



Louisiana Highway Safety Commission News Release
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Halloween 2026: Don't let Trick or Treat turn into a nightmare—Drive Safe!

Oct. 28, 2026 – As Halloween approaches, the Louisiana Highway Safety Commission reminds all drivers to watch out for little ghosts and goblins on Saturday night, so Trick or Treat doesn't turn into a nightmare.

Many communities in Louisiana set their own trick-or-treat hours, generally from 5:30 p.m. to about 8 p.m. During that time, drivers should be on the lookout for children running into the streets as they go door-to-door for treats.

"These children are looking for candy bars, not trucks and cars," LHSC Executive Director Lisa Freeman said. "As drivers, we must look out for them."

Drivers should focus on their driving, especially while going through residential neighborhoods during trick-or-treating hours, Freeman said. Slow down around parked cars in case a child emerges from the other side and isn't visible until they're in the street.

"Even if you're driving through a sparsely populated area, you never know where a child may pop up on Halloween," Freeman said. "Drive as though you know your own children are in the area."

For parents of trick-or-treaters, Freeman said the key is to make children as visible as possible.

"Trick or treaters and their parents should have some type of flashlight with them to improve their visibility," she said. "Bright colors, glowing bracelets and reflective tape on shoes make it much easier for oncoming traffic to see you."

Halloween safety isn't confined to children. In 2025, 16 people in Louisiana were killed in motor vehicle crashes during the Halloween period, the same as the combined number of people killed during the Carnival and New Year's Eve holidays, according to data from the Center for Analytics and Transportation Safety at LSU.

Of those 16 people who died on Halloween, 3 were killed in alcohol-related crashes, according to the CARTS statistics. Another 639 people were injured during last year's Halloween holiday.

Adults who plan to take in a Saturday night party should identify a designated driver or plan to hire a ride home if drinking is part of the itinerary.

"If you aren't drinking alcohol, please consider being a designated driver," Freeman said. "You can be a treat to everyone by doing a good deed and helping to keep people safe."

If you are hosting a Halloween party, offer plenty of non-alcoholic drinks besides water. This not only keeps the drink options more interesting for those who aren't drinking, it serves as a small reward for those who decided to be a designated driver.

Here are some recipes for some Halloween mocktails, non-alcoholic drinks a host can make to add a touch of fun to an adult party:

- **Blood Cherry Punch:** Pour one 64-ounce bottle of cherry or cranberry-cherry juice into a large punch bowl. Add 32 ounces of ginger ale, $\frac{1}{4}$ cup lemon juice, 1 tablespoon grenadine, 2 cups of frozen cherries and 1 orange, cut into chunks. Stir and serve.
- **Candy Corn Float:** Rim a pint glass with an orange wedge and yellow sanding sugar. Place two scoops of coconut sherbet or sorbet in glass and gently add chilled orange soda. Top with whipping cream and sprinkle with more sanding sugar.
- **Fall in a Goblet:** In a punch bowl or beverage container, add 4 cups apple cider, $1\frac{1}{2}$ cups pumpkin puree, $\frac{1}{2}$ cup orange juice, $\frac{1}{2}$ teaspoon mulling spices and a splash of cream soda. Blend well and serve in a goblet with a cinnamon stick.

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