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LPD offers tips for safe, fun Halloween

SUBMITTED BY THE LEWISTON POLICE DEPARTMENT

Each year, Halloween is traditionally celebrated with trick-or-treating and parties – and candy and drinks. Unfortunately, the night often includes drunken drivers on the streets and distracted drivers as well. The Lewiston Police Department will have extra patrols on policing our ghouls and goblins. Here are some tips for you to keep Halloween safe.

Safety tips for drivers

√ Be alert for trick-or-treaters on Halloween. Slow down and continue to scan the road in areas where they are likely to be or where sight distances are limited.

√ On Halloween, there will likely be more pedestrians on the roads and in places where they are not expected. Slower speeds save lives.

√ Stay alert for pedestrians who may come out from between parked cars or behind shrubbery. Stop; wait for them to pass.

√ Don't look at your phone when you're driving. Your attention needs to always be on the road.

√ If you see a drunken driver on the road, contact law enforcement.



Safety tips for pedestrians

√ Walk on a sidewalk, if one is available, and use crosswalks.

√ Before the Halloween festivities begin, create a "buddy system" to get each other home safely and prevent walking alone.

√ Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.

√ Look left, right, and left again when crossing, and keep looking as you cross.

√ Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

√ Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.

√ Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.

√ Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars. Trick or treat with an adult.

√ Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and trick or treat in groups.

Tips for party hosts

Be a responsible party host and take action to make sure guests get home safely.

√ Serve plenty of food and provide nonalcoholic beverage options.

√ Collect car keys from guests who are drinking. √ Prepare to call taxis, rideshares, provide sleeping accommodations, or – if you're sober – drive guests home yourself.

Remember that social host liability laws may hold you responsible for parties where underage people drink – regardless of who furnishes the alcohol – and you could be held legally responsible for your guests' behavior after they leave your party.

Erie County

Erie County working toward HEARTSafe Community designation

Submitted by Deputy Erie County Executive Lisa Chimera

In September, I joined Erie County Executive Mark Poloncarz, Commissioner of Health Dr. Gale Burstein, and our community partners to share our goal of making Erie County a HEARTSafe Community by 2025. October is recognized as Sudden Cardiac Arrest Awareness Month. Here in Erie County, we have prioritized sharing heart health information and education through social media and traditional media. Promoting heart health and lifesaving skills are just one component necessary to becoming a HEARTSafe community.

The HEARTSafe designation reflects a commitment to saving lives through effective preparation, enhancing our community's ability to respond swiftly to sudden cardiac emergencies.

In addition to training at least 15% of the community in hand-

only CPR, we are working to increase access to automated external defibrillators (AEDs), and fostering public awareness. This initiative aligns with Live Well Erie's mission of improving overall cardiovascular health and ensuring rapid, effective action in times of need.

Partnering with the county on this initiative are the American Heart Association (AHA), the Buffalo Bills and UBMD Orthopaedics & Sports Medicine doctors. We know that we can not achieve this goal alone. I thank all who have been involved, including Tom Lowe of the American Heart Association, Dr. Leslie J. Bisson from UBMD, and Michelle Roberts from the Buffalo Bills Foundation.

But now we need you! I encourage everyone to participate in a hands-only CPR training. This can be done in person, or even by watching a short video clip. To be counted in our total, go to www3.

erie.gov/health/heartsafe-video, watch the video and enter your ZIP code into the attached form. A Spanish language version is also available.

In-person trainings are also available through the Erie County Department of Health (ECDOH) Office of Public Health Emergency Preparedness (PHEP), and our community partners. To learn more, or to register for an upcoming training, visit www.erie.gov/heartsafe.

We have also been able to offer "pop-up"-style trainings at community events, including the Buffalo Bills home opener! Thank you to fans who stopped by the Billeverd to learn this skill from our AHA and UBMD trainers. Keep an eye on our Erie County social media channels (Facebook: Erie County, NY or Twitter/X: @ErieCountyNY) for upcoming trainings.

Another way that you can help us reach this goal is by entering

the UBMD AED registration contest for a chance to win prizes up to \$1,000! Your help spotting and registering AEDs ensures that 911 dispatchers can easily direct callers to a nearby AED, in addition to having these locations visible via a Google search, and through the smartphone app "Pulse Point."

You'll first need to enroll with Cardiac Crusaders, a nonprofit founded by Western New York native and sudden cardiac arrest survivor Julie Coon and her husband, Greg. After signing up, we ask you to watch a 20-minute video to become an AED location verifier.

Winners will be announced Feb. 14, 2025. For more details, visit www.ubmdems.com/aed-contest.

We look forward to reaching this goal and to making Erie County a healthy and safe place for all!

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