



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
Chief of Police

Westport Police Department Halloween Safety Tips

With Halloween approaching, the Westport Police Department offers a number of suggestions endorsed by area police departments and childcare councils.

Motorists are urged to drive with extra care, as trick-or-treaters will be out on Wednesday evening, October 31st. Use caution when exiting driveways and as always, don't drink and drive.

Parents or other responsible adults should accompany all elementary school-age children in their travels. Younger children should complete their rounds by 6:30 p.m., older ones by 8:00 p.m. Agree on a specific time when older youths are due home and plan a route with them in advance.

Costumes should be easily visible and marked with reflectorized tape, and/or flashlights should be carried. When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric that could create a fall hazard. Opt for face paint instead of a mask, so as not to impede field of vision. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.

Travel in small groups to increase safety. Encourage children to stay in their own neighborhoods where they are known.

Children should only go to the houses where outside lights are on. A darkened house is not prepared to receive them. The Police Department receives complaints every year regarding doorbells being rung, even though the lights are out.

Use sidewalks whenever possible. Walk on the left side of the street facing traffic if sidewalks are not available. Travel only in well lit areas.

Children should not eat any treats until they return home and an adult can inspect them. Anyone receiving treats suspected of having been tampered with should call the Westport Police Department or their local police department immediately.

Never use candles to illuminate pumpkins. Flashlights or glow-sticks are much safer.

The Police Department wants children to enjoy Halloween with good, clean fun, but warns that vandalism and acts of mischief which threaten safety or result in property damage will not be tolerated.

Parents are encouraged to review these safety tips with their children. Parents are also urged to monitor their children's activities not only on Halloween night, but also on Tuesday, October 30, the traditional "Mischief Night".

The Westport Police Department will have extra evening patrols on "Mischief Night" and Halloween. These patrols will concentrate on increasing motorists' awareness to slow down and watch for children along the roadways, as well as deterring acts of vandalism.

If these suggestions are followed, the Westport Police Department is confident that everyone will have a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

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Lieutenant Jillian Cabana

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