



## AMHERST POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Halloween is fast approaching and the Amherst Police Department would like to give the following tips so that everyone can have a safe and happy Halloween. Parents can help by ensuring that their children are wearing a properly fitted costume. Bulky masks may limit your child's eyesight and this may lead to dangerous slips and falls. Children should always wear costumes that have reflective tape on it or are brightly coloured. Accessorize the outfit with a flashlight or a glow stick. Educate your child to walk on the left side of the road when walking on the street or use an available sidewalk. Trick or treaters should always attempt to go up one side of the roadway before crossing to the other side. Advise your children to cross at a corner and to always look both ways before crossing. This will prevent the children from crossing the street repeatedly. Parents should know the route that their child will take while out gathering treats. Discuss ahead of time the safe areas within that route that your child can go to if they need help. I.e. A police station, fire station, block parent etc. Children should only go to houses which have a porch light illuminated. Parents should also inspect all candy that a child brings home and urge their child not to consume any treats while out trick or treating.

Vehicle drivers should drive extra cautious during Halloween and anticipate a larger amount of youth on the streets. Children tend to get very excited while trick or treating so drivers should scan driveways for children running or darting onto roadways.

Homeowners can also make sure that their pathways are clear so that children will not get injured while going to the door. A porch light should be left on so that it lets children know that someone is there. Homeowners are urged to give pre-packaged treats and avoid giving out baked items. Pets should be kept inside as animals can become unpredictable when unknown persons are coming to the front door.

With the Halloween season, there is always the tradition of Halloween costume parties. Please drink responsibly at these gatherings and designate sober drivers ahead of time. An impaired driving charge and a suspension to one's license is the quickest way to ruin a good time at a party. While Halloween is suppose to be a spooky holiday, killing someone while driving intoxicated can turn this day into a horrific nightmare that you would have to live with for the rest of your life.

The Amherst Police Department will have extra police officers conducting vehicle and foot patrols during Halloween. The Pumpkin Patch Patrol will also be out again this year patrolling the streets. The Pumpkin Patch Patrol consists of volunteers and members from many organizations such as the Westcumb Amateur Radio Club. We are asking the public to call our office at 667-7227 if they spot any suspicious activity and please dial 911 if there is an emergency.

Halloween is an enjoyable time for children and adults alike and the Amherst Police Department wishes everyone a safe and happy Halloween this year.