



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family. Parents of trick-or-treating kids can get so caught up in the fun themselves that they might forget some simple safety ideas that could save everyone some trouble. Having a fun and safe Halloween will make it all worth while.

CHANGE YOUR SMOKE DETECTOR BATTERIES!

Costumes

- Children should **carry a flashlight** and their costumes should be bright-colored or have **reflective** tape to highlight them.
- Be sure all parts of the costume (including wigs and accessories) are **labeled flame retardant**.
- Secure **emergency identification** (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.
- Children should **wear sturdy shoes** and temperature appropriate **clothing underneath their costumes**.
- Because **masks can limit or block eyesight**, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. If your child wears a mask instead of make-up on their face, **double check that the eye holes are large enough to see through clearly**.
- Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords. If such props *must* be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.



Trick or Treating



- **Children should be accompanied by a parent** or other responsible adult who will keep the children in sight at all times.
- If older children are going out without you, **go over the ground rules first!** Also, set a time limit, and map out a safe route or designate a certain area, so you know where they will be. **Let them know what time to be home.**
- **Never take short cuts** through fields, back yards, alleys or playing fields.
- Only go to homes with **outside lights on** and **NEVER go inside** someone's home, unless it's a friend's
- **NEVER** accept a ride in a car.
- Children should always use the "**buddy system**" and never go places alone.
- **Give them change** to use the telephone, or provide someone in one the group with a **cell phone**.
- Always walk. **Never run across a street** or dart out between parked cars.
- **Use sidewalks** and only cross the street as a group in established **crosswalks** (as recognized by local custom). Consider contacting your local college or high school and suggesting volunteers to cross kids in crosswalks on Halloween night.
- **Cover one side of the street at a time**, no criss-crossing.
- Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble-seeing Trick-or-Treaters. **Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!**
- Never consume food items or drinks that may be offered.

- **Bring bags home to be checked by an adult before eating a single treat.**
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

Decorations



- **Consider fire safety** when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects.
- Always keep Jack O' Lanterns and hot electric lights away from drapes, decorations, **flammable materials** or areas where children will be standing or walking.
- Use a **small flashlight instead of a candle** or the battery operated votives.
- Keep dried leaves and cornstalks away from all flames and heat sources.
- Kids always want to help with the **pumpkin carving**. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.

Receiving Trick-or-Treaters

- Make sure your own home is **well-lit** and that there is a **clear path** to your door. Bicycles and lawn furniture can trip youngsters in the dark.

Checking Treats



- **Throw out anything that appears tampered with**, home-made foods, or home-packaged foods unless you are certain of the source.
- Inspect fruit closely and take away treats that may not be age-appropriate. Young children may choke on things like hard candy or peanuts.

Pets



- **It is best to keep your pets indoors, and preferably in a separate room during peak trick or treating hours.**
 - Don't leave your pet in the yard on Halloween. There have been reports of vicious pranksters who have teased, injured, stolen and even killed pets on this night. It is especially important to keep your cat(s) inside for several days before and after Halloween. Black cats in particular may be at risk from pranks or other cruelty-related incidents.

CHANGE YOUR CLOCK, CHANGE YOUR BATTERY - Each year around Halloween, we turn the clocks back one hour. This is a good time to **CHANGE THE BATTERIES IN YOUR SMOKE DETECTORS**. This year, buy batteries along with your Halloween candy, and on October 31, 2009, **change your clocks and change your batteries.**



