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**NEWS RELEASE**

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**Milledgeville PD Offer Halloween Safety Tips**

With Halloween just days away, Milledgeville Police Chief Dray Swicord says now is the time for parents to talk to their children about trick-or-treat safety.

“We know kids look forward to trick-or-treating, but it’s also our responsibility to keep children safe,” he said. “It’s important that parents talk to them before the night of Halloween so they can assist our officers in making sure everyone has a safe night.”

Trick-or-treating in the City of Milledgeville is slated for Wednesday, Oct. 31, from 5-8 p.m.

According to Swicord, pedestrian safety is extremely essential to a safe Halloween trick-or-treating experience.

“There is a fine line between Halloween fun and safety, especially when it comes to road and pedestrian safety. Both pedestrians and drivers should be mindful of each other. Drivers should be extra careful as there may be a higher number of pedestrians on Halloween and pedestrians should always use crosswalks and not cross anywhere other than a crosswalk,” he said.

“Children should stay within familiar areas and surroundings,” Swicord added. “Also, parents should establish a route for children ahead of time.”

Children are more than twice as likely to be hit and killed by a car on Halloween than on any other day of the year, according to Safe Kids Worldwide, a nonprofit that focuses on preventing childhood injuries.

MPD’s traffic experts advise motorists to watch for children walking along roadways and curbs, and to enter and exit driveways carefully. Also, at twilight and late evening, drivers should watch for children in dark clothing. Officers are also encourage parents to either have bright colors on their kids' costumes or add some type of reflective tape - to help drivers be aware of those out trick-or-treating.

In 2015, about 6,700 pedestrian deaths and 160,000 medically consulted injuries occurred among pedestrians in motor vehicle incidents, according to *Injury Facts 2017*, the statistical report on unintentional injuries created by the National Safety Council. NSC research reveals about 17% of these deaths occurred when pedestrians improperly crossed roads or intersections. Lack of visibility because of low lighting or dark clothing accounted for about 15% of the deaths.

If you are planning on welcoming trick-or-treaters to your home, follow these safety steps:

- Sweep leaves from your sidewalks and steps
- Clear your porch or front yard of obstacles someone could trip over
- Restrain your pets
- Light the area well so the young visitors can see

By following these safety tips, emergency personnel guarantee a safe Halloween experience for everyone.

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