

Halloween and Fall Festival Safety Tips: Halloween makes it More than Scary on the Road

Fall festivals and Halloween activities gives families great opportunities for getting outdoors to enjoy treats, fun and games.

Although Halloween comes before the time changes from Daylight Savings Time to Central Standard Time, the days are getting shorter and the nights are getting longer. With shorter days comes more night driving. Because nighttime driving is more dangerous, it requires extra attention from motorists as well as people walking and riding bicycles.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration reports that nearly two-thirds of all fatal pedestrian crashes and about 20 percent of fatal bicycle crashes occur in low-light conditions. According to Safe Kids, nationally, on average, children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween as any other day of the year.

Motorists, parents and children are reminded to follow these safety tips for Halloween as well as all year long.

Tips for Motorists

- Slow down. Watch for children walking on roads, medians and curbs. Enter and exit driveways carefully.
- Be especially alert for children darting out from between parked vehicles and from behind bushes and shrubs. They are excited and they are not paying attention.
- Never drink and drive –at all and especially on Halloween. If you are partying, designate a driver.

Tips for Parents

- Adults should accompany children at all times and supervise their “trick or treat” or “trunk or treat” activities.
- Teach children to “stop, look left-right-lets, and listen” before they cross the street.
- Use a flashlight and wear retro-reflective strips or patches on your clothing or costume to be more visible to motorists.
- Be certain that the mask does not obstruct vision or hearing.

Tips for Pedestrians (children and adults)

- Before crossing a street, stop at the curb or edge of the road and look left, right and left again to be sure no cars are coming. Continue to check for traffic while on the street.
- Walk – never run – from house to house or across the road.
- Cross the street only at intersections and crosswalks.
- When crossing at an intersection with a traffic light, be sure to watch for turning cars. Obey all pedestrian signals.

- Walk on sidewalks whenever possible. If there are not sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street facing traffic.

By taking some extra time to make sure drivers, pedestrians and bicyclists obey the rules, Halloween can be a safe time for all.

Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Back to School Planner