



## **Letter to parents and guardians from Merseyside Police re. Halloween and Bonfire Night**

We are writing to all parents and guardians to ask for your assistance during the autumn period, in particular over Halloween, Bonfire Night and the days in between, where we commonly see increased reports of antisocial behaviour and dangerous use of fireworks.

We work closely with Merseyside Fire and Rescue Service as well as the local councils and transport networks to reduce criminality. However, we also need your help to ensure the safety of the wider Merseyside public.

**Know the law** – Here are a few things we'd urge parents and guardians to be mindful of:

- **Did you know?** A person under the age of 16 could be arrested and fined £60 if found with an unlit firework.
- **Did you know?** A person under the age of 16 could also be arrested and fined if they throw or light a firework or make a bonfire.
- **Did you know?** Throwing things like eggs, flour, paint or other objects at people, vehicles or property is a criminal offence. If you are caught or reported to police, you could be arrested and fined.
- **Did you know?** If a young person under the age of 16 commits any of the above offences, the parent/guardian will be liable to pay any fines.

**Know the risks** – Remind your children of the consequences criminality can lead to:

- Getting into trouble with the police can result in a criminal record, which means you may not be allowed to travel to certain countries on holiday, such as the United States. It may also mean that you may not be allowed to do some jobs or training courses in the future.
- Throwing things at cars, buses, shops and houses can hurt people – drivers might swerve if they get distracted and cause a crash, or someone might get hurt by broken glass.
- Messing around with fireworks is dangerous – some burn as hot as 1,200 degrees, which is enough to melt glass!

Finally, **know how antisocial behaviour can make others feel**. Some residents and members of the community remain anxious, threatened and targeted around this time of year by those involved in crime.

We need help in making sure young people don't get tempted into antisocial behaviour – they need to think about what it would be like if it was their friend, parent or family member who was on the receiving end of a firework being thrown at them, for example.

Some 'tricks' can cause serious damage to people's possessions and make people feel worried, stressed or scared. This can affect them for a long time afterwards.



**Parents & Guardians – Know where your kids are:**

- If your children are going out (particularly on 30th and 31st October), make sure you know where they are going. If possible, drop them off and pick them up from their activity.
- Don't let your children hang around the streets with nowhere to go.
- Ensure your child's safety by either accompanying them or arranging between friends for one of you to take a group of children out.
- If you are not accompanying your child, agree with them before they go out what time they should be home.
- Don't buy fireworks or eggs and flour for young people – it could contribute to antisocial behaviour in your own community
- Do not allow your child to take anything that they could use as missiles out of the house.

Finally, we want to encourage the young people of Merseyside and yourselves to have a safe and enjoyable Halloween and Bonfire Night. It has been a strange year and a half for us all, so we understand that this is a chance to let your hair down. However, please do so responsibly and be mindful of other members of the community who may not be as excited about this festive season.

Thank you,

Merseyside Police