

# News Release



Liz Peters Ph: (204) 262.6039(o) Ph: (204) 797.4326(c) Email: lizp@caamanitoba.com

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For Immediate Release

## Halloween night brings distractions for motorists, children alike

When goblins, ghosts and superheroes take to the streets for trick-or-treating Thursday, CAA reminds motorists to be extra careful when driving, especially in residential areas.

“Kids are unpredictable at the best of times – and on Halloween, trick-or-treaters are focused on candy and fun – not road safety,” said Liz Peters, CAA Manitoba Public and Government Affairs Manager. “Drivers need to be extra cautious when driving on Halloween.”

According to Manitoba Public Insurance’s 2011 Traffic Collision Statistics Report, the majority of pedestrian accidents happen when a pedestrian is:

1. At an intersection with the right of way (44%)
2. At an intersection without the right of way (10%)
3. Between intersections, crossing the roadway (12%)
4. Running into the roadway (7%)

On Halloween night, kids are often crossing at uncontrolled intersections and can be wearing costumes that aren’t visible after dusk. CAA recommends drivers follow a few simple defensive driving tips for Halloween night:

- Slow down. Driving 10 km/hr slower than the posted speed limit will decrease your braking time if kids dart out in front of you,
- Watch carefully when passing parked cars in case kids are crossing between them,
- Give pedestrians the right of way

To help motorists, CAA encourages parents to:

- Remind children about how to cross the street safely
- Dress children so they are visible to motorists (**CAA is distributing FREE reflector lights at each branch from now until Halloween**)
- Drop off and pick up children in a safe location. Ensure they exit curbside and are away from traffic

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