chocolate is poisonous to a lot of animals.
- Consult your veterinarian for further advice.
- Please visit the ASPCA's Web site at <http://www.asPCA.org>.
- Pranksters have teased, injured, and even stolen pets.
- Make sure that they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.

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## Halloween Drivers

- Drive and go slow, slow, slow all evening.
- NO ONE should drive a vehicle while wearing a Halloween mask of any type.
- CAUTION: Young trick-or-treaters may dart out in front of you.
- Obey ALL traffic signals, both as a driver and a pedestrian.
- Adult Halloween parties should have a designated driver.
- If you drive a long distance, make arrangements to stay over.

- **DO NOT follow the example of the CRASHING WITCH...!!! Ouch. Ouch.. OUCH...!!!**

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## **To ALL Halloween Trick-or-Treaters and Parents**

- **Have lots of Halloween fun, take care of yourself, get more candy than your friends (or much as possible) and share with your parents and other members of your family.**