

# OPERATION GLOW



Alaska State Trooper Russ Landers delivers a box of glow sticks to Snowshoe Elementary School on Oct. 28.

second year in a row, not only delivered the glow sticks to elementary schools in Fairbanks, North Pole and Delta Junction, but smaller villages along the Interior road system. Interior restaurants also donated coupons for food such as happy meals for Troopers and police to give to families with kids properly restrained in a vehicle. The crusade in the Mat-Su Valley targeted elementary students in grades kindergarten through fifth grade. It's the first time Alaska State Troopers and police in the Valley participated in **Operation Glow**.

Obviously the biggest safety feature is the visibility the activated glow sticks give costumed children, even for those dressed as stealthy ninjas. For drivers, these dancing neon lights will help alert them to pedestrians who's own vision may be hampered by costumes. In addition, the lanyards and glow sticks are designed to break away from the child's neck if pulled on.

The weekend preceding Halloween, volunteers from Valley law enforcement agencies, youth court, dispatchers and the Mat-Su Borough School Board put the 6-inch yellow or red glow sticks on almost 6,500 lanyards to be passed out in Valley schools.

Troopers delivered boxes with enough lanyards, roughly 5,800 of them, for students in each of the 21 schools around Palmer, Wasilla, Big Lake, the Butte, Sutton and Talkeetna. Valley municipal police officers delivered more of the lanyards within their respective towns. The schools' staff will activate the glow sticks as they hand them out to students leaving for the day on Oct. 31. Like military-issued light sticks, they are activated by snapping the stick to allow the two liquids inside the combine, producing the neon glow. The sticks will glow for about six hours, giving drivers a way to spot trick-or-treaters.



Alaska State Trooper Russ Landers shows Ron Larson Elementary School second grader Jayson Hughes how to wear his glow stick while he's trick-or-treating on Halloween night.

As little goblins, princesses, Power Rangers and witches roam neighborhoods this Halloween in search of candy, many will be wearing glow sticks handed out by Alaska State Troopers and other area law enforcement.

The money for what has been dubbed **Operation Glow** was supplied by the Alaska Highway Safety Office in an effort to make costumed trick-or-treaters visible to drivers this Halloween. Alaska State Troopers in D Detachment, who are participating in the program for the

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Alaska State Trooper Russ Landers gives the staff at Butte Elementary instructions on handing out the glow sticks to students before trick-or-treating Halloween night.

In addition to the glow sticks delivered to schools, Troopers and police officers in Fairbanks will have 50-100 glow sticks with them in their patrol cars and pass them out to children while they're trick-or-treating. The Fairbanks area will also have two extra Troopers on duty that night to handle what is expected to be a higher than normal amount of calls on the typically mischievous holiday.



Have a spooktacular and SAFE Halloween

