



# Operation Boo 2011

## A parent's guide

**Welcome Parents and Guardians!**

Thanks for joining the CDCR Parent Patrol by taking part in this educational exercise to help us keep your kids safe. Together, we'll teach California's children how to spot and avoid potential sexual predators, not just on Halloween, but all the time.

The California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation's Division of Adult Parole wants you and your children to have a safe and fun Halloween. On Halloween night, we'll be out in force statewide for Operation Boo 2011. It's the 18<sup>th</sup> year that we've been imposing special conditions of parole on known sex-offenders supervised by CDCR\* by:

- Setting special curfew hours when Sex-Offenders aren't allowed to have their porch lights on and can't have Halloween decorations on their home, offer trick or treat candy, or answer the door,
- Ordering homeless and transient sex-offenders to report to selected centers where they will be watched carefully during safe trick or treating hours of 5-10pm.
- And CDCR's Parole and GPS enforcement agents be joined by their local law enforcement partners all across the state to perform compliance checks on sex-offenders.

We'll be keeping a watchful eye so you can be out having fun with your kids. Parents need to know that only a small percentage of all sex-offenders in California are under supervision by CDCR. So awareness can go a long way in helping keep children safe – not just on Halloween- but all the time.

\*(There are almost 92,000 sex-offenders state-wide in California; of those CDCR is responsible for supervising about 11%. For more information please go to:

[http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Parole/Sex\\_Offender\\_Facts/index.html](http://www.cdcr.ca.gov/Parole/Sex_Offender_Facts/index.html) )

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Here's an easy step by step process to increase your child's safety.

### **The Week of Oct 24-30**

1. Please take a moment to familiarize yourself with information about the latest methods for helping young children detect potentially dangerous adult behavior. We've listed several website locations with tips by various government agencies and advocacy groups and their experts below.

#### **Department of Justice, Office of the Attorney General**

**How to protect your family:**

<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/protect.aspx>

#### **Polly Klaas Foundation**

**What to teach your kids: "Dangerous Adult Behaviors"**

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/talk-to-strangers.html>

**Sex Offenders: "What should you tell your children?"**

<http://www.pollyklaas.org/safe/sexoffender3-1.html>

#### **Stop it Now! (Survivors of Sexual Abuse)**

**Prevention Tip Sheets: "Talking to Children and Teens"**

[http://www.stopitnow.org/talking\\_to\\_kids](http://www.stopitnow.org/talking_to_kids)

2. Once you pick the tips that you feel comfortable sharing with your family, please take a few minutes to go over the information with your child(ren.) If you'd like, you can do it while the children color the special print out - "Operation Boo Parent Patrol Badge," (next page.) This fun exercise will give you a non-threatening opportunity to talk to your kids about spotting dangerous adult behaviors.

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(FAMILY COLORING ACTIVITY)  
OPERATION BOO PARENT PATROL BADGE



3. Once colored, cut-out the Parent Patrol Badge (below) and keep it handy to wear on Halloween night as you trick or treat with your children.

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## **At least a day or two before Halloween**

1. Please go to the Megan's Law Website- This site has a link to the California Megan's Law Sex-offender Locator and is available in several languages: (for languages other than English please use the language selector:  
<http://www.meganslaw.ca.gov/index.aspx?lang=ENGLISH>
2. Once on the Meagan's Law website, follow the instructions to check the area in which you'll be trick or treating so you can spot the homes of known sex offenders. If you'd like, map it out for yourself.
3. Familiarize yourself with the special Operation Boo conditions of parole for Sex Offenders in California. The Special Conditions of Parole for sex-offenders on Halloween night are:
  - A 5pm to 5 am curfew during which sex-offender parolees must remain indoors;
  - All exterior lights of their homes must be turned off so that it looks as if no one is home, which discourages children from approaching;
  - No offering of Halloween candy and no Halloween decorations are allowed;
  - During the curfew, sex-offender parolees can only open the door to respond to law enforcement, such as parole agents who are patrolling their caseload to ensure compliance.

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### **On Halloween Night:**

1. Don't forget to wear your parent patrol badge to let everyone know you're a part of the growing army of parents fighting back against sexual predators. Wearing the badge will also help make other parents aware of this project and sends a message to sex-offenders that they're being watched by conscientious parents like you.
2. If you see a suspected sex-offender (someone living in a home on the sex-offender locator) breaking the special conditions of parole on Halloween night, be sure and call your local law enforcement by dialing 911. (Please do not attempt to take any action yourself.)
3. Have a fun trick-or-treat experience, knowing you've taken precautions to keep your children safe from sexual-predators not just on Halloween - but all the time. Instances of sexual abuse have not been prevalent on Halloween night in California in almost 2 decades- since Operation Boo has been in existence. Sexual predators shy away from scrutiny and now you're a part of the Operation Boo Parent Patrol -helping shine an even brighter light on predators.

Thanks for joining the CDCR Parent Patrol!