

# *Halloween Safety Tips*

The River Falls Police Department would like to emphasize safety this Halloween. Halloween and the trick or treating that occurs can be a fun tradition. However, in order to help ensure the safety of Halloween activities, the following tips are recommended:

- Wear a comfortable costume that you can see well out of, that is fire retardant and is not a trip hazard. Bright costumes are more visible than dark costumes. Props should also be safe without sharp or dangerous ends. Consider face makeup as masks can obstruct vision.
- Children should be supervised by a parent or responsible adult. However, if older children are allowed to go trick or treating without adult supervision (not recommended), there should be a preplanned route and a set return time.
- Stay outside of houses. There is no good reason to enter a residence for treats. Let the resident bring the treat to you.
- Trick or treat early to avoid being out when it gets too dark. 5 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. is recommended.
- Bring a flashlight with you so you can see and be seen. Consider wearing reflectorized clothing.
- Stay in your neighborhood where you feel comfortable.
- Watch for traffic as motorists can be distracted by children and decorations. Use crosswalks when crossing the street. Never cross a street from between parked cars, mid-block or run into the street.
- Only accept wrapped or packaged candy or treats and do not eat any until it is thoroughly checked by your parent or other responsible party.
- Use caution around pets and other animals to avoid being bitten or other injury.
- Avoid cutting through yards as there may be multiple hazards.
- Residents who wish to welcome trick-or-treaters should leave an outside or porch light on. Children should be advised to only visit homes with outside lights on.

Motorists should be extra cautious on Halloween night. Be aware of children darting out from between parked cars or walking on roadways. Please be careful exiting and entering driveways.

Parents should take special precautions to avoid children getting separated from a group.

If you are going to have a jack o' lantern, consider a battery operated light or something similar rather than a real flame.

There are many odd behaviors exhibited on Halloween. Please don't confuse them with behavior that may harm someone such as going somewhere with a stranger. Don't approach a car if directed or asked to by an unknown occupant.

We encourage everyone to please remind children of these important safety rules to help ensure our community has a safe and fun Halloween! Please report any illegal or suspicious activity to the Police Department.