



LOS ANGELES COUNTY ANNUAL REPORT

2013

Operation Safe Halloween: Keeping Kids Safe From Harm



L.A. County Probation officers initiated their third consecutive year of “Operation Safe Halloween”. Ten teams of deputy probation officers swept the County, searching out more than 100 sex offenders, either on probation, or AB109 post-probation supervised.

Deputy L.A. County Probation officer Steven Manguia explains, “the purpose of the operation was to make sure they were not participating in any Halloween activities: not giving out candy, lights were to be out, they were not to be out of their homes from the hours of 6 to 11 o'clock tonight.”

Deputies say most of the offenders had been previously charged with sexual acts against children under the age of 8.

“Our focus was two-fold: number one, and most importantly, to protect our children in the communities from sexual predators,” Assistant Chief Margarita Perez stated. “And secondly, one of the things that we did this year that is new is we incorporated an educational component that provides tips to families on how to keep their children safe not only during Halloween, but year-round as well.”

“Operation Safe Halloween” sees dozens of weapons, as well as pornographic material. Several arrests were also made. All sex offenders are monitored with a GPS device which the probation department can use to follow their exact location morning, noon, and on Halloween night.

Specialized Enforcement Operations Director Eric Newby sees this as a matter of community safety. “Halloween is a time where parents are out with their children. They want a safe environment for the kids to go out and have fun with their costumes, trick or treat, get candy. We feel this is important to assist in providing a safe environment for the parents and their children.”