



Drivers let's make Halloween a safe Halloween



Each year in the United States, there are several stories of children who are hit by cars during this Halloween tradition. Do not be one of the statistics. Remember that children can be very unpredictable and may dart out when/where you do not expect it. It certainly does not help the matter that they are excited about being dressed up, in a hurry to get from house to house and probably have limited vision due to the mask or other costume they are wearing. Take extra precautions and ensure everyone's child gets home safely.

Distracted walking incidents are on the rise, and everyone with a cell phone is at risk. According to a Governors Highway Safety Association report, nearly 6,000 pedestrians were struck and killed by motor vehicles in 2017. Walking without paying proper attention to our surroundings can put everyone's safety at risk, and no age group is immune. The National Safety Council is committed to eliminating preventable injuries caused by distraction to both drivers and pedestrians.

Tips for Drivers

FOCUS – Go slow. Slowdown in residential neighborhoods and obey all traffic signs and signals. Drive at least 5 MPH below the posted speed limit to give yourself extra time to react to children who may dart out into the street.

ANTICIPATE - Stay alert. Trick-or-treaters can dart across the street in excitement. Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs. In dark costumes, they will be harder to see at night. Check your windshield, is it clean inside and outside? The hazy film on the inside can prevent you from seeing what happens in front of your car when lights are coming at you. Popular trick or treating hours are from 5:30pm to 9:30pm so be especially alert for children during these hours.

CORRECT – Keep distractions at bay. Roll your windows down. Turn off your radio. No talking on your cell phone. Increase your driving concentration. If you MUST answer the phone or messages, stop in a safe legal location. Broaden your scanning by looking for children left and right into yards and front porches or houses you are driving by. Never drive under the influence of alcohol and/or drugs. If you see an impaired driver or pedestrian on the road, contact local law enforcement

TALK – Beware of cars transporting trick or treaters. A growing trend in recent years involves parents driving their children from house to house, pulling up to each driveway and waiting while their children run to the door and back. If you are behind one of these vehicles, do not pass it quickly or without carefully checking the area as you move forward. The vehicle may block your view of the children that are running towards another house or across the street. Stay home. Plan to arrive home early (well before the sun begins to set) or stay out past the typical rush of trick or treating. The best way to avoid hazards on October 31; do not drive between 5:30 and 9:30pm.

