

## Halloween Safety

Parents and children participating in Halloween activities see it as a time for fun and treats. However, the excitement of the night can cause everyone to forget to be careful. There is no “trick” to making Halloween a fun and safe day for the entire family. Many Halloween related injuries can be prevented if parents and caregivers closely supervise children during trick or treat activities.

### Costumes

- Costumes should be fire-safe. Purchase costumes, wigs and accessories made of flame-resistant or flame-retardant material. (Check the label!!)
- Avoid flimsy materials such as light weight cotton fabrics which can easily ignite. If clothes catch on fire remember to **Stop, Drop and Roll** to put the fire out.
- Keep hemlines short enough to prevent tripping and avoid loose baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. (Falls are the leading cause of unintentional injuries on Halloween.)
- Costumes should be light colored – use fluorescent or reflective tape strips which will “glow” in the beam of a car’s headlights.

### Accessories

- All accessories, such as knives or swords, should be made of a soft flexible material. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.
- Bags or sacks should be light colored or trimmed with reflective tape.
- Carry a flashlight or glow sticks.

### Face Design

- Masks can obstruct a child’s vision. A natural mask of cosmetics made of non-toxic make-up applied directly to the face is recommended.
- When buying Halloween makeup, check packages containing ingredients that are labeled “Laboratory Tested,” or “Non-Toxic,” and meet federal standards for cosmetics. Follow manufacturer’s instruction for application.
- If masks are worn, they should be loose fitting and have the eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.

### Trick or Treating

- Have children travel together in small groups and smaller children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames.
- Go to well-lit homes that have outside lights on and remain on the porch rather than entering the house.
- Cross streets at the corner, using crosswalks and do not cross between parked cars.
- Remind children to look left, right and then left again before crossing the street.
- Walk, do not run from house to house and always use sidewalks.

### **Continue: Halloween Safety**

- Avoid giving out treats that could become a choking hazard such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys especially to small children.
- Use battery powered lights – NEVER CANDLES – to light jack-o-lanterns.
- Children should be warned not to eat any of their treats before they get home.
- Inspect all candy for safety and when in doubt throw it out!

### **Motorists**

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Watch for children walking in dark colored costumes who are harder to see at twilight or later in the evening.