



WESTPORT POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Foti Koskinas
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Press Release

Westport Police Department Offers Halloween Safety Reminders

(Westport, CT) With Halloween quickly approaching, the Westport Police Department wishes to offer a number of suggestions endorsed by area police departments and childcare councils relative to safety on that evening.

Motorists are urged to drive with extreme care and to allow for extra time to reach destinations, as trick-or-treaters will surely be out on Thursday evening, October 31st. Please use the utmost caution when exiting driveways. Please 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 6:30pm, older ones by 8:00pm. 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 at all times. When choosing a costume, stay away from long trailing fabric that could create a fall hazard. Opt for face paint instead of a mask. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out of it.

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 annually 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. If possible, travel only in well-lit areas.

Children should not eat any treats until they return home and parents 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 will be 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. With that, parents are urged to monitor their children's activities not only on Halloween night, but also on Wednesday, October 30th, 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 drive carefully and watch for children along the roadways, as well as focus on deterring acts of vandalism.

Last but certainly not least, the men and women of the Westport Police Department would like to wish everyone a safe and enjoyable Halloween!

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