



Crime Prevention Tips

ARAPAHOE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
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J. Grayson Robinson, SHERIFF

Community
Resource
Unit

Committed to quality service with an emphasis on integrity,
professionalism and community spirit.

Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Holiday. Some tips to make Halloween safe include:

Costume safety

Choose a costume made of flame retardant material. Costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause your child to trip and fall. For good visibility, add some reflective tape to the costume or bag he/she is using to carry candy or make/choose a costume made of bright material that is visible in the dark. Masks should fit securely and allow your child to see well and not hinder visibility. If using face paint, make sure it is non-toxic and hypoallergenic. Knives, swords and other props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen upon.

Trick-or-Treating safety

Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups, in well known neighborhoods. Carry a flashlight. Never enter anyone's house. Walk, don't run. Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only. Follow traffic signals and rules of the road. Drive slowly. Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets.

Candy safety

Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can carefully inspect it for tampering. Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go -- don't send them out on an empty stomach. Tell children not to accept -- and especially not to eat, anything that isn't commercially wrapped. Throw out candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.). Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys. Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before allowing children to eat it.

General safety tips

Homeowners should prepare their home for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining dogs and other animals, and lighting the house well. Provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers. Artificial lights and candles are a safer alternative to real candles with a flame that can pose a fire hazard. If going to an adult Halloween party, make sure that you don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver if alcohol is being consumed.

If you have any questions, contact Deputy Amir Stephen at (720) 874-3752, e-mail astephen@co.arapahoe.co.us, or contact Deputy Brian McKnight at (720) 874-3750, e-mail bmcknight@co.arapahoe.co.us.

**To report a crime, call the
Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office at
(303)-795-4711 or 911 for emergencies.**