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EMERGENCY 9 - 1 - 1



In light of the recent luring incidents throughout Bergen County the Garfield Police Department would like to remind residents to remain vigilant for suspicious activity and parents to discuss stranger safety with your children.

With Halloween, "Trick or Treat" activities approaching, we offer these simple and basic safety tips for your awareness, and especially for your children. Parents should teach their children:

- 1.) Never to go anywhere with a stranger, even if the person says a parent sent them or should they call the child by his/her first name. Children should always check with a parent before accepting a ride from anyone.
- 2.) When outside, always walk with at least one other person whenever it is possible.
- 3.) When outside of the home, do not wear clothing, backpacks or other articles with the child's name visible on it. Children are more likely to trust someone who calls to them by name.
- 4.) Stay more than an adult arm's length away from any car that may pull up alongside of them. Keeping a safe distance, will prevent someone from being able to grab the child and pull them inside of the car.
- 5.) If someone ever encourages him or her to get into a car, to help find a lost pet, or to leave with them for any reason, he/she should yell "NO" as loudly as possible to get attention, and run from the area, seeking the closest adult whom they know and trust. Yelling "No," indicates the child has been prepared for the situation.
- 6.) Run in the opposite direction from which the car is facing. It will provide added distance between them.
- 7.) Ensure children know their full name, address and the "best" phone number (including area code) to call in case they need to contact a parent/caregiver during an emergency.
- 8.) Older children should be taught to pay attention to details such as, color, make & model of the vehicle and/or its license plate (state and number), the physical characteristics of the person(s), and where he/she was when approached. If they have a cell phone, they should immediately call 9-1-1 to report the incident.