



Southwest Precinct Public Safety Newsletter

September 29, 2008

Dear Community Friends,

Halloween Safety Tips

KEEPING YOUR CHILD SAFE

The Seattle Police Department encourages safety and supervision during the annual Trick-or-Treat season. It is especially important for parents to adhere to a few safety rules for their children when they are trick-or-treating.

- ❑ Know your children's route or better yet go with them and skip the homes without lights.
- ❑ Take a flashlight.
- ❑ Be sure costumes, shoes, and treat bags are safe.
- ❑ Remind children 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 children 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.
- ❑ Watch open flames from jack-o-lanterns as they can catch costumes and long wigs on fire.
- ❑ Make sure that fake knives, swords, and guns are made from cardboard or other flexible materials to avoid accidental injury or worse, have them mistaken for the real thing!
- ❑ Encourage older teenagers to go to a party or function you approve of rather than Trick or Treating.

MAKING YOUR HOME SAFE FOR TRICK OR TREATERS

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 we can do to make the evening safe everyone.

- ❑ Turn on your porch light if your home is passing out treats.
- ❑ Move lit jack-o-lanterns off the porch where kids get bunched up if they are trick-or-treating in groups.
- ❑ Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard.
- ❑ Drive slowly all evening-you never know what creature may suddenly cross your path.
- ❑ Report any suspicious or criminal activity to the police.

Expand Block Watch In Your Neighborhood

Seattle has had a reduction in crime, but there is still lot of crime happening in Seattle. Far too many homes are being burglarized where "no force" was needed to enter.

We would like to thank all of you who have volunteered your time to host and organize a Block Watch meeting and/or Night Out Party for your block. Your time and effort is the key part to the success of Crime Prevention. Your willingness to act is an important step in making your neighborhood a safer place to live.

The best way to make your block safer is to increase the number of Block Watches in your neighborhood. An active Block Watch is the most effective way to prevent crime. The more organized Block Watches there are in your neighborhood the safer your block and neighborhood become. I am available to work with you and your community to organize more Block Watches. (My contact information is below.)

Police Blotter, Megan Sheppard, West Seattle Herald
<http://www.westseattleherald.com/news/police%20blotter/>

This web page is update every week on Tuesday.

West Seattle Blog, Tracy Record, Editor
http://westseattleblog.com/blog/?page_id=4988

This web page is update multi-times a week.

Seattle Police Department main web page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/>

Southwest Precinct Web-page

<http://www.seattle.gov/police/Precincts/Southwest/default.htm>

Seattle Police Crime Statistics

<http://www.cityofseattle.net/police/crime/stats.htm>

For **More Information** Call: **Benjamin Kinlow**, Crime Prevention Coordinator, (206) 684-7724 or email benjamin.kinlow@seattle.gov. Check out www.seattle.gov/police/precincts/southwest/prevention.htm