October 21, 2011

Dear Parents:

Halloween is the children's "night" for Trick or Treat and make believe horrors. Unfortunately, some of the horrors are too real! Each year, many children suffer from automobile accidents, falls, cuts, tampered "treats" and other unnecessary miseries.

To make this Halloween a safe one please follow these tips:

Know Your Child's Plans
- What will his/her route be so you can find him/her if need be?
- What companions will he/she have?
- What time will he/she be home?

Tips on Costume Safety
- Makeup is safer than a mask which can obscure vision.
- Costumes and wigs should be flame-resistant.
- Reflective strips and bright clothing will increase visibility along with a flashlight.
- Wear comfortable shoes.
- Props or items that children carry should be made of cardboard so they won't injure your child if he/she should fall down.

Critical Safety Tips
- **Trick or Treat in your own neighborhood.**
  - Trick or Treat in a group of two or more and only in well-lighted areas accompanied by a parent or adult.
  - Stay on sidewalks and look both ways when crossing the street-never cross the street between parked cars or mid-block.
  - Don't allow your child to enter ANY house.
  - Before any treats are eaten they must be inspected by you. Discard fruit or any candy in loose or torn wrappings.

Law Enforcement Tips
- Discuss with your child the importance of respecting the property of others.
- Advise your children that throwing eggs and water balloons, spraying shaving cream is inappropriate and could be illegal.
- Curfew in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa is 10:00 p.m.
- All fireworks are illegal in Newport Beach and Costa Mesa.

If you should discover anything wrong with the "treats" brought home, call the police so other parents can be warned and the people responsible can be caught. Preventive measures, no matter how good they are, are ineffective if not applied by you.

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