Festival & Fair Safety Tips

keep your family safe...

Sheriff John Zaruba

Parents, festivals and fairs are lots of fun, but do your part to keep your family safe. Here are a few tips to get you started...

- Keep your children in sight and teach them to stay close to you as it's easy to become separated in large crowds.
- Talk to your children about what being lost means and what to do if they become lost. Have a plan, and then play the "What if ..." game to ensure they understand the plan. "What if Mommy gets separated?", "What if you get lost?" or "Who is a safe person to ask for help?", etc…
- Should your child get lost, DON'T look for them alone, IMMEDIATELY contact local security.
- Have your children carry or wear emergency information that tells how to reach you. Include cell numbers, home phone number, emergency contact, important medical information, and anything else you think is important.
- Dress kids in bright colors to make them easier to spot. Make a game of remembering what color everyone is wearing that day. If you are with a large group, wear matching T- shirts to help identify your group.
- Consider giving your elementary age children a cell phone while you're out in a crowd as a just-in-case backup.
- Use your phone to take a photo of each child before you leave, this way you will know exactly what they were wearing and have a very current photo should you need it.
- Teach your children it is ok to say NO and GET AWAY from any person or situation making them feel scared, uncomfortable, or confused. TRUST THEIR FEELINGS, and be sure to TELL a trusted adult if anything happens to make them feel this way.
- Pay attention to weather forecasts and prepare appropriately. On sunny days be sure to use sunscreen, applying often, and sunglasses to protect you from harmful UV rays.
- On hot days, drink plenty of water to stay hydrated.
- Know where the first aid area is located should you need to access it quickly.

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