

LOSS CONTROL BULLETIN



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Halloween Safety for Kids

Halloween is a fun time for parents and kids alike. But in all that excitement, serious tragedy could strike if some simple safety tips and precautions are not followed. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission provides some tips for you to consider during Halloween.

General Tips

- Young children should always have an adult or responsible, older child with them when they go trick-or-treating. No one should trick-or-treat alone.
- Trick-or-treaters should go to the houses of people they know or to those houses with welcoming outside lights on.
- Children should never enter a house without being accompanied by an adult.
- Always carry a flashlight when trick-or-treating.
- Remind children to look both ways before crossing a street. In all of the excitement, they can forget simple rules that they have heard many times.
- Walk on sidewalks or the far edge of the road on the side that faces traffic.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house, and avoid cutting through yards and driveways.
- Children should not eat any of their candy until an adult has made sure it has not been tampered with.
- Avoid homemade treats unless you know the cook well.
- Buy costumes with labels that say "flame resistant". This does not mean the costumes will not catch on fire, but they will be resistant to it.
- Avoid costumes with baggy sleeves, billowing skirts or flimsy material to reduce the risk of coming into contact with something that would cause the costume to catch on fire.
- Consider decorating costumes with reflective tape, and wear costumes that are light and bright enough to be easily seen by motorists. Bags should also be light colored and decorated with reflective tape.
- Costumes should include shoes that fit properly and a hem length that will prohibit tripping.
- Hats, scarves and masks should be secured so they will not hinder the child's vision.
- It is better for a child to have a mask painted on with cosmetics than to have a loose-fitting mask. If a mask is worn, it should not restrict breathing, and the eye holes should be big enough to allow the child to have full vision.
- Costume accessories like swords and knives should be made of a soft, flexible material.
- If you are expecting trick-or-treaters, keep your porch and yard free of obstacles.

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