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Safe Halloween festivities are the goal for La Porte Police Dept.



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La Porte Police express their sincere hope that every parent, child, and Halloween enthusiast enjoys a safe and happy 2012 Halloween. The holiday falls on a Wednesday night this year and the police department plans to focus pedestrian safety and preventing traffic accidents as festive citizens take to the roads.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the number of serious traffic accidents increase significantly on Halloween night and almost half of these accidents involve impaired drivers. Additionally, AAA notes that two-thirds of people ages 18 to 24 either host or attend Halloween parties. As such, the Police Department is reminding those who plan on attending a party and consuming alcohol to coordinate a designated driver in advance.

The police department also cautions parents of young trick-or-treaters to take appropriate steps to ensure that the evening stays safe by following these tips:

Costumes should be short to prevent tripping. Use light colors and reflective materials.

Always use caution when crossing streets; cross at intersections regulated by a stop-sign or street light whenever possible.

Try using make-up on the child's face instead of a mask, as a mask can obstruct a child's view.

When using facemasks, make sure the child can see and breathe easily.

Make sure that all children carry a glow stick or flashlight and wear reflective clothing.

Don't let children go "Trick-or-Treating" alone. Be sure older children use the BUDDY SYSTEM. An adult should accompany young children.

Accompany young children to the door of every house they approach. Stay within sight of the door.

Be familiar with every house and with all people from whom the children receive treats.

Children should be cautioned never to approach any vehicle, occupied or not, unless they know the owner and are accompanied by a parent.

Children should be cautioned never to enter any home without prior permission from their parents.

Children should be warned to never approach any house that isn't well lit and that does not have a porch light on.

Parents should inspect all treats and dispose of anything that has been opened or has never been wrapped; police should be notified if something has been tampered with.

Children should be encouraged to remember any suspicious incidents and report them to their parents or the police.

Children should be instructed to run away immediately from people who try to lure them with special treats.

For questions concerning holiday safety or other related matters, contact the La Porte Police Department at 281-471-2141.