



# YORKVILLE POLICE DEPARTMENT NEIGHBORHOOD WATCH NEWSLETTER

October 2010

## Farm Equipment Traffic Safety

With the fall now upon us, and the harvest season in full swing, the Yorkville Police Department would like to remind the motoring public that slower moving farm equipment will be present on the roadways.



If you live, work or commute through an area populated with farm fields, drive with caution, especially during fall harvest seasons.

A few rural road safety considerations:

- **Slow down as soon as you spot a piece of farm equipment.** In fact, if you see something ahead that is neither car nor truck, slow down--at least until you have identified the object.
- **Watch for hand signals.** Just because a tractor veers right does not mean the operator is pulling over for you to pass. The sheer size of farm equipment often dictates the necessity of wide turns--hence the veer right. If a tractor operator is signaling you to wait, trust him. He has a much higher vantage point than you.
- **Be aware of the triangular Slow-moving-Vehicle (SMV) sign.** Only use SMV signs on slow moving vehicles, not to

mark driveways or for other non-vehicular uses. Not only are these actions illegal in many areas, they devalue the purpose of SMV signs, putting producers at risk when moving equipment.

- **Watch for flashing amber lights.** This type of light often marks the far right and left of farm equipment. Also watch for reflective tape marking extremities and sides of equipment.
- **Do not speed past farm machinery.** Even when you may pass safely and legally, the turbulence created by your vehicle may cause the machinery to sway and become unstable.
- **Do not pull out in front of slow moving vehicle and then slow suddenly.** A tractor pulling a grain cart does not have the maneuverability of a car. Make sure you have ample space to pass. As with any passing operation, check the rear-view mirror before returning to your travel lane.

### Trick or Treat!

"That's the phrase shouted with glee by many a youngster across the country every Halloween night. But before your ghosts and goblins trick or treat this year, parents should keep in mind these trick or treating safety tips to make sure the only howls are those of fun.

Trick or treating safety tips for youngsters:

- **Have each child carry or wear something lit,** such as a flashlight, glow bracelet or necklace, or flashing attire for visibility. Light-up shoes are also practical and ever-so-noticeable on a dark Halloween night.
- **Adults should plan out a route in advance** and check it during the daylight for such obstacles as broken sidewalks (or no sidewalks), construction timber, or other obstacles that could trip up trick or treaters'. Trick or treat in familiar neighborhoods or areas.
- **Require well-fitting shoes** to be worn; preferably sneakers. While adorable in the store as a costume accessory, kids planning to go trick or treat should wear sturdy shoes and not the princess high-heel, too-large boots, or other types of shoes often shown with costumes. Save those types of shoes for costume parties and not when a child is going trick or treating.
- **Avoid costumes that drag on the ground.** While cute initially, costumes that drag can trip up little feet, get caught on bushes, and create a tussle that sometimes results in the child wanting to remove the costume. Remember, kids who trick or treat want to be costumed AND comfortable.

- With the thought of comfort, **pick costumes that are bathroom-friendly as well.** On this same subject, parents should pre-plan a bathroom stop along the way (a friend's house will do and is a good time for a water break as well), or at a public facility if driving.
- **Be sure a child's mask allows full visibility and breathing.** Spiderman masks, for example, sometimes only have small eye slits and nothing for the nose or mouth. Parents should try on masks for size and not hesitate to cut out larger openings for a trick or treaters' comfort. If possible, find a mask that "breathes" and is easy to put on and off. The types of mask that easily can slide up on the head and then pulled down are best.
- **Trick or treaters' should walk,** not run, and should never cut across lawns or driveways. Obstacles could exist that aren't readily visible in the evening.
- **Only carry flexible props,** such as knives, swords, ninja items, etc., that can't cause injury if a kid accidentally falls. No play prop should resemble the real item; and consider leaving play weapons at home and not part of trick or treat night. Remember, some individuals are offended by seeing small children carry these items; and trick or treating should be a fun and positive experience for everyone.
- **Only trick or treat at houses that are lit.** Residents who do not wish to be bothered by trick or treaters often leave off their lights as a sign; respect their preference by only going to houses that are lit.

- **Be sure kids don't get overheated and keep hydrated.** Plan costumes according to weather; don't have your child dress in an adorable lions costume with heavy fur and hood if you live in Southern states where temperatures could still be in the 80s in the evening; by the same token, a fairy costume might be impractical for a cold northern evening. Be one of those creative parents who accessorizes jackets or thinks "cool comfort" for their kids.
- **Think "practical" over "cute" when picking a trick or treat goody bag or container.** Some of seemingly-fun ones sold in stores are heavy--before any treats are added; others are too long and will drag the ground or have sharp edges that could scrape against tender skin. One of the best and simplest suggestions is have kids utilize a backpack to keep their hands free except for perhaps a flashlight.
- **Keep track of time and don't trick or treat after 7 p.m.** That allows ample time for children to trick or treat, and by then, the excitement of the evening and the candy/treats mean little ghouls will be tired, anyhow.

### **Halloween Trick or Treat Hours**

Halloween Trick or Treat hours in the United City Yorkville are from 4-7 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 31. For additional information contact Yorkville's Police Department at 630-553-4340.

### **Car & Residential Burglaries**

The Yorkville Police Department would again like to remind **ALL** residents to limit the opportunities for criminals by locking the doors to their vehicles and residents.

### **Congratulations!**

Congratulations to Lt. Don Schwartzkopf who is one of two hundred seventy two law enforcement officers who graduated on September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2010 from the FBI National Academy Program at Quantico, Virginia. The 242<sup>nd</sup> Session of the National Academy consisted of men and women from 49 states. Included in the class are members of law enforcement from 26 countries, five military organizations, and four federal civilian organizations.

Internationally known for its academic excellence, the National Academy Program, held at the FBI Academy, offers 10 weeks of advanced investigative, management, and fitness training for selected officers having proven records as professionals within their agencies. On average, these officers have 19 years of law enforcement experience and usually return to their agencies to serve in executive-level positions.

Training for the program is provided by FBI Academy instructional staff, Special Agents, and other staff members holding advanced degrees, many of whom are recognized internationally in their fields of expertise.

Since 1972, National Academy students have been able to earn undergraduate and graduate credits from the University of Virginia due to the accreditation by the university of the many courses offered.

A total of 44,015 graduates now represent the FBI National Academy since it began in July 1935. Of this number, approximately 26,503 are still active in law enforcement work.

