

All Treats and No Tricks This Halloween

Top 10 Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween can be the most frightful night of the year, as ghosts and goblins haunt the streets of River Forest. But with just a little attention to safety, we can make the holiday filled with treats. Following are ten Halloween safety tips that are good to review before you send your costumed characters out for the night.

1. **Unsafe Costumes Scare Me!** Be sure the costumes you choose are made out of flame-resistant materials, which will be clearly marked on the packaging. This means that the costume will resist burning and can be extinguished quickly, so make sure we review the “Stop, Drop and Roll” if your clothes catch fire with your children.
2. **Light It Up!** Make sure costumes have plenty of bright colors so kids can be easily seen at night. If the costume is dark, add some reflective tape to the costume. Glow sticks can also be used to accessorize, and give the group a flashlight.
3. **Keep Monsters Vertical!** Make sure costumes don’t drag, which can trip up kids. Look at your front yard and eliminate all trip hazards, such as hoses, rakes and wet leaves.
4. **Hungry Monsters Like to Feed!** Send your children out after they have eaten dinner so they are more likely to resist eating treats before you get a chance to inspect them in the light of your home. Remind them the rule of no treats before inspection.
5. **Don’t Decorate like Dr. Frankenstein!** Purchase electrical lights and decorations that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory such as UL. Check the wires for cracks or fraying before plugging them in and placing them in decorations.
6. **Candles can Combust!** Any candles should be off the ground and out of the reach of children. Better yet, try the battery-operated flameless candles or other lighting options.
7. **Keep Monsters in Packs!** Make sure kids go out with a group of friends. If they are young, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
8. **Informed Goblins are Smart Goblins!** Go over safety rules with the group before they head out for the night. Only go to homes with lights on, stay together and look before crossing streets.
9. **Keep Your Creatures Connected!** If your kids are old enough to go out without adults, make sure there are cell phones in the group so they can call if there are any problems.
10. **Vampire Roll Call!** Have a set schedule so that kids will call or text parents to let them know their whereabouts. This keeps adults informed so we can have treats or drinks ready when they arrive at the home for a break or a late night snack.

For more “frightening” safety information, contact the River Forest Fire Prevention Bureau at 708-714-3562.

BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



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HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- » **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- » **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- » Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- » **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- » **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- » **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- » **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in **900** reported home fires each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169



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Halloween Safety Tips

- Children should always go trick-or-treating with a responsible adult.
- If you are not going trick-or-treating with your children, make sure you know what streets they will be visiting. Provide a cell phone so they can check in with you.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry or use glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Remind children to stay together as a group and walk from house to house.
- Make trick-or-treating a “no running” game so they will not fall while having fun.
- Review how to cross a street with your child. Look left, right and left again to be sure no cars are approaching before crossing the street.
- Decide the time your children will go out trick-or-treating and what time they will return home.
- Make a rule that children will not eat any treat until it has been brought home and examined by a grown-up.



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www.nfpa.org/education

HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

**Make Halloween safe
for your little monsters
with a few easy safety tips...**




 **Use a battery-operated candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns.**



 **When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric.**



 **Teach children to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them.**



 **Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like lightbulbs and heaters.**



 **Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms in the home are working.**



**CHECK OUT SPARKY.ORG
FOR MORE SPOOKY FUN!**

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DEADLY CUTE



DARK COLORS
Hard to see at night

BAD FITTING MASKS
Hard to see, breathe or hear

BAD FITTING COSTUMES
Most injuries from trips and falls

DANGEROUS TREATS
Toys with small parts

CANDLES
Keep away from kids

TO HAVE FUN SAFELY

COSTUMES: **Flame-resistant** fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, are best. They should be **brightly colored** or trimmed with **reflective tape** to make them visible to motorists at dusk and in the dark.

MASKS: Check that **eye holes** are large enough to allow full visibility and **nose holes** allow for adequate breathing.

CANDLES: Keep **candle-lit jack-o-lanterns** and other decorations where children cannot **brush against the flame**. Try **LED lights** instead.

TREATS: Put **reflective tape** on treat bags. **No toys with small parts** for children under 3.

