

Supporting Residents and Local Retailers

Safer Neighbourhoods teams asked for local retailers' help by urging them to be responsible and not to sell eggs and flour to under 16-year-olds in the weeks running up to Halloween.

These items are often used as ammunition to attack property and passing vehicles and in some cases used to attack people. Not only does this cause criminal damage, but also causes a great deal of distress and anxiety, particularly to vulnerable groups.

All Safer Neighbourhoods teams distributed credit-card sized leaflets to young people providing advice on how to stay safe and behave considerately over the Halloween and firework period.

Halloween can be harmless fun, but sometimes members of the community can become distressed by unexpected callers. The behaviour of some trick or treaters can also be intimidating and even criminal. The Met produced posters for people who do not want to receive 'Trick or Treat' callers.

Those who do not wish to be visited by 'Trick or Treat' callers can display the poster on their premises.

The poster and other advice for Halloween and Fireworks night can be found at met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods



Read more about the work of Safer Neighbourhoods teams and find your local team at www.met.police.uk/saferneighbourhoods

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Information Update

October 2007 – Halloween & Fireworks Night

Safer Celebrations for London Communities

The Metropolitan Police's Safer Neighbourhoods teams worked closely with partner agencies and the local community to tackle the anti-social behaviour (ASB) associated with Halloween and Fireworks Night, helping everyone to safely enjoy the festivities.

Working in partnership with the London Anti-social Behaviour Board and Joint Action Group, Safer Neighbourhoods teams were part of a co-ordinated pan-London campaign. The initiative aimed to:

- Reduce the ASB associated with the Halloween and firework period across London
- Increase awareness of firework safety, and reduce the number of firework related injuries

- Co-ordinate efforts to reduce anti-social use of fireworks at a local level, strengthen enforcement work, reassure local communities and increase quality of life and feelings of safety
- Highlight and promote the initiatives that are already making a difference in reducing the anti-social behaviour associated with Halloween and fireworks
- Contribute towards reducing levels of other crime types such as robbery and domestic burglary.

The initiative will run up until Monday 12 November 2007 to take account of Diwali celebrations.

Action in London:

Every London borough engaged in this initiative, with a wide variety of action taking place on a local level across the Capital. Every Safer Neighbourhoods team in London extended their regular working hours to cover peak periods and engage with young people in their borough to deter unwanted behaviour and provide crime prevention and safety advice.

A range of partnership activity took place across boroughs which including:

- School and youth club visits to raise awareness around staying safe on the streets during the Halloween and firework period, the consequences of misusing fireworks and increasing awareness of firework safety
- Engagement with local retailers to restrict the sale of eggs and flour over the Halloween period. They also enforced 'sale of fireworks' regulations through visits from Trading Standard Officers, test purchase operations and ensuring appropriate storage of fireworks
- Organised Halloween events for young people
- Local media campaigns through

engaging with local press, producing posters and leaflets for communities and retailers, and providing details of how to report problems to police and local authority

- Extended police patrols for Safer Neighbourhoods teams, Safer Transport teams and Safer Parks teams on key dates (31 October, 2 November and 5 November)
- Proactive education and enforcement provided by London Fire Brigade officers, in particular relation to sale, unsafe storage and anti-social use of fireworks
- Additional litter and fly-tip clearance to reduce risk of secondary fires
- Promotion of organised firework displays
- Co-ordinated work with KICKZ programme to engage with 14 professional football teams across London to promote messages to young people
- Co-ordinating activities between the Met's Operation Curb and the London Safer Streets Partnership Board, to focus on reducing violent behaviour and robbery over the three-week period.

In addition, the Government Office for London (GOL) provided six London boroughs with extra funding from the Home Office, to supplement their work in tackling ASB and crime during the initiative. The preventative activities used by these boroughs through this funding included:

Brent developed a 'tackling youth robbery' project, intelligence-led reassurance and enforcement patrols in crime hotspot locations, and held Safer Neighbourhoods problem solving events in key locations across the borough in an effort to reduce local concerns.

Camden's Bright Sparks initiative will run from 29th October to 11th November working with schools to provide dedicated lessons to pupils, promoting a poster and leafletting campaign, providing additional policing, and carrying out test purchase operations.

Safety and Street Crime surgeries were held in **Hackney** in identified areas running up to and including Halloween and fireworks night, giving out information, personnel safety alarms, mobile phone marking kits.

Support for specific enforcement and prevention operations in **Lambeth** involved targeted initiatives by key partners such as the police, Trading Standard Officers and cleaning staff. This included test purchase operations and the use of prosecutions, Acceptable Behaviour Contracts (ABCs) and ASBOs.

Lewisham worked with all young people attached to the Youth Offending Team, Youth Inclusion and Support Panel, and ASB team. Their community safety bus visited crime hotspots to engage with the community and offer crime prevention advice. The bus also visited vulnerable residents to provide safety advice during the initiative.

Southwark will be running an arson reduction programme and an advertising campaign to promote safety messages during the fireworks and Diwali festivities.

