



With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighborhoods across America, Henrico Police offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

- Have children wear light-colored or reflective type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards, and scooters, too!)
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your child's eyes.
- Plan the route with your family. Whenever possible, have an adult accompany children.
- To access information about convicted sex offenders, visit the Virginia State Police Sex Offender and Crimes Against Minors Registry at: <http://sex-offender.vsp.virginia.gov/sor/index.html>
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Use sidewalks and do not walk in the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for oncoming vehicles.
- Cross the street only at corners, and don't let children hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Visit only homes that have outdoor lights on.
- Keep children away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Accept treats at the door, and never allow children to go into a stranger's house.
- Adults should inspect all treats before they are eaten. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.



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Douglas A. Middleton
Chief of Police



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