



The Pleasanton Police Department is celebrating National Crime Prevention Month by offering these Halloween safety tips and by highlighting some of the services offered by our Department.

Halloween Safety Tips

Although children look forward to tricks, treats, and ghoulish garb, Halloween can be fraught with fright for parents, with candy given to their kids by strangers and a legion of masked and costumed trick-or-treaters at the door. However, following a few safety tips can ensure safe fun for kids and candy-givers alike.

To ensure that trick-or-treaters, you, and your house stay safe, remember the following tips.

- Clear your yard and sidewalk of any obstacles or decorations that may be hard to see in the dark, lest someone go bump in the night.
- Keep your house well lighted, both inside and out; you wouldn't want to miss any particularly good costumes, would you?
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police or sheriff's department.

To make sure even the scariest costumes are safe, keep the following in mind when buying or designing one.

- Try makeup instead of masks; it's more comfortable and doesn't obstruct vision the way masks can.
- Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.
- Keep costumes short to ensure that the only trip taken is the one around the neighborhood.
- Look for brightly colored costumes, attach reflector strips to costumes and bags, and remind trick-or-treaters to carry glow sticks and flashlights.
- If a costume involves any sort of fake weapon, make sure that it is made of a flexible material such as cardboard or foam. Or, avoid the whole problem of weapons by challenging your child to design a costume that is scary without one.

Keep in mind the next few tips to make sure your trick-or-treater's night in the neighborhood will be safe and fun.

- Older kids should trick-or-treat in groups; kids walking around alone are never as safe as those in groups, and especially not at night. Younger kids should be accompanied by a parent or trusted neighbor.
- Review the route for trick-or-treating beforehand and set a time set when kids should be home. Also, have a plan if your child gets separated from his or her friends or from you.
- Remind your children not to enter strange houses or cars.

After a successful and safe night around the neighborhood, remember that the treats still need scrutiny before anyone eats them.

- Remind your children not to eat treats until they've come home. To help ensure this, feed them a meal or a substantial snack before they go out.
- Check all treats at home in a well-lighted place. Be especially wary of anything that is not wrapped by the factory or that is no longer sealed.
- Remind kids not to eat everything at once, lest they be green even without the makeup.

Services offered by

The
Pleasanton
Police Department's

**Crime
Prevention Unit**

**Join us for
"COPPS in
Pleasanton"
on
CTV Channel 30**



**Remember— If you can
prevent the risk, you can
prevent the crime!**



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Every month, the Crime Prevention Unit of the Pleasanton Police Department writes and produces "COPPS in Pleasanton." Each show features Pleasanton Police Officers hosting different guests, who discuss various law enforcement topics and how they might effect our residents. Log onto www.tv30.org for times and listings.



9-1-1 FIRE
POLICE
MEDICAL

The Pleasanton Police Department's Crime Prevention Unit offers numerous services to our residents and business owners free of charge. These include:

Neighborhood Watch

It has been proven that residents who participate in Neighborhood Watch programs know their neighbors much better and have reduced crime rates on their blocks. It's easy to get started. We can help you get your group organized, facilitate meetings and provide up-to-date training and information.

Business Watch

Just like Neighborhood Watch, Business Watch is a great way to help protect your business and employees from crooks. It starts with businesses looking out for each other. With Business Watch, we can provide training to you and your employees regarding numerous crime prevention subjects.

Home/Business Security

What does your home or business look like to a burglar? Where's the best place to put the cash register? We can help you make decisions about lighting, locks, layouts, and even landscaping choices, all designed to help make your home or business less of a criminal target.

Vacation Watch

Let us know if you're going on vacation. Pleasanton Police Officers and patrol volunteers can provide some extra patrol by your house while you're away.

Identity Theft

Do you know that over the last decade, the crime of identity theft has risen nearly 1,400 percent? There are many things you can do to protect yourself from becoming a victim of identity theft. We can talk to your group about how identities are stolen, how to protect yourself, and what to do if you become a victim.

Robbery Prevention

What are some of the things you can do to make yourself or your business a less likely target of robbery?

Personal Safety

Did you know that often, your body language and your own awareness can keep you from becoming a victim of crime. We have lots of information designed to help you stay safe.

Child Car Seat Checks

Car seats can be difficult to install correctly and you are placing your child at risk of injury or death if their car seats are not secured properly. Call for a free appointment to meet with one of our car seat experts, who will be happy to make sure yours is installed in your vehicle the right way and make sure you know how to do it yourself, too.

Crime Prevention Brochures and other information

The Pleasanton Police Department has tons of information available to you or your group free of charge on nearly any crime-related topic.

Stranger Danger/Child Safety

We can make special presentations to your child's classroom, Boy Scout or Girl Scout troop, etc ... about the dangers of talking to people they don't know, why they should wear seatbelts, bicycle safety, and more.

National Night Out

The National Night Out campaign is an annual crime/drug prevention event bringing together neighborhood groups and law enforcement agencies across all 50 states. On one night residents get together for block parties, cookouts, and visits from local police for fun and support.

These are the most common topics we can cover with you or your group. If you have questions about the Pleasanton Police Department, crime, safety or any area of law enforcement, call Crime Prevention Officer Ken McNeill at (925) 931-5233 or Community Service Officer Shannon Revel at (925) 931-5240.

