

Operation Safe Halloween October 31, 2009

Updated 10/09/09

Once again the CSU Police and Parking Services and University Glen will be hosting OSH (Operation Safe Halloween). This community outreach event was started three years ago as a means to provide a safe and enjoyable evening for the families within University Glen. After the overwhelming positive responses received from our residents last year, we will be expanding the event and increasing the scope of service.

The first objective to this event is safety. Therefore, in response to several requests from citizens, we will be implementing several traffic control and speeding enforcement programs throughout East Campus. The purpose of this is to allow for parents and children to congregate and traverse safely through their neighborhoods with less of a concern for traffic hazards. We will also have Police and Parking Services personnel on foot throughout the community.

Our second objective is to promote "community" with the residents entrusted to our care. Similar to last year, we will have a booth and "command center" set up on the south end of Santa Cruz Island Dr. Here we will have our staff greeting children, checking and distributing candy etc. Staff will also be available to answer questions you might have about safety and services that the Police & Parking Services Department provides to the University Glen community.

Safety is everyone's responsibility and there are many things you can do to make this a safe and fun night:

- Report any suspicious situation or subjects that you see.
- If you see an unsafe behavior report it to the Police Department at (805) 437-8444
- If someone is injured and needs medical help Dial 911.
- Additional Police personnel will be deployed throughout the community patrolling on foot and in vehicles.
- Police personnel will be posted at a information booth located in University Glen.
- Halloween safety handouts and safety Trick-or-Treat bags will be available.
- Remind all household drivers to remain cautious and drive slowly throughout the community.

Halloween Safety Tips

BEFORE NIGHTFALL ON HALLOWEEN:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- While children can help with the fun of designing a Jack O' Lantern, leave the carving to adults.
- Always keep Jack O' Lanterns away from areas where children will be standing or walking.
- Plan and review with your children the route and behavior which is acceptable to you.
- Do not permit children to bicycle, roller-blade or skateboard.
- Agree on a specific time when revelers must return home.
- Along with flashlights for all, older children and escorts should wear a wristwatch.

WHEN TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- A Parent / responsible Adult should always accompany young children while Trick-or-Treating.
- Stay in a group, walk slowly and communicate where you are going.
- Carry a flashlight.
- Walk, don't run.
- Stay on sidewalks.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground.
- Shoes should fit (even if they don't go with your costume).
- Avoid wearing masks while walking from house to house.
- Wear clothing with reflective markings or tape.
- Approach only houses that are lit.
- Never consume unwrapped food items or open beverages that may be offered.
- No treats are to be eaten until they are thoroughly checked by an adult at home.
- Stay away from and don't pet animals you don't know.

AFTER TRICK-OR-TREATING:

- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats.
- Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine all treats and throw away any spoiled or unwrapped items. Candy that has an unusual appearance or discoloration, tiny pinholes or tears in wrappers, should also be discarded.
- Homemade items or baked goods should be discarded, unless you personally know who gave them.
- Parents of young children should also remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies and small toys.
- Try to apportion treats for the days following Halloween.
- Although sharing is encouraged, make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies), are given only to those of an appropriate age.

HOMEOWNERS

- Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip children.
- Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects, and do not block exit doors.
- Pets get frightened on Halloween. Keep them in a secure area to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.
- Battery powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame. Make sure paper or cloth yard decorations won't be blown into a flaming candle.
- Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later.
- Non-food treats: pencils, stickers, erasers, coins.

Below are Safety flyers that can be downloaded and printed

[Halloween Safety Flyer](#) (PDF, 253KB)

[Safety Tips on inspecting candy and treats](#)

Have a Safe and fun Halloween. If you have any questions or would like further information e-mail police@csuci.edu or call (805) 437-8444

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