

Child Safety Tips

School has started, Halloween is on the way, and this month is the anniversary of the child abduction in Cody, Wyoming. The thought of your child being abducted or violated may leave you frightened and unsure about the best way to protect them. The Wyoming Division of Criminal Investigation, the Casper Police Department, the Cheyenne Police Department, the Natrona County Sheriff's Office, and the Laramie County Sheriff's Office would like to share some recommendations from the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children for keeping your children safer:

- Instruct your children to always take a friend when going places and stay with a group while attending outings and/or standing at the bus stop.
- Teach your children the appropriate steps to take if approached or followed. As an example, if your child is grabbed, tell your child to draw attention to himself and yelling, "This person is not my father/mother". Instruct your child to make every effort to escape by walking, running, pulling away, kicking, yelling, and/or otherwise resisting.
- Practice basic safety skills with your children. Make sure they understand the safety messages and are able to use them in real life situations. Make sure you have "safety nets", the plans and people put in place to contact so your children know there is always someone available to help them.
- Be involved in your children's activities. An active participant will have a better opportunity to observe how the adults interact with your children. If you are concerned about anyone's behavior, discuss your concerns with the school, sponsoring organization, or law enforcement.
- Remember never leave children unattended in a vehicle, running or not.
- Know where your children are and whom they are with at all times.
- Know your childcare providers, friends, neighbors, coworkers, and employees. Check references. For access to sex offender registries, please visit the Dru Sjodin National Sex Offender Public Website at www.nsopw.gov and/or the Wyoming Sex Offender Registry at <http://wysors.dci.wyo.gov/sor/>.
- Teach your children to stay alert for any suspicious incidents and report anything unusual to you, their school, and law enforcement.



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