

Don't forget that October is
National Crime Prevention
Awareness Month.

Commonwealth's Attorney
C. Phillips "Phil" Ferguson,
Sheriff E.C. Harris and
Police Chief Thomas E.
Bennett have provided
these Halloween Safety
Tips so that Suffolk's little
ghosts and goblins can
enjoy their trick-or-treating.



They ask that you:
Be Alert, Stay
Safe, and Enjoy
Halloween!



Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney

"Prosecutors: Leaders in Public Safety"

150 North Main Street

Suffolk, VA 23434

Phone: 757/514-4365

Visit our Websites:

www.suffolk.va.us/cwatty/

www.suffolk.va.us/cwatty/vwsp/

Suffolk Sheriff's Office

"Professionalism, Leadership, Experience"

150 North Main Street

Suffolk, VA 23434

Phone: 757/514-7840

Visit our Website:

www.sheriffecharris.com

Suffolk Police Department

"Law Enforcement Excellence and Public Service

through Partnership with our Community"

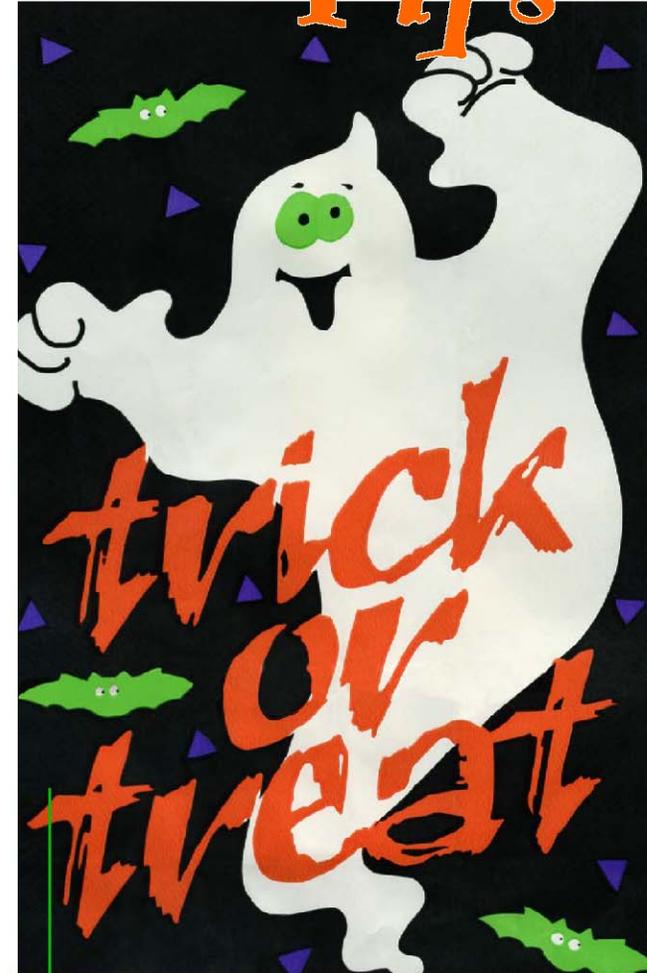
Phone Non-Emergency: 757/923-2350

Emergency: 911

Visit our Website:

www.suffolk.va.us/police/

Halloween Safety Tips



Halloween has been celebrated on October 31st in the United States since the early 1800's and is traditionally a family-oriented holiday when children get to dress up and enjoy candy and other treats.

In order to assist citizens in enjoying this fun-filled holiday as safely as possible, the Suffolk Commonwealth's Attorney's Office, Suffolk Sheriff's Office and Suffolk Police Department have compiled the following Halloween Safety Tips for boys and "ghouls" and their parents:

It is unlawful for any person over the age of 12 to trick-or-treat in Suffolk.

Trick-or-treat hours are until 8.00 p.m.



- Children should never be allowed to go out alone on Halloween.
- Children should never eat any treats until they return home and treats have been examined in a well-lighted place. Only allow children to eat unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers.
- All fruits should be cut and closely examined before eating.
- Give wrapped homemade treats only to children you know.
- Advise children that they should never enter strangers' homes.
- Never invite children into your home.
- Children should never accept rides from strangers.
- Children should never take shortcuts through backyards or alleys.
- Instruct children not to stray from their group.
- A responsible adult should escort children while trick-or-treating.
- Adult escorts should carry flashlights so motorists can see them.
- Don't leave your home unattended on Halloween night.
- Children should walk, not run, during their trick-or-treat activities.
- Parents should know what route their children will be taking.
- All costumes should be made of light-colored, fireproof material so that little ones aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns or other fire hazards.
- If the costume is made of dark material, attach reflective tape to the costume to increase nighttime visibility.
- Children should wear proper fitting, comfortable costumes and shoes. Keep costumes short to prevent trips and falls.
- Realistic replica firearms should never be used as they may be mistaken for real firearms.
- Masks should not be worn if they impair vision. Try make-up instead of a mask, which can also be hot and uncomfortable.

- Wigs should be fireproof and should not restrict vision.
- Children should always use sidewalks, not the street, for walking.
- Children should look in all directions before crossing the street. They should never cross between parked cars, in the middle of the block, or diagonally across an intersection.
- Instruct children to stay in their own neighborhood and trick-or-treat at homes that have porch lights on.



Motorists should be aware that giggling ghosts and winsome witches are out and about and should take special care to:

- Stay alert. Neighborhoods that don't normally have a lot of pedestrian and bicycle traffic may experience an increase on Halloween night.
- Remember that kids are excited, and may be trying to visit as many houses as possible within a specific time frame. Trick-or-treaters may suddenly dart into traffic from between parked cars.
- Be particularly cautious in areas where cars are parked along the side of the street.
- Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood.
- Be patient and SLOW DOWN. Give children lots of time to cross the street. Their costumes may impair their ability to see and hear you, and to get out of your way quickly.
- Remember that kids will be excited and may forget to **stop, look, and listen** before they cross the street.