

From the desk of Officer Marshall Morehead

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Halloween

A door slowly creaks open as a cloud passes over the face of the moon. Off in the distance a dog barks and you hear the slow steady sound of footsteps walking down your hallway. What do you do? Well, you turn the TV off of course. My wife makes fun of me all the time because I am absolutely yellow when it comes to horror movies. I don't like 'em and I don't want to watch 'em. My standard response is "I don't need all that negative stuff in my psyche". Of course she just rolls her eyes, but it's true. I see enough bad stuff already; I don't need any more in my head. And the funny thing about it is the movies about battles, wars and groups of armed people don't bother me. It's the ones about the one crazy guy with the yellow eyes and a straight razor, or a demon who lives in a toy. Those will send a cold chill running down my spine in a heartbeat. I think these bother me so much because I can't explain or understand them. Without turning this into an article on spiritual warfare, these get me to the core because they are paranormal and beyond the power I alone possess to defeat.

Unfortunately there are real people out there that we can't understand or explain. These are the type of people that would take advantage of and try to hurt children. Children are the most defenseless among us and it is our job and God given responsibility to protect them. With Halloween coming up and trick or treating, Halloween parties and trunk or treating all happening this week I want to make sure that we are doing all that we can to protect our children. Most of this is just employing common sense (But by now y'all know how I feel about that). Here are a few tips.

- Make sure your children are dressed in brightly colored clothing or have reflective strips sewn into their costume.
- Make sure they have on comfortable footwear that won't cause blisters or make them trip up.
- Have them walk with some sort of illumination device (flashlight, glow stick or light up Pumpkin)
- Always have your children walk with an adult or responsible older brother or sister
- Map out your route and do a dry run during daylight hours
- Teach them to always be aware of their surroundings and pay attention to people that look as if they are up to no good.
- Obey all pedestrian traffic laws (walk against the flow of traffic, cross only at intersections, use sidewalks where available)
- Only visit the homes of people you know and trust
- Always check your child's treats before allowing them to eat any of it (look for broken seals, re-wrapped packages or anything that looks out of sorts)
- Enjoy this time together, teach them and love them.

There are also many churches, schools and community groups that hold Trunk or Treats in a safe environment if you just don't feel comfortable out and about. Just by doing these and other simple things we can keep our children safe and place them in a position for success. Thank you again for your time and for helping us to better serve you.