



Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is upon us once again however, like many in the Pee Dee, Florence is still recovering from the destruction caused by hurricane Matthew. Because of that, the police department is urging everyone to make some very necessary safety adjustments to this year's Halloween activities.

First of all, if an alternative to trick-or-treating can be found this year, we would strongly encourage you to take advantage of that. There are several churches in our area holding fall festivals and trunk-or-treat events this weekend, on their own property, and most are open to the public. We encourage events like these as an alternative to actually going out and trick-or-treating door to door this year.

Like no other Halloween that I can remember, pedestrian safety will be an even greater issue this year. Extensive amounts of debris are currently lining a majority of the popular streets that annually attract trick-or-treaters from all over our city. This debris will force pedestrians (trick-or-treaters) into the travel lane of a street or road and, into some very dangerous territory. If, against our strong recommendations, a decision is made to trick-or-treat in an area where debris is lining the street, we would ask you to follow these very important safety tips:

- Parents, always accompany your children, especially this year. Safety should be the number one priority, no matter what.
- Only trick-or-treat while it's still light outside – the danger of a pedestrian not being seen by a motor vehicle increases significantly during the hours of darkness.
- Trick-or-treat within the neighborhoods that you are familiar with (preferably your own neighborhood).
- Don't allow anyone to walk in the travel lane of a road or street unsupervised, especially during the hours of darkness.

We understand that children in particular, look forward to all of the fun and excitement that Halloween brings each year. This year however, we are in a situation like we haven't experienced in previous years. With that said, we are asking everyone to help us protect our youngest and most vulnerable citizens this Halloween by resisting the urge to pile up on streets that you know are unsafe.