

## **TRICK-OR-TREATING SAFETY TIPS – Courtesy Bedford Police Department**

- Only approach well-lit houses and always travel in small groups.
- Bring treats home before eating them so parents can inspect them.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame retardant.
- Use flashlights for guidance on sidewalks, walkways and when crossing the street.
- Make sure masks have eye-holes large enough to see any tripping hazards or oncoming traffic, and mouth openings large enough to breathe easily.
- Practice safe street-crossing by using crosswalks and walk signals.
- Walk and don't run from house to house.
- Wear sturdy shoes and temperature appropriate clothing under costumes.
- Never accept rides from strangers.

### Parents and guardians should:

- Supervise their children at all times.
- Establish a designated curfew for older children.
- Make sure children are wearing safe costumes that fit well and don't drag on the ground.
- Apply reflective tape to your child's arms, legs, and treat bags.
- Assure costume accessories such as swords and other pointed objects are made with soft and safe materials.
- If driving children between houses and neighborhoods, have them get out of cars on the curbside, not on the traffic side.

### Homeowners should:

- Keep inside and outside lights on during trick-or-treat hours.
- Avoid placing lit candles and jack-o-lanterns on doorsteps and walkways where costumes could brush against them and cause burns or fire.
- Only hand out candy that is packaged and wrapped.
- Avoid handing out small toys that could cause choking or lead poisoning for small children.

### Motorists should:

- Use headlines during commutes to maximize visibility.
- Obey posted speed limits at all times. Police will aggressively pull over and ticket speeding motorists.
- Yield for pedestrians and keep eyes on the road. Watch for children and families crossing the road -- at crosswalks or away from crosswalks.