

Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is a fun time for kids, but it is also an important time to be extra vigilant for possible safety hazards so that your children have a fun and safe Halloween. Some tips to make Halloween safe include:

Costume safety

- Choose a costume made of flame retardant material
- Costumes should be short enough so that they don't cause your child to trip and fall
- For good visibility, add some reflective tape to the costume or bag he is using to carry candy or make/choose a costume made of bright material that is visible in the dark
- Masks should fit securely and allow your child to see well and not hinder visibility
- If using face paint, make sure it is nontoxic and hypoallergenic
- Knives, swords and other props should be made of a flexible material, so that they don't pose a hazard if fallen on
- Children should carry a flashlight

Trick-or-Treating safety

- Children should be well supervised by an adult when trick-or-treating.
- Older children should trick-or-treat in large groups in well known neighborhoods. Go over ground rules and let them know what time they need to be back home.
- If children have a cell phone, make sure it's fully charged. Give those without a cell phone, change to use a pay phone if necessary
- Carry a flashlight
- Stick to well lit houses in familiar neighborhoods only
- Avoid taking shortcuts across backyards or alleys. Stick to the sidewalks of well lit streets
- Use sidewalks
- Cross only at the corners, never dart out from between parked cars
- Cover one side of the street at a time, no criss-crossing
- Never go inside someone's home unless it's a friend's
- Never accept a ride in a car
- Only approach houses with outside lights on as a signal of welcome
- Bring bags home to be inspected by an adult before eating a single treat
- Follow traffic signals and rules of the road
- Drive slowly

Candy safety

- Instruct your children to bring all candy home before eating it so that you can carefully inspect it for tampering. Children shouldn't snack while they're out trick-or-treating, before parents have a chance to inspect the goodies. To help prevent children from munching, give them a snack or light meal before they go -- don't send them out on an empty stomach.
- Tell children not to accept -- and, especially, not to eat--anything that isn't commercially wrapped.
- Throw out candy or treats that are homemade, unwrapped or if they appear to have been tampered with (pinholes in wrappers, torn wrappers, etc.)
- Parents of young children should remove any choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies or small toys.
- Wash all fresh fruit thoroughly, inspect it for holes, including small punctures, and cut it open before allowing children to eat it.

General safety tips

- Homeowners should prepare their home for trick-or-treaters by removing obstacles from the front yard, restraining dogs and other animals, and lighting the house well
- Provide treats that are individually wrapped candy or offer kids nonfood treats, such as stickers and erasers.
- Artificial lights and candles are a safer alternative to real candles with a flame that can pose a fire hazard
- Use flame-proof crepe paper
- Keep dried leaves and cornstalks away from open flame
- If going to an adult Halloween party, make sure that you don't drink and drive. Use a designated driver if alcohol is being consumed.

Change your smoke detector batteries

- This is a good time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors. This year, buy batteries along with your Halloween candy and change the batteries when you change your clocks back.

Fire Safety Education ... the Best Fire Prevention

Pamphlet courtesy of the Rolling Oaks Volunteer Fire Department
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