

There are natural disaster and man-made disaster. It can happen to anyone.

Below are common sense tips that can help us keep our kids safe.

As bad as it sounds, this is just a fact of life now. Get on the internet and check your website for sex offenders. Look up your zip code and it should have a list of registered offenders in your area that includes street addresses. Make sure that your kids stay away from these houses.

Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Let them know that they are to check in with you every hour, by phone or by stopping back at home. Make sure that they know not to deviate from the planned route so that you always know where they will be. Your best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them.

If you take your kids to a sponsored event, like a safe Halloween thrown by your church or community center, make sure to keep an eye on them always. Even though it seems less dangerous, you are still in a strange environment full of people that you don't know. All it takes is a minute with your back turned to find your child is gone.

Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions. If they are going to be at a friend's home, get the phone number and make sure that you're met the parents.

Don't use a cell phone or other electronic devices while driving on Halloween night. Watch for children in the street and on medians when driving.

When leaving, the house make sure you lock your doors and set your security alarm system. Keep your motion detector on.

Travel in groups and keep your cell phone handy in case you get separated from your group or need to contact emergency services. Make sure your kids know how to call 911.

Take care and be safe.

Soror Lydia Barard, Chair Emergency Response Team