

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



As parents, we want our kids to have a safe Halloween. By taking a few steps to check our nearby surroundings, we can all work to ensure that kids get to trick-or-treat in a safe environment. Check out the neighborhood safety checklist below provided by our friends at Fehr & Peers, a nationally-recognized leader in pedestrian safety planning. Have a happy and safe Halloween!

Neighborhood Walking Assessment Tour Checklist

| Sidewalks/ Walking Environment | Y/N |
|---|-----|
| Are tripping hazards created by cracks or uneven pavement? | |
| Does the sidewalk end or is it missing altogether? | |
| Are cars or other objects (utility poles, newspaper racks, etc.) blocking the sidewalk? | |
| Does the speed or amount of traffic make this location feel uncomfortable? | |
| Do you have personal safety concerns walking in this location? | |

Quick fix: Clear debris from your sidewalk and the path leading to your doorway. Be sure parked cars don't block the sidewalk. Move trash and recycle bins away from the curb. Use common household items, like "caution" signs taped to folding chairs, to warn of uneven sidewalks. Trim hedges and other landscaping that may block the sidewalk. For personal safety concerns, encourage your neighbors and local businesses to leave lights on and curtains open to provide more "eyes on the street."

Long Term fix: For sidewalk repairs, contact your local department of public works or dial 311 if available in your community. As a property owner, you may be responsible for repairs to the sidewalk in front of your home. You can also discuss with your local public works and city planning staff opportunities for traffic calming. Consider discussing your personal safety concerns with the police department as well as city planning staff.



Lighting Conditions

Y/N

Are your own porch and walkways well lit?

Are neighborhood streetlights burned out?

Are sections of the street very dark?

Quick fix: Enhance residential outdoor lighting with inexpensive, battery-powered wall push-lights or lights with a clamp for fences or railings. You can even replace your green and red holiday lights with orange bulbs!

Long Term fix: For street lights, contact your city's public works department and request broken or blinking lights to be changed out. You can also request additional lighting (and lighting that is designed for a pedestrian rather than a car) to be installed.

Traffic Signs and Signals

Y/N

Do trees or other objects block signs or traffic signals?

Are "walk" push buttons broken at traffic signals?

Do you have to rush to cross at traffic signals?

Do drivers tend to roll through stop signs or run red lights?

Do pedestrians disobey traffic signals or jaywalk?

Quick fix: Trim bushes, trees and other growth away from traffic signs and corners. Contact your local public works department for bigger landscape maintenance jobs. Consider sending photos with your request. Contact the public works department as well to repair broken push buttons. Consider speaking with the police department to request additional enforcement of traffic laws. To reduce speed and traffic levels, consider how your personal contribution can affect the situation: try to drive less and make sure to watch your speed.

Long Term fix: If a traffic sign is unreadable, contact your local public works department to repair or replace the sign. You can also discuss opportunities for increasing your time to cross at a traffic signal with the public works department.

Crosswalks

Y/N

Do trees, cars or other objects block visibility of the crosswalk?

Is the crosswalk paint faded?

Are painted crosswalks missing for locations where you want to cross the street?

Do drivers fail to stop for you in the crosswalk?

Do you feel uncomfortable because of a long crossing or high-speed traffic?

Are ramps missing at either end of the crosswalk?

Quick fix: Make eye contact with drivers when crossing the road (and with pedestrians when you are a driver). Wear bright clothing, especially when walking at night. Cross behind buses and beware that you may not be visible behind parked cars or landscaping.

Long Term fix: If crosswalks need a fresh coat of paint or ramps need to be updated, call your city's public works department. Request installation of additional painted crosswalks if a painted crosswalk is not available at locations where you frequently cross. Discuss opportunities for enhanced crosswalks (with flashing lights, etc.) as well as traffic calming with the public works department. If drivers are not yielding to pedestrians, consider talking to the police department to request additional enforcement. Work with city staff (planning, public works, and/or the police department) to request an educational campaign on crosswalk laws and pedestrian safety in your city.



Additional resources available at www.fehrandpeers.com/CLIFKid.

