



For Immediate Release

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TIME CHANGE MAKES HALLOWEEN DRIVING TRICKY With Pedestrian Accidents Up, Motorists Encouraged to Take Special Precautions This Halloween

Drivers shouldn't count on glowing pumpkins to light the roads this Halloween. With pedestrian fatalities on the rise in California, the weekend time change can make driving even more perilous this All Hallows Eve.

Statewide, pedestrian deaths rose by 5 percent from 2020 to 2021, and pedestrians accounted for more than 18 percent of all traffic-related fatalities last year, according to the Surface Transportation Policy Project. Combined with the end of Daylight Savings Time Sunday, these trends make for potentially deadly conditions if trick-or-treaters and motorists don't look out for each other.

Statistics indicate that pedestrian fatalities quadruple when Daylight Savings Time ends – and the number of pedestrian deaths among children is four times higher on Halloween than any other night of the year, due to increased pedestrian traffic.

“Safety is a two-way street,” said Omar Morales, spokesperson for the Insurance Information Network of California. “Drivers and pedestrians must both do their part to make this a safe and happy Halloween.”

Parents can help keep their children from becoming one of the 90,000 pedestrians injured every year with some simple safety tips:

Trick-or-treaters:

- An adult should accompany kids during all trick-or-treat activities.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and bags, and carry a flashlight and extra batteries.
- Avoid costume masks. Makeup allows for better vision.

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- Look both ways before crossing the street and listen for cars.
- If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the street facing cars.
- Use crosswalks and don't jaywalk or enter street from between parked cars.
- Carry emergency identification and know that 911 can be dialed from any phone.

Drivers:

- Make sure headlights are functioning prior to driving at night.
- Always obey traffic laws and yield to pedestrians.
- Enter and exit driveways and crosswalks with caution.
- Be alert for kids entering the street from between parked cars.
- Never drink and drive.

The Insurance Information Network of California is a non-profit, non-lobbying communications association representing the property/casualty industry. For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact media relations at (800) 397-1679 or visit our Web site at www.iinc.org.

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