



NEWS RELEASE

HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

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Police offer tips for a safe Halloween

Pre-holiday check of registered sex offenders found all in compliance

Howard County police are preparing for Halloween with a compliance check of all registered sex offenders residing in the county and are offering tips for parents to ensure a safe, fun night for all.

Detectives have accounted for all 109 registered sex offenders in Howard County and all are in compliance with reporting requirements of the registry. The goal of the sweep was to identify anyone in violation and to remind registered offenders that they are discouraged from participating in trick-or-treating.

Parents who want to be aware of offenders' residences when mapping out their trick-or-treat route can check the Maryland Sex Offender Registry linked on the department's home page at HCPD.org.

Throughout the holiday, officers will be alert for vandalism, theft and destruction of property. They will conduct speed enforcement activities and be on the lookout for drunk or impaired drivers. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), nearly half of all crash fatalities on Halloween night in recent years involved a drunk driver.

Police offer the following tips to parents, drivers:

- Encourage children to trick-or-treat with a group, and before dark. After dark, an adult chaperone should carry a flashlight and choose well-lighted streets.
- Wear costumes that are short, snug and flame retardant; wear light colors or reflective tape; avoid masks that can obstruct vision.
- Teach children they should NEVER go inside a stranger's home or car.
- Remind children not to eat treats before they have been inspected by parents; never eat candy that has been opened.
- Tell trick-or-treaters not to take shortcuts through backyards, alleys or playing fields.
- Don't allow children to approach homes that are dark.
- Drive slowly! You never know when a trick-or-treater may dart into the street.
- If you're handing out candy, turn on outside lights and remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.

Follow along with us on Twitter @HCPDNews as officers are out and about on Halloween night!

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