EL SEGUNDO POLICE DEPARTMENT

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Press Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Playing it Safe on Halloween

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids. The El Segundo Police Department encourages safety and supervision during this annual tradition. It is especially important for parents to adhere to a few safety rules for their children when they are trick-or-treating.

- Know your treaters' route. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.
- Take a flashlight or glow sticks for greater visibility.
- Be sure costumes, shoes, and treat bags are safe.
- Remind kids not to enter strangers' homes or cars.
- Set rules about not eating treats until kids get home. Be sure to inspect all treats before allowing kids to eat them.
- Candy that has been opened should be thrown away. Any homemade treats or fruit should be inspected closely.
- Remember, drivers have a hard time seeing people, especially at dusk.
- Never cross the street from between parked cars.
- Check to ensure that costumes are flame-retardant so that young ones are safe around jack-o'-lanterns, candles, and other flames.
- Try makeup instead of masks; it's more comfortable and doesn't obstruct vision the way masks can.
- Make sure that fake knives, swords, and guns are made from cardboard or other flexible materials to avoid accidental injury.

It is also important to ensure that your home is safe and accessible to trick-or-treaters. As adults, there are some very simple things that can be done to make the evening safe for everyone.

- Turn on your porch light.
- Move lit jack-o-lanterns off the porch where kids get bunched up if they are trick-or-treating in groups. In a window is preferable to avoid those “smashing pumpkins.”
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater.
- Drive slowly all evening. You never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

For adults who are celebrating, please consider the following when creating that "realistic" Halloween costume.

- Make sure that any accessories, such as fake guns, knifes, and other potentially dangerous items are not mistaken for the real thing.
- Fire safety and visibility are also important for adult costumes. Apply the same standards to adult costumes as you do to your children's.
- Remember, adults that are dressed up can be pretty scary to young children.

Have a safe and fun Halloween!