

## *“Halloween Safety”*

It's that time of year again; you know that Halloween is not far away with the costumes on display and candy on sale. In preparation this Halloween, careful thought and planning should go into events you or your children may be participating in, such as a child's costume and how safe it may be for them as they excitedly rush about and the every lurking hazard of traffic could get young or old goblins in trouble fast. Both children and adults need to give extra attention to safety on this special night. To make sure your Halloween outing is fun and safe follow these tips:

- Trick-or-treat hours on base and in Jacksonville are from 1700 to 2100. Motorist please be extra cautious during these times.
- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars, enter/exit driveways slowly.
- If you are driving children, be sure they exit on the curb side, away from traffic.
- Make sure an adult will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Review safety precautions with your children, including pedestrian/traffic rules.
- Plan and discuss the route to follow and stop at houses that are well-lit, never enter a house.
- Parents can add reflectors to costumes or clothing.
- Falls are the leading cause of Halloween injuries, buy costumes that won't cause you to trip.
- Use facial make-up, it's safer than masks that obstruct vision, don't wear a mask while driving.
- Use flashlights so children can see and be seen by motorists, consider use of reflective materials.
- Knives, swords and other items should be made from cardboard or flexible materials.
- Only give or accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- Don't eat your treats until an adult checks them, report anything suspicious about treats to proper authorities; if in doubt, throw it out.
- Never go into a stranger's house.
- Be cautious of animals and people you don't know.
- For adult goblins on a frightening night out with friends have a plan and plan to be safe!

For you older goblins and ghouls going to parties or outings on Halloween night many of these tips still apply. Don't let others trick themselves into getting a DUI, injured or hurting someone else. Historically over 50% of traffic fatalities on Halloween are alcohol related. Make sure they are prepared and use ORM to have a safe and enjoyable Halloween.

**As Marines, Sailors and Civil Servants we live by our core values. So think before you jeopardize the safety of yourself, your fellow Marines, Sailors, civilian employees or family members, and remember SEMPER SAFE**