

CORNER



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Trick-or-Treat Safety

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little scary. Concerns about children's safety – whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bags of goodies – can cast a spell on the evening's festivities. Kelly's Crime Corner is here to help! Following a few safety tips will ensure that Halloween will be a "howling" good time for all!

- Try to trick-or-treat when there is still light outside.
- Wear a costume that makes it easy for you to walk, see, and be seen.
- If you must go at night, make sure that your costume is light in color.
- Carry a flashlight with you, so you can see and be seen easily.
- A mask may keep you from seeing well. Take off your mask before crossing the street.
- Use makeup instead of a mask.
- Ask your parents, older brother or sister to trick-or-treat with you.
- If someone older cannot go with you, trick-or-treat with a group.
- Plan your trick-or-treat route ahead of time. Pick well-lighted streets.
- Cross only at corners. NEVER cross between parked cars or mid-block.
- Tell your family on which streets you will be trick-or-treating.
- If there are no sidewalks, always walk facing traffic.
- Wait until you get home to sort, check, and eat your treats!

Following these tips can help your family stay safe this Halloween!

Happy  Halloween

E-cigarettes and Teen Use



What is an “e-cigarette”?

An e-cigarette (electronic cigarette) is an electronic inhaler whose use simulates and substitutes some aspects of tobacco smoking. It is usually sold with liquid nicotine (also known as e-liquid) or nicotine cartridges and can come in various flavors. E-cigarettes are marketed as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco smoking. But is it really safer?

E-cigarettes are thought to be safer because you get rid of the danger to the heart and lungs. But what about the brain?

In a study published in the New England Journal of Medicine, researchers at Columbia University found that, like conventional cigarettes, electronic cigarettes may function as a “gateway drug” that can prime the brain to be more receptive to harder drugs.

Columbia researchers found that e-cigarettes have the same physiological effects on the brain and may pose the same risk of addiction to other drugs as regular cigarettes, especially in adolescence during a critical period of brain development.

Dr. Aruni Bhatnagar of the University of Louisville, who was not involved in the study, found that “once mice and rats are on nicotine, they are more addicted to cocaine” after being introduced to the drug. “If we don’t have strict laws on youth access and marketing for e-cigarettes, we may fuel an entire new generation of people on nicotine, and that will be a gateway drug for the use of other drugs,” Bhatnagar said.

What are the laws regarding teens and e-cigarettes in California?

California Penal Code Section 308(b) states:

“Every person under the age of 18 years who purchases, receives, or possesses any tobacco, cigarette, or cigarette papers, or any other preparation of tobacco, or any other instrument or paraphernalia that is designed for the smoking of tobacco, products prepared from tobacco, or a controlled substance, shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of seventy-five dollars (\$75) or 30 hours of community service work.”