

A Safe Halloween is a Real Treat

Fall is upon us, which means Halloween is soon to follow. Princesses, superheroes, witches and zombies will invade the streets in search for sweet treats and delicious delights. At the same time, the days are growing shorter and the periods of darkness are starting earlier. And so pedestrian safety comes to the forefront. Here are some helpful tips for stay safe this Halloween.

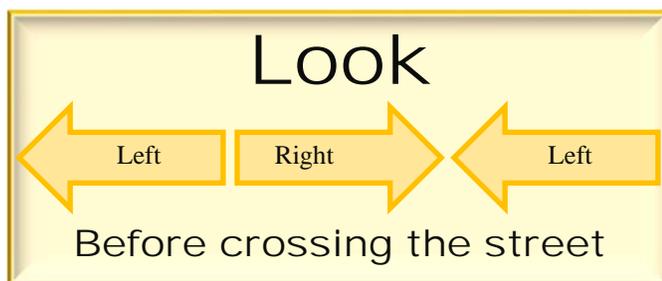
It's always best to trick-or-trick in a **group**. Never go by yourself.

Carry a **flashlight** and have **reflective tape** on your costume so drivers can better see you.

Use the **sidewalk** whenever one is available. Otherwise, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

Always cross the street at a **corner** and look **left, right and left** again. Obey **traffic signals**. Lift your **mask** while walking house to house, and never walk between **parked cars**.

Only visit homes where the **lights** are on.



When it comes to Halloween, adults often celebrate as much as kids. Remember, impairment begins with the first drink. Buzzed driving is drunk driving. Designate a **sober driver** before the party starts.

Safe Crossings

Halloween isn't the only time pedestrian safety matters.

Whether it's a quick trip down the block or jog around town for fitness, pedestrians should also take an active role in staying safe by following these rules:

- ◆ Cross only at crosswalks. Don't cross between parked cars.
- ◆ Wait for a gap in traffic, then step one foot off the curb or fully enter the crosswalk and make eye contact with approaching drivers.
- ◆ Look left, right then left again and keep looking.
- ◆ Always obey traffic signs and signals. Never try to beat the light.
- ◆ See and be seen — drivers need to see you to avoid you.
- ◆ Watch for turning vehicles at intersections, even if you have the right-of-way and are proceeding lawfully.
- ◆ Parents — Watch your children. Children can't judge a vehicle's speed and distance and need the help of an adult to be safe.
- ◆ Children — Follow the directions of your parent or adult guardian.
- ◆ On streets with multiple lanes, be aware of what drivers in both lanes are doing. If one driver is allowing you to cross, the other might not see you.

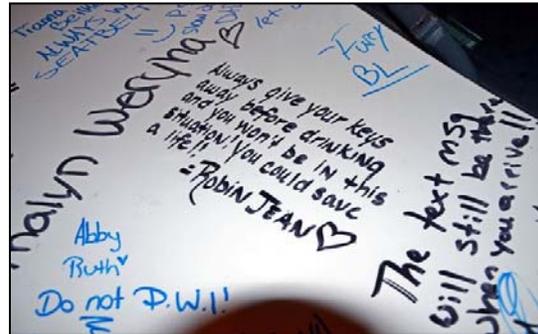
Week Focuses on Safe Teen Driving

National Teen Driver Safety Week is October 19 to 24. Schools across the region will take time out of the regular class schedule to draw the attention of teenage students to the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

PennDOT and its safety partners work all year long to encourage new and prospective drivers to take their responsibility seriously. That means no texting, speeding, horseplay, alcohol or other distractions.

To bring additional focus on the issue, demonstrations and displays are given at high schools during Safety Week. The events include the use a driving simulator that gives participants a feel for the consequences of impaired or distracted driving. There is also a memorial truck that shows the faces of people killed in DUI crashes. The program also has time for special speakers as well as the chance for students to sign a crashed car as a pledge not to drive while impaired or distracted.

www.OnlyDrivePA.com



A part of a crash car bears the messages written by people who have pledged to make safe driving decisions.



Two teens drive through a simulation course that shows users the possible ramifications of driving while using a cell phone or after being impaired by alcohol or drugs.

Passengers Can Be a Distraction

Did you know the chances of a teen driver being involved in a fatal crash increase with each teen or young adult passenger in the vehicle?

The American Medical Association found that teen drivers with one passenger in the vehicle were **39 percent** more likely to get into a crash.

When there are three or more passengers in the vehicle, the risk of a crash for a teen

driver increases by **182 percent**.

Most teen driver crashes are due to driver error caused by inexperience and distraction.

Carrying at least one passenger age 35 or older cuts a teen driver's risk of death by 62 percent and the risk of involvement in any police-reported crash by 46 percent, according to the American Automobile Association.

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