

Halloween



Safety

Costumes

 When purchasing costumes, masks, beards, and wigs, look for the Flame Resistant label. Although this label does not mean that these items will not catch fire, it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source.



 Avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling. Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. For greater visibility, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape. Children should also carry flashlights.

 Apply hypoallergenic facial make-up instead of wearing masks. Masks might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eyeholes.

 Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials.

Trick-or-Treaters should:

 Be back home at a certain time. Never “trick-or-treat” alone; go with at least two friends for the entire evening. Remember, Safety in Numbers.

 Go only to well-lit houses and remain on porches rather than entering houses.

 Know their phone number and address.



 Bring treats home before eating them so parents can inspect them. Be sure packaged candies are unopened and fruits and vegetables are blemish-free. Many local area hospitals will x-ray goodies to expose any potential hidden foreign object the day after Halloween for free. Please contact your hospital to see if they are offering this service.

 Use flashlights, stay on sidewalks, and avoid crossing yards. Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks (where they exist), and do not cross between parked cars or diagonally across an intersection. Stop at all corners and stay together in a group before crossing. Look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.

 Never accept rides from strangers. **Never!**



Adults

 Parents should supervise the outing for children under age 12 and establish a curfew/time of return for older children.

 Prepare homes for trick-or-treaters by clearing porches, lawns, and sidewalks and by placing jack-o-lanterns away from doorways and landings.

 Keep dogs and other pets away from the doors so children will not become frightened.

 Patrol your streets occasionally. Call 9-1-1 immediately to report any suspicious or criminal activity to your police department.

 Remind children not to dip into their treats until an adult has carefully examined all candy for sign of tampering, including small pinholes in wrapper and torn or loose packages.

 A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from digging into their bag of goodies before they return home.

 Parents of young children should get rid of choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys.



Motorists

 Motorists should avoid all unnecessary travel on Halloween evening. If you must travel, drive slowly and be alert to small children crossing streets.

 Many accidents occur when motorists are backing vehicles out of driveways, unaware of the presence of small children. Stay Alert!

 Remember to **SLOW DOWN** and prepare for the unexpected.

Pumpkins, Decorations and Lighting



 Have children draw a face on the outside of the pumpkin, then parents should do the cutting. Carve pumpkins on stable, flat surfaces with lighting.

 Place lighted pumpkins away from curtains and other flammable objects, and do not leave lighted pumpkins unattended. Consider the possibility of using flashlights instead of candles to light pumpkins.

 Welcome trick-or-treaters with your porch lights and any exterior lights on. Make sure all pathways to your home are well lit.

 Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flowerpots that can trip the young ones.



From The Huntsville Center Safety Office

