

# Halloween Safety Tips

For inquiries regarding this safety alert, contact the HSEQ department at 985-868-1950

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real “trick” to making Halloween a real “treat” for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits, but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Our communities designate specific hours for trick-or-treat. Both children and adults need to think about safety on this fun night.

## PARENTS

Before children start out on their trick-or-treat rounds, parents should:

- Make sure an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
- Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow.
- Teach your children to stop only at houses that are well-lit and never enter a stranger’s home.
- Establish a return time.
- Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
- Pin a slip of paper with the child’s name, address, and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.
- Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.

## COSTUME DESIGN

- Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
- Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard.
- If children will be out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of reflective tape should be used to make children visible.

## FACE DESIGN

- Masks can obstruct a child’s vision. Use face paint instead.
- When buying special Halloween makeup, check packaging for labels such as “Laboratory Tested,” “Non-toxic,” “Meets U.S. Standards.”
- If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

## ACCESSORIES

- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials.
- Bags carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with reflective tape.
- Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

## MOTORISTS

The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween:

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

## ON THE WAY

Children should understand and follow these rules:

- Do not enter homes without adult supervision.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards or lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.
- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

## TREATS

To ensure safe trick-or-treating, parents are urged to:

- Give children an early meal before going out.
- Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
- Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
- When in doubt, throw it out.

