

## Halloween Safety Tips from Fred Neglia, Director of Public Safety



Celebrating Halloween in College is so much fun. At this age, it's not about trick or treating anymore, it's about the Costume Parties! To make sure that you and your friends have fun and stay safe this Halloween, follow these simple safety tips to make sure that your good time is a safe time...

### For the safety of yourself and others:

- If staying in a residence hall and inviting friends to crash, be sure you check the rules on having guests that weekend, as the usual rules that apply may be changed during Halloween.
- Don't wear a costume that includes anything that could be confused with a real weapon.
- Don't wear anything that could be taken as impersonating a police officer, and don't wear anything too risqué. Remember, the goal of your costume isn't to make it scary-short or scary-revealing... just scary!
- If of legal drinking age, don't leave your drink unattended, and never accept a drink from someone you don't know.
- Don't walk alone at night; travel in a group at all times and never travel with someone you don't know.
- If you and your friends are attending a party at another College Campus, make sure you know your way around campus, and have a plan with your friends.
- DO NOT leave each other or get separated, set a time and location of where to meet at the end of the night. Have an emergency backup plan if someone gets separated, cell phone battery dies, or has drunk too much.
- Know where you're staying and where the campus security office can be found. Even if you think you know the campus and where you are, it's easy to get turned around after a few drinks. Trust us...it will happen.
- Put an emergency number in your cell phone such as campus security, your friend's number and maybe even your friend's roommate. If you get lost or separated, you'll want to know who to call. Also, carry your cell phone on you at all times.

***REMEMBER IF YOU GO TOGETHER, YOU LEAVE TOGETHER!***

### If you are of legal US drinking age...

- Don't drink to excess. The point is to have fun, not be the drunkest one at the party. Plus your friends want to have fun too, not be your babysitter.
- Watch your drink at ALL times, DO NOT drink anything out of a punch bowl, DO NOT drink anything that someone hands you. Bring your OWN drinks, or make sure you watch the drink being poured. **When in doubt, pour it out.** Date Rape Drugs are very real-especially in large crowded parties.
- If you find yourself at a party where you don't know a lot of people or the crowd seems sketchy, grab your friends and get **out**. Call it a night or go to a party with more of your friends and people you know. Trust your instincts and get you and your friends out of there. Better safe than sorry.
- Carry a flashlight. At least one person in your group should have a flashlight handy. It will make you more visible to passing cars on a dark street.

**Keep these guidelines in mind and enjoy a fun, safe, Halloween.**