

OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF
FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Dave Phalen, Sheriff



PRESS RELEASE

Fairfield County Sheriff's Office
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For Immediate Release -- Sheriff's Office Cautions Citizens in Avoiding Dangerous Homes While Trick-or-Treating

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 28, 2013] With Halloween right around the corner, it is crucial that you know which houses your children should avoid when trick-or-treating. Sheriff Dave Phalen invites you to view our Web site at www.sheriff.fairfield.oh.us, research neighborhoods and addresses that are important to you, and register to receive e-mail notification on registered sex offenders within proximity of these addresses. The most beneficial aspect of the address monitoring feature is that once your important addresses and e-mail address have been registered, the system will automatically alert you via e-mail when an offender moves within a specified radius of the registered address. Register any and all addresses where your children spend a lot time; for example, friends, grandparents, or babysitters. Registering for this confidential e-mail alert service allows us to monitor your important addresses for you, thereby keeping you up-to-date of newly registered offenders and making it unnecessary for you to have to check these addresses daily or even weekly. While visiting our Web site you can also view and print important safety tips to review with your children. The e-mail notifications and discussing the various safety tips helps increase awareness.

It is the goal of our office to provide accurate information to the public regarding the dangers of sexual predators, and to further build community awareness. To help us achieve this goal we utilize *OffenderWatch* to manage, monitor the whereabouts, and conduct compliance checks of the registered sex offenders within our community. *OffenderWatch* is the nation's leading sex offender management and community notification tool and the Sheriff's Office began using this software solution in 2013. In that time period we have mailed out 3,096 sex offender postal notifications to our citizens and successfully enrolled 6,829 citizen e-mail addresses to receive real-time e-mail sex offender notifications. We are successful in achieving these results because *OffenderWatch* provides the most accurate and timely information available to the public.

"Community notification empowers you with the knowledge that can be used to protect yourself and your family from becoming victims. I firmly believe that the more educated and aware a community is of what and where the dangers lurk, the more success we have with our community notification program," stated Sheriff Phalen.

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For Immediate Release – Sheriff Offers Halloween Safety Tips

[Lancaster, Ohio, October 28, 2013] Fairfield County Sheriff Dave Phalen wants to remind citizens to drive carefully on the various Trick or Treat nights held throughout Fairfield County. The Fairfield County Sheriff's Office will have deputies in cruisers patrolling the county to help keep our children safe, and they also will be passing out candy. Our volunteer force of special deputies and mobile Community Watch will be assisting during this time.

Following is a reminder of safety rules parents should follow with their children while Trick or Treating:

1. A responsible adult should always accompany children ages 12 and under.
2. Ensure costumes fit well, are flame retardant, and never obscure visibility. Clothing should be reflective and children should carry a flashlight or glow stick.
3. Teach children to never enter any home without you or without your permission and only approach homes that are well-lit. Never take shortcuts, and never go into isolated areas. Fairfield County has 113 registered sex offenders. Check the Fairfield County Sheriff's Office Web site at www.sheriff.fairfield.oh.us to locate sex offenders in your neighborhood.
4. Teach children to say NO and GET AWAY from any person or situation making them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused; even if it means yelling, kicking, attracting attention or any other means of resisting. TRUST THEIR FEELINGS, and be sure to TELL a trusted adult.
5. Keep costumed children away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.
6. Observe safety rules when crossing or walking on streets, and stay clear of traffic. Avoid crossing major intersections.
7. Teach children to bring treats home before eating them. Eat only factory-wrapped treats unless you know the giver well.
8. Consider safe alternatives to Trick-or-Treating such as parties at home, schools, or community organized events.

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