

Halloween Safety -- and Safety throughout the year

As Halloween approaches, here are a few quick reminders for your children to keep them safe:

1. If kids are trick or treating alone or walking home from school, we encourage them to walk with a friend. There's safety in numbers.
2. Trick-or-treating aside, don't talk with strangers or go with a stranger. Often times, a predator will tell a child that "your mom" wants me to pick you up and take you home because there's a problem. You should have a code word with your child that you would tell the person who is picking up your child to use with her. This way, your child knows that you really want this person to pick her up.
3. Talk with your child that if anything seems wrong that they should run to a neighbor or scream "police" or "fire" to get help. Using the words "police" or "fire" will get more of a reaction from other people than yelling "Help".
4. Tell your child to be aware of his surroundings. If you're focused on your cellphone, you're not watching what's going on around you.
5. If your child has a cellphone, teach him how to make an emergency call to 911 using it.
6. Look carefully at the candy that's been trick-or-treated. Throw out any candy that is not tightly wrapped by the manufacturer.
7. Masks are fun, but can block your eyesight making crossing streets difficult. Make sure your child has full vision if she's wearing a mask. It's always best to cross the street with the traffic light, stop sign or crossing guard.
8. Regularly check the Illinois Sex Offender Registry: <https://www.isp.state.il.us/sor/>