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notMYkid WARNS PARENTS TO BE ESPECIALLY VIGILANT IN CHECKING THEIR KIDS'
HALLOWEEN CANDY.....WATCH FOR DRUGS THAT LOOK LIKE CANDY!

Phoenix—Halloween is creeping up and notMYkid wants to warn parents about dangers what may be lurking in their child's treat bag. The dangers today extend far beyond the razor blade in the apple that parents were warned about when they were young. Today parents must warn their children not to eat candy out of the treat bag before it's been inspected by an adult. Parents need to exercise extreme caution when checking their children's treats. They also need to let their kids know not to accept open treats from other friends at school, even though they know the other kid, they don't necessarily know where the "candy" came from.

Parents, beware of a new drug experts have dubbed Strawberry Quick. It looks very much like pop rocks, it may even smell like strawberries. The packaging too, may be innocent looking. "Strawberry Quick" is strawberry flavored methamphetamine and the side effects of this drug include: anxiety, agitation, blurred vision, hallucinations, stroke, seizure, heart attack and even death.

Because of the candy-like appearance and relatively cheap price tag; \$2-\$3 per hit; it's being targeted to young children. Flavored or shaped meth is being distributed to entice kids into drug addiction. It can be numerous colors and flavored varieties include cola, chocolate, peanut butter, cherry, grape and orange.

Meth is a synthetic nervous system stimulant and is made from a mixture of extremely toxic ingredients. Typical ingredients include: sulfuric acid, lithium from batteries, pool chlorine, hydrochloric acid, acetone from camp stoves or nail polish remover, anhydrous ammonia from fertilizer or phosphorous found in emergency road flares. They are combined together with pseudoephedrine to create a highly addicting disastrous result.

Another drug that parents must be aware of this Halloween is ecstasy known on the street as Adam, MDMA or XTC. Ecstasy is similar to methamphetamine in many ways, including the fact that it is manufactured and can be made to look like candy. Ecstasy is generally a small, round, colorful tablet. It looks very much like sweet tarts and often has a design on the tablet. Imprints include kid-friendly symbols like: smiley faces, the Nike swoosh, a VW bug, a giant E, a peace symbol.

The dangers of ecstasy use are also similar to methamphetamine. Taking ecstasy just four times will cause a permanent depletion of serotonin levels in the brain. Side effects include: overheating (internal body temperature up to 108 degrees), seizure, death, hallucination, panic attack and severe depression.

Protect your children; make sure "Strawberry Quick", methamphetamine or ecstasy is not in their treat bags this Halloween. They look innocent but these drugs are incredibly addictive, trying them just once can cause addiction and the treatment/recovery rates are only 2-11%. Parents must remain vigilant in order to protect their children from the dangers that drugs bring with them.

notMYkid was founded in 2000 by Debbie and Steve Moak. The organization is devoted to educating individuals and communities about behavioral health issues facing teens today, and providing parent resources to improve communication and prevention methods for their children. notMYkid provides education programs to over 80,000 students and parents a year through its various programs, including Project 7th Grade, Clear Choices, P.E.A.K., Teen Advisory Board.

For more information on protecting children from drugs at Halloween or anytime visit www.notMYkid.org.

