



**Contact:** Sara Spaulding, APR  
Public Information Officer  
[303-324-1711](tel:303-324-1711)  
[sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us](mailto:sspaulding@ci.wheatridge.co.us)

# NEWS RELEASE

## For Immediate Release

### **Wheat Ridge Police Department Wants Kids to Be Smart, Be Seen, Be Safe this Halloween**

**WHEAT RIDGE, Colo. Sept. 26, 2017** – The Wheat Ridge Police Department and the Arvada Fire Protection District have created a video to help keep kids safe this Halloween.

The video offers tips for parents and reminds kids to make good costume choices, smart decorating decisions to avoid the risk of a house fire, and about how to avoid the scary stuff that sometimes happens when out trick or treating with friends.

#### **Be Smart**

- Use battery-operated candles for porch decorations
- Check electric cables to ensure they are intended for outdoor usage and replace them if any worn wires
- Make sure porches are well-lit to welcome trick-or-treaters
- Keep anything flammable away from spider webs, ghosts and other spooky decorations
- Keep pets inside and away from scary visitors and the risk of escaping out the front door

#### **Be Seen**

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks, which can obstruct vision
- Carry glow sticks or flashlights
- When selecting a costume, choose the right size to prevent trips and falls

#### **Be Safe**

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Don't take shortcuts. Stay on sidewalks and in lighted areas
- Adults and kids...put down the smart phone!
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street
- Watch for turning cars or cars that are backing up. Never cross between parked cars
- Children under the age of 12 should trick or treat with an adult. Older kids should travel in groups, have a time to check in, and stick to familiar well-lit areas

### **Drivers Watch Out For Kids**

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully
- Eliminate any distractions and concentrate on the road
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn headlights on earlier in the day
- Be especially alert from 5:30-9:30 p.m. when kids are trick-or-treating