



Driving on Halloween



Safety tips for drivers

Kids love Halloween. Is there anything more fun for a child than to dress up in their favorite Halloween costume and stay up past their normal bedtime? With so many trick-or-treaters out at night, the potential for automobile related accidents with young pedestrians increase four times on this night according to a Centers for Disease Control (CDC) study.

Since children are preoccupied with the excitement of the night, motorists need to take extra precautions when driving on Halloween night. Here are a few tips to remember:

- Don't use a cell phone or other electronic device. Even with hands-free devices, a driver's attention is not totally focused on driving when talking on the phone.
- Drive below the posted speed limit in residential areas during trick-or-

treating hours. Kids are unpredictable and may not look before crossing the street.

- Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway. Children could be crossing the street, or parents may be dropping off children.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- The best way to avoid the hazards on October 31 is don't drive between 5:30 and 9:00 pm. This is the time when most trick-or-treaters will be on the street.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic, and turn on your headlights earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.



Halloween safety statistics

Halloween is one of the most anticipated nights of the year for kids. Safe Kids' research shows some scary statistics on Halloween Safety:

- Only 1/3 of parents talk to their kids annually about Halloween safety, although 3/4 report having safety fears.
- On average twice as many child pedestrians are killed while walking on Halloween compared to other days of the year.
- Only 18% of parents use reflective tape on their children's Halloween costumes.
- Twelve percent of children five years of age or younger are permitted to trick-or-treat alone.
- According to a National Safety Council (NSC) study darting or running into the road accounted for about 70% of pedestrian deaths or injuries for those age 5-9 and about 47 percent of incidents for those 10-14.

Keep your kids safe this Halloween by going over some safety rules with them before they head out the door.

Tips for trick-or-treaters



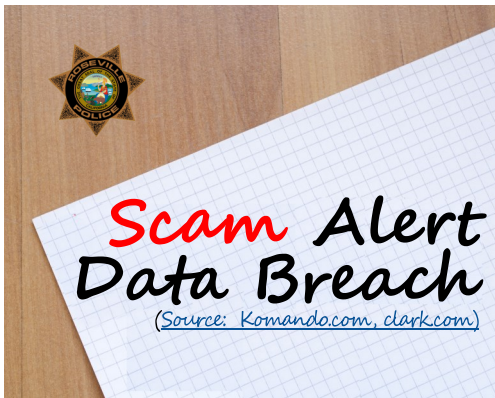
Safety tips before they go out

Before your child goes out trick-or-treating, make sure to go over some safety tips with him/her. Here are a few to get you started:

- Teach your children about not getting into strangers' cars or talking to strangers no matter what the person says to them.
- If your child is old enough to go out on Halloween with friends, make sure that your child has a pre-programmed cell phone with him/her. Make sure that all important numbers are already there and ready to use.
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep

head up and walk, don't run, across the street.

- If your older children are going out without an adult, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when you want them home.
- Tell your child to only go to homes with an outside light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing trick-or-treaters. Just because one car stops doesn't mean others will.
- Tell your child not to eat any of their treats until you have checked them.
- Law enforcement should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.



The Equifax data breach is one of the worst of all time. Critical information stolen includes Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses, and some driver's license and credit card numbers.

With so many people impacted, the Social Security Administration (SSA) is advising everyone to take the following steps to protect their Social Security number.



[youtube.com/watch?v=9DYVjKS-o](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9DYVjKS-o)

Open your personal my Social Security account

Creating your account today will take away the risk of someone else trying to create one in your name, even if they obtain your Social Security number.

Visit the my Social Security account home page (<https://www.ssa.gov/myaccount/>) and follow the directions to set up your account.

Critical steps to take after a data breach:

In the aftermath of data breaches, victims need to be on the lookout for even more problems. Scammers use the information they've stolen to target you with other scams. If your data was compromised, please take extra caution and watch out for the following schemes:

- **Keep an eye on your bank accounts** - You should already be

frequently checking your bank statements, looking for suspicious activity. It's even more critical when credit card data has been exposed through a data breach. If you see anything that seems strange, report it immediately.

- **Beware of phishing scams** - Scammers will try and piggyback on data breaches like this. They will create phishing emails, pretending to be from the affected company, hoping to get victims to click on malicious links that could lead to more problems.
- **Check your credit report**- (free at annualcreditreport.com). It's important to periodically check your reports to make sure everything is accurate and that there are no mistakes. The credit bureaus very often make errors, so you want to make sure they have everything right. Checking your credit reports is also the best way to check for any unauthorized activity. You may not even realize someone has gotten their hands on your information until you find an unauthorized bill or account in your name on your credit report. It's crucial that you keep up with your reports.

Credit freeze

If you suspect that your identity has been compromised, here's one essential step you can take to stop criminals from opening credit card accounts under your name.

A credit freeze, also known as a security freeze, allows you to restrict access to your credit reports and scores provided by the three major credit bureaus (Equifax, Experian, TransUnion).

Locking up your credit reports will prevent identity thieves from opening new accounts under your name even when they have managed to steal your personal information. Since lenders are required to check your credit report before they can approve a new application, a credit freeze can stop fraudulent accounts from being made at your expense.

How to set up a credit freeze

To freeze your credit reports, you need to contact each of the three credit reporting bureaus via phone or their online forms:

Equifax — 1-800-349-9960

Experian — 1-888-397-3742

TransUnion — 1-888-909-8872

Innovis — 1-800-540-2505 considered the 4th major credit bureau:

What a credit freeze can and can't do

- A credit freeze will prevent you from opening new credit accounts.
- A credit freeze will not affect your credit score.
- Although it keeps criminals from creating new accounts under your name, a credit freeze won't stop them from charging your existing accounts. Continue monitoring your accounts for fraud.
- You, your current creditors and their collection agents can still access your credit reports.
- You can temporarily lift a credit freeze for specific parties like potential landlords or employers. Lifting and reinstating a credit freeze often requires additional fees.
- You can still get your free annual credit reports even when a credit freeze is in effect.
- Court orders, subpoenas, and search warrants may still grant government agencies access to your credit reports.

If a credit freeze sounds too extreme for you due to the restrictions, try a fraud alert instead. The three credit card reporting bureaus all have free, 90-day initial fraud alerts. When a fraud alert is in place, businesses requesting credit reports must contact you and verify your identity before a new account can be made.



[youtube.com/watch?v=B2TifMaoMIM&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B2TifMaoMIM&feature=youtu.be)

Sources: Social Security Administration, Clark.com, Komando.com, Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), National Safety Council - Safe Kids

Police Department
1051 Junction Blvd.
Roseville CA 95678
(916) 774-5000
www.roseville.ca.us/police

Call 9-1-1
EMERGENCY
IN PROGRESS

Non-Emergency
(916) 774-5000 x 1

Abandoned Vehicle
Hotline
(916) 746-1022

Alarms/Alarm Permits
(916) 774-5093

Animal Control
(916)774-5090

Community Events &
Neighborhood Watch
(916) 774-5050
PDCommunityServices@roseville.ca.us

Graffiti Abatement
(916) 746-1021

Police News & Crime Alert
Emails:
www.roseville.ca.us/enotify

RCONA
(Roseville Coalition Of
Neighborhood Associations)
www.RCONA.org

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