

Halloween safety urged

With Halloween only two days away, officials of area public safety agencies and private organizations have completed preparations for beggar's night.

In Council Bluffs, members of the Council Bluffs Band Busters, an amateur radio club, will patrol the city on Halloween in an attempt to keep children safe.

About 15 cars with signs identifying drivers as Band Buster members will begin patrolling the city about 5 p.m..

Club members will use citizens' band radios in their cars to contact a base where other members will call police if help is needed. Two police officers will also use CB radios to monitor any situation that might occur.

Sgt. Tim Thompson of the Pottawattamie County Sheriff's Department said the number of sheriff's vehicles patrolling on Halloween will more than double.

Officials at Mercy Hospital Emergency Services have offered the following safety suggestions for area children:

- Wear light-colored clothing short enough to prevent tripping. Reflectors should be added to clothing items.
- Make sure children can see well through face masks.
- Young children should be accompanied.
- Children should trick-or-treat during daylight hours but should carry a flashlight in case they are out until dark.
- Children should remain within their own neighborhood and visit only homes they know.
- Children should watch for traffic.
- Adults should give, and children should accept, only wrapped or packaged candy.
- Parent should examine candy before allowing children to eat it.



Dave and Angie Phillips of Council Bluffs lead their daughter, Amber, 7, and friend, Erin Struck, 7, through smoke and down steps in the Squirrel Cage Jail Haunted House. Henchman Frank DiBiasi and Meredith Koefler threaten. Chairperson Sharon Bryant estimated more than 2,000 people would tour

the jail this weekend. Proceeds benefit the Council Bluffs Historical Society. Admission is \$2.50 for adults, \$1.50 for children 13 and under and children under three are admitted free. Hours are 7-10 p.m. through Tuesday. Erin Struck is the daughter of Mark and DeAnne Struck of Council Bluffs.

Nonpareil photo by Dan Koenig