



## Abington Police Department

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David G. Majenski  
Chief of Police

**TO:** All Abington Residents  
**FROM:** The Abington Police Department  
**RE:** Halloween Safety  
**DATE:** October 2016










Dear Parents,

In the interest of making the upcoming Halloween Holiday a safe and enjoyable event the Abington Police Department is respectfully requesting that you review this information with your children prior to "trick or treating".


The Abington Police Department has announced that the hours for "Trick or Treat" in the Town of Abington on Halloween are from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. Residents are encouraged to shut off outside lights after 8 p.m. to reinforce the hours that were established with safety in mind. Parents should also make sure that their children are aware of the "candy deadline" in advance.

All parents should have a discussion with their children about respecting other people's property and, most importantly, adhering to the following safety tips:


### Trick-or-Treaters


-  Older children should "trick or treat" in a group of at least 3 or more;
-  Wear a watch you can read in the dark;
-  Obey traffic signals;
-  Children should only "trick or treat" in familiar and well lit neighborhoods;
-  Children should wear costumes that are light colored or garbed with reflectors;
-  Children should not wear masks or use make-up that interferes with proper vision or hearing and avoid wearing their mask while walking from house to house;
-  Children should carry flashlights with new batteries or glow sticks;





 Children should not carry hard plastic or wood props such as daggers or swords. Substitute with foam rubber which is soft and flexible;



 Adults and children should watch for traffic at all times, even on side streets. Remember that Halloween is on a Monday night this year!;

 “Trick or Treaters” should go to all the houses on one side of the street before they cross the street to the houses on the other side. Do not zig zag back and forth.;


 “Trick or Treaters” should stay on the sidewalks, driveways and walkways to avoid ruts or holes on the lawn. (no sidewalks) walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic;


 Even though tampering is rare “Trick or Treaters” should not accept unwrapped or unpackaged candy. Parents should inspect all candy before anything is eaten.


## Parents

 Make your child eat dinner before heading out;



 Adults should accompany young children;


 Parents should clearly know the “trick or treat” route that their children will be taking;

 If you buy a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant material;


 Children should carry quarters so they can call home;


## Homeowners


 Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes, and flower pots that can trip anyone;

 Battery powered jack o’lantern candles are preferable to a real flame;




 If you do use candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing;

 Make sure paper or cloth yard decoration won’t be blown into a flaming candle;


 Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low fat crackers with cheese or peanut


butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal. Packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins and single-serve packets of low-fat popcorn that can be microwaved later;

 Non-food treats: plastic rings, pencils, stickers, erasers, coins.

## Drivers



 Motorists should drive well below the speed limit up to an hour before and after the posted “trick or treat” hours;

 Go slow, slow, slow all evening. (Adult Halloween parties should have a designated

driver.)

### MASSACHUSETTS POISON CENTER

Greater Boston Area  
1-617-232-2120

Other Massachusetts Areas  
1-800-682-9211

TDD  
1-617-355-6089

Respectfully,

David G. Majenski, Chief of Police

