



VANDERBURGH COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NEWS RELEASE

DATE: **Thursday, October 27, 2011**
SUBJECT: **Halloween Safety**
RELEASE NUMBER: **2011-NR-64**
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Halloween Safety

This Halloween the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office will be increasing our presence in the residential areas of Vanderburgh County outside of the Evansville City limits. While we are always hopeful it will not occur, we will be monitoring for unsafe, mischievous and suspicious activity.

The Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office will be paying special attention to the neighborhoods with known registered sex offenders residing there and will be assisting the Indiana Parole Office in monitoring the approximately 75 registered sex offenders who are also on parole living in our neighborhoods this weekend. Those registered sex offenders who are on parole will be required to have a sign on their door indicating that their residence will not be giving out candy, keep their exterior lights off and display no outdoor Halloween decorations. Together, we will be making increased random checks on these registered sex offenders to verify their compliance with all stipulations established for them this weekend.

This approaching Halloween weekend looks to be bringing excellent weather for trick or treating. We are anticipating a large number of trick-or-treaters in our many neighborhoods.

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There are a few basic safety tips we want to share that may make this Halloween a safe one for everybody.

- Motorists should keep a careful eye out for kids who may be difficult to see and may run unexpectedly from in between parked cars and other places.
- Trick-or-treating should be done with **adult supervision** and in **groups** if possible.
- Parents, If your trick-or-treaters are old enough to walk the neighborhood on their own, make sure you know the intended route, **provide them with a cell phone** so you can check with them periodically and make sure they stay within familiar area.
- Trick-or-treaters should **never enter the home** of someone who is not known well.
- It is preferable to dress in a costume that does not include a mask or anything that might obscure the child's vision.
- Costumes should be constructed so that children can move easily and not create a tripping hazard.
- Trick or treating should be completed before dark. However, if it is not, trick-or-treaters should have light colored/reflective clothing on and have a flashlight.
- Parents should **inspect all treats before they are eaten**. Anything that is not commercially produced or appears to have had the seal or packaging tampered with should be discarded.
- Homeowners who welcome trick-or-treaters should make sure their homes are well lit and that there are no obstacles to those visiting the home.
- Homeowners should give commercially produced treats, gift certificates or other non-food related items (school pencils, stickers, etc).
- If you find anything or see anything suspicious in nature, report it to law enforcement via 911.

The men and women of the Vanderburgh County Sheriff's Office hope everyone has a safe and memorable Halloween.

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