



**SHERIFF LAURIE SMITH**

**For Immediate Release- Media**

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**Please Keep in Mind these Safety Tips as you prepare for a Happy Halloween**

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.
- Choose face paint & makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct a child's vision.
- Keep costumes short to prevent tripping/falling
- Children should avoid carrying toy firearms or knives which appear realistic. Carried props should be made of dull, flexible material.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- Slow down and be especially alert when driving in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Children should cross streets at the corner, never between parked cars and not diagonally across an intersection.
- Children should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If teenagers are mature enough to be out without supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick-or-treat in groups.
- Several days before trick-or-treating, check <https://www.meganslaw.ca.gov> to see if there are any sex offenders living in your area. If there are, make sure your children avoid those homes.
- Instruct children that they should never go into a stranger's house or car unless their parents or other trusted adults are with them and say it's OK.
- Carefully examine all of the treats before you let your children handle or consume them. Examine all candy for choking hazards and tampering. Eat only factory-wrapped treats and never eat anything homemade from strangers.
- Report any and all suspicious activity to law enforcement immediately.