



MSU-ES Dawg Tracks



October, 2015



Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is an awesome time of the year for our kids and grandkids, assuming that they all remain safe and injury free.

Twice as many child pedestrians are killed on Halloween night than on any other night in the year. Over 75% of parents are fearful around Halloween for the following reasons: A child being hit by a car or truck, poisoning from tampered or spoiled treats, abductions and falls.

TIPS FOR PARENTS AND/OR CAREGIVERS-

- All children should be supervised by an adult.
- Choose fire-resistant materials and bright colors for costumes.
- Put emergency identification with tape on the child's outfit or tape it to their wrist, which should have their name, phone number and home address, in case they get separated from you or their caregiver.
- Check the ingredients on their face paint for US approved colored additives and that they are laboratory tested and toxic proof.
- Don't drink and drive or drink prior to walking around the neighborhood.

GOING TRICK OR TREATING?-

- S** - Swords, knives, and other costume accessories should be short, flexible and soft.
- A** - Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- F** - Fasten reflective tape to the costumes and treat bags so that drivers can readily see you.
- E** - Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before eating them and limit the amount they eat.
- H** - Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and for others to see you.
- A** - Always test the makeup in a small area to be sure that is acceptable to use with no ill effects. Remove it before bedtime to prevent eye and skin irritation.
- L** - Look both ways before crossing a street. Use established crosswalks wherever possible.
- L** - Lower your risk for serious eye injury by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** - Only walk on sidewalks whenever possible or on the edge of the road facing traffic to stay safe.
- W** - Wear well-fitting masks and costumes, and shoes to avoid blocked vision, trips, and falls.
- E** - Eat only factory-wrapped treats. Avoid eating homemade treats made by strangers.
- E** - Enter homes only if you are trusted adult. Only visit well-lit homes. Never accept rides from strangers.
- N** - Never walk near lit candles or luminaries. Be sure to wear flame-resistant costumes.

ADULT SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS-

- ✓ If you drink and drive, you may spend more money on legal fees and penalties than the money you spent on many years of Halloween costumes.
- ✓ If someone is injured on your property, you could be held liable.
- ✓ If you serve alcohol at your Halloween party, you may be responsible for any accidents caused by intoxicated minors.
- ✓ If you are a business or individual with a liquor license and continue serving a visibly intoxicated person, you may be liable for any accidents they cause.

TRICK OR TREAT SAFETY TIPS-

Some of these tips may be a bit repetitious from the analogy on the left side, but if heeded will help to make the Halloween season more enjoyable and safer:

- Always trick-or-treat with an adult chaperone.
- Be careful when crossing streets, even in your own neighborhood. Rather than cutting through yards, use designated crosswalks and always look both ways (2 times) before your feet leave the sidewalk.
- Do your trick-or-treating at homes where the lights are on.
- Carry a flashlight with you - and it's a great idea to take an extra set of batteries - in case the present set dies.
- Remove your mask when moving from house to another.
- Wait until you return home to eat your treats, this way your parents can check them to be sure that they are safe to eat.
- Remember when you're out trick-or-treating, to call 9-1-1 if you have an emergency.

SAFETY TIPS FOR HOMEOWNERS/RENTERS-

- Make sure that your home is well-lit so that the little trick-or-treaters can find their way to your doorway safely.
- Check your yard in the afternoon of Halloween to clear any obstacles or debris that may cause a visitor to trip or fall.
- Make any maintenance repairs on your steps or other house parts that has the potential for an injury.
- Keep the pathways and walkways clear of any obstacles that could cause an injury to visitors,
- Keep your pets restrained during the trick-or-treat period.
- If you are having a party with both teenagers and adults attending, be sure that the minors are not served or given alcohol!
- Again, if you are having a party and alcohol will be served, arrange for a couple of "designated drivers" to chaffer the "over-served" home.

Ted Gordon-Risk Mgmt./ Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES/MSU-ES (662) 566-2201
Excerpts: <http://www.edgarsnyder.com>
<http://cdc.gov/family/halloween>
5/4/2015

**DON'T GET SPOOKED THIS HALLOWEEN!
BE SAFETY SMART
RIGHT FROM THE START!!**