



Johnson County Government Press Release
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Halloween Safety

(OLATHE, KS – **OCTOBER 25, 2012**) On average, twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween than on other days of the year. But with some simple precautions, kids can stay safe. There are several easy and effective behaviors that parents/guardians can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury.

"Safe Kids Johnson County urges drivers to slow down on neighborhood roads to make Halloween more enjoyable for everyone, but also to help save lives," said Katie Schatte, Safe Kids Johnson County Coordinator.

Top safety tips:

- **Cross the street safely at corners**, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street. Children younger than age 12 should not be alone crossing streets on Halloween without an adult.
- **Walk on sidewalks or paths**. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings. If older kids are mature enough to go trick-or-treating without adult supervision, parents should make sure they go in a group and stick to a predetermined route with good lighting.
- **Slow down and stay alert** - watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and never dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.
- **Costumes can be both creative and safe**. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible instead. Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

Top safety tips for drivers:

- **Slow down** in residential neighborhoods. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

- **Be especially alert** and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- **Reduce any distractions** inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

For more tips on how to help kids become safer pedestrians on Halloween, as well as throughout the year, visit www.safekids.org.

About Safe Kids Johnson County

Safe Kids Johnson County works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Safe Kids Johnson County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. For more information, call 913-477-8312.

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About Johnson County

Located in the southwestern quadrant of the Kansas City Metropolitan Region, Johnson County, Kansas is a community of choice with a current population of more than 544,000, making it the most populated of the 105 counties in Kansas, but traditionally having the lowest mill levy in the state. Johnson County offers a vibrant quality of life including nationally recognized schools, libraries and parks where businesses and families choose to locate and call their home. For more information visit the county's website at www.jocogov.org.

