

Halloween is the time for ghosts, goblins and fun. The following is a set of safety tips for parents to help assure that it is a fun, safe and enjoyable time.



## Play It Safe This Halloween

- Warn children not to eat any of their treats before they get home. Examine all treats carefully before allowing children to eat them.
- Look for costumes, masks, beards and wigs labeled "Flame Resistant." This does not mean these items won't catch fire, such labeling indicates that they will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from the ignition source.
- Make or buy costumes light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists. For greater visibility in dusk or darkness, costumes can be decorated or trimmed with reflective tape which will "glow" in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored with reflective tape. Children should also carry a flashlight.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from falling. Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes: Mom's high heels are not a good idea for safe walking. Hats and scarves should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
- Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose fitting mask which might restrict breathing or obscure vision. If a mask is worn, make sure it fits securely and has eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
- Swords, knives and similar costume accessories should be soft or flexible materials.
- Smaller children should always be accompanied by an older responsible child or an adult. All children should use the sidewalk rather than walk in the street and they should WALK not run from house to house. Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture or clotheslines present dangers.
- Children should only go to homes where residents have outside lights on as a sign of welcome. Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- Those receiving trick-or-treaters should remove anything that could be an obstacle from steps, lawns, and porches.

Candlelit jack-o'-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame. Remember to keep indoor jack-o'-lanterns away from anything that could catch fire.



***Hint From Heloise...** Jennifer Sullivan wrote in and said she disliked handing out sugary, packaged treats on Halloween but knew that many parents do not allow children to eat unpackaged fruit or baked goods for fear they may have been tampered with. Her solution was to enclose an address label in each of the "wholesome" treats she distributes. Now her neighbors will know from whom the apples or cookies came.*

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