

# MSU - Dawg Tracks

October, 2016

MISSISSIPPI STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
EXTENSION SERVICE

Halloween Safety Tips

October is here, and with it we have football season in full swing and another exciting Halloween season. This is always a great time for kids and adults alike. However, the season can be a “bummer,” if we don’t take the necessary precautions to be careful in all the related activities.

We shall discuss some tips and precautionary measures that will help to keep the Halloween season a happy and safe one.

## GENERAL SAFETY TIPS-

- S** – Swords, knives, and other similar costume accessories should be short, flexible and made of plastic.
- A** – Avoid trick or treating alone. Go in large groups with an adult along as a chaperone, especially with young kids.
- F** – Fasten reflective tape to the children’s costumes and their bags for better visibility.
- E** – Examine all of their “bounty” to be sure that all of their contents are safe for consumption. Be sure to check their fruits for pin holes from possible injections.
- H** – Hold the flashlights so that others can see you and you can see what treat is in their bag.
- A** – Always test makeup in small parts of your skin to make sure that there are no allergies, rashes or swelling that would affect you.
- L** – Look before crossing streets and cross only at designated cross walks.
- L** – Lower your risk by not wearing decorative contact lenses.
- O** – Only walk on sidewalks or the far edge of a road, always facing the traffic.
- W** – Wear well-fitted costumes, masks, and shoes to avoid the possibility of a slip, trip or fall.
- E** – Eat only factory-wrapped treats, avoid homemade treats unless you’re totally familiar with the source.
- E** – Enter homes only if you are totally familiar with the families or you are with a trusted adult. Otherwise stay outside.
- N** – Never walk near live candles or other active flames. Be sure to wear flame-retardant costumes.

## PEDESTRIAN SAFETY-

- Young children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- The children should walk from house to house (no running) and stay on the sidewalks.
- Always caution children to not run out between parked cars, across lawns and yards where furniture, ornaments or clotheslines could present a danger.

## CHOOSING SAFE HOUSES-

- ✓ Go only to homes with friendly families and ones that you are acquainted with.
- ✓ Do not allow children to enter a house or apartment unless they are accompanied by an adult.
- ✓ Home occupants should remove obstacles from their lawns, porches, or steps that could cause a slip, trip or fall.
- ✓ Candlelit jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from steps or porches where they could cause a fire.

## MOTORISTS SAFETY-

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars and walking on curbs, medians, and roadways.
- Enter and exit driveways very carefully. “Look all around twice: Exit once.”
- At dusk, watch for children in dark clothing.

## TIPS FOR KIDS AND TEENS-

- Mentioned earlier- avoid homes of strangers- don’t go inside- don’t even ask for treats unless you have a parent or adult with you.
- Be careful crossing streets- cross only at intersections with traffic lights. If you have young kids with you hold their hand when crossing streets. Always look twice before crossing.
- For older teens- leave a plan with your parents where you will be and what time you will return home. Abide by it- this will build trust with your parents.
- Refrain from all forms of vandalism! This always causes a mess for someone to clean up and might lead to an arrest, depending upon the nature of the act.
- It is a good idea to have a cell phone in the group, in case of an emergency.
- Stay out of unfamiliar and poorly lit neighborhoods. Well-lit homes and neighborhoods are usually signs of friendly families and areas that are invitations to “trick or treaters.” Dark ones are normally not “trick or treat” friendly.
- At the end of your “trick or treating,” you should have your goodies for your mother to check them for injections in the fruit and for potentially “doctored” candy.
- On younger kids, pin a note on their shirt with their name, phone number, etc., in case they get lost.

## TREATS-

To ensure a safe “trick or treating” for the kids:

- Give the kids an early meal before they go out.
- Mentioned above- ask them to bring their goodies home for parental inspection to be sure that they are good for consumption.
- Wash fruit and slice in small pieces.
- If there is doubt in some of the goodies- **THROW IT OUT!**

## COSTUME SAFETY TIPS-

- ✓ Purchase costumes constructed of flame-retardant fabrics, that are well-fitted and comfortable- no long legs to trip over. For young ladies- wear flat bottom shoes as opposed to heels. The flat bottoms are more comfortable in walking and safer.
- ✓ If you wear a mask, make sure it fits comfortably, allows for adequate ventilation and the eye holes are large enough to enable you to see clearly.

**DON'T GET SPOOKED**

**BY SAFETY**

**xxxxx**

**BE ALERT<>> BE ALIVE**

**BE SAFE!!**

