



Mercer County Sheriff's Office

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Trick or Treat Safety

Ohio Sheriffs offer a unified community awareness program alerting citizens in avoiding "at risk" homes inhabited by sex offenders.

In addition to monitoring your child's candy take on Halloween night, be sure to know which doors not to knock on. Across Ohio there are approximately 20,000 registered sex offenders, and Halloween can be an opportune time for one of them to become acquainted with your family. Ohio Sheriffs are mandated to know the whereabouts of offenders and to make the offender information available to the public; "Sheriffs do the best they can to make sure sex offenders live where they tell us," says Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association Executive Director Robert Cornwell, so it is especially important that Ohio residents come to our web site to see who is living in their neighborhood. Anyone coming to the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association web site or their local Sheriff's Office website can look up an address and find a list of registered offenders living within one mile of any address in Ohio. Director Cornwell says when you use the address feature found on the web site to see where an offenders live in your trick-or-treat area, you will know which houses and neighbors to avoid. Take the time to identify those offenders in the community so that your family knows who may be of risk to your child's safety."

Additionally, when you enroll for the address monitoring system on the web site, the program will automatically alert you via an email when an offender moves within one mile of the address you specified. The alerts are sent out via an e-mail messaging service as soon as the offender is registered. Director Cornwell says signing up for this confidential alert service allows you to stay informed of new registered offenders in your area.

The web site for the Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association is www.buckeyesheriffs.org Citizens should click the link "sex offender search" and follow the instructions to check their neighborhood and sign up for email alerts. Citizens will also find a link to their local sheriff's office website.

The Buckeye State Sheriffs' Association and your local sheriff urge everyone to have a fun and safe Halloween. Knowledge about any offenders in your area can help you make the best choices for an enjoyable Halloween.

For further information, please call your local sheriff's office.

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