



# Halloween Safety

Everyone loves a good scare on Halloween, but not when it comes to child safety. There are several easy and effective things that parents can share with kids to help reduce their risk of injury.

## Keep Costumes Both Creative and Safe

- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers.
- Choose face paint and makeup whenever possible instead of masks as they can obstruct a child's vision.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When selecting a costume, make sure it is the right size to prevent trips and falls.

## Trick-or-Treat With an Adult

- Kids over the age of 12, who are mature enough to be trick-or-treating without supervision, should be reminded to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and stay in groups.

## Walking Safely

- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.
- Put electronic devices down and keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never run out into the street or cross between parked cars.

## Drive Extra Safe on Halloween

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy pedestrian traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m. so be especially alert for kids during those hours.

## Be Safe in Motor Vehicles

- Be sure your trick or treaters are buckled in their car or booster seat or seat belts when traveling.
- Have kids exit on the curb/grass side of the vehicle so they are not getting out into traffic.



## Halloween Burn Safety Tips

- Keep candles, matches and lighters out of children's reach. This includes pumpkins with candles.
- Be careful with costumes around jack-o-lanterns or candles that may be serving as a porch/step decoration.
- Use light sources other than open flames to illuminate decorations (i.e. flame-less candles, battery operated lights, glow sticks. etc.)

**Many communities throughout the region offer indoor or parking lot events. These are a great, safe alternative to trick or treating.**



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