

Sheriff OK after inhaling costume fur

Pima County Sheriff Clarence W. Dupnik, who was dressed up as cartoon movie character Roger Rabbit, was giving Halloween safety tips to students yesterday when he accidentally inhaled a piece of fur from his costume.

Dupnik began vomiting and choking, and a deputy then took the sheriff to a local clinic, but he did not lose his breath or lose consciousness. An X-ray failed to show where the fur was. A doctor said it could be in a lung, but Dupnik said it probably was in his stomach.

"This was not scary, although I couldn't talk at one point," Dupnik said. "But I could breathe for the most part."

Dupnik, Pima County Attorney Stephen D. Neely, and Tucson Police Sgt. Paul Hallums were addressing some elementary-school students when Dupnik said a piece of fur from the costume came loose and he inhaled it through his mouth. He then quietly left the room.

When the sheriff was asked whether he ever would wear a costume again, he replied: "Sure. This was just an accident — a rare accident."



Tucson Citizen

**Fooling around wasn't all fun
for Sheriff Clarence Dupnik.**