



# MSU-ES Dawg Tracks

October, 2014

*Safety Tips: Keep Halloween Safe & Enjoyable*



Halloween is one of the most enjoyable and anticipated holidays during the year. Trick-or-treating, wearing festive costumes and carving pumpkins are all a part of the Halloween holiday activities.

The Halloween season can also be rife with potential dangerous injuries, both involving kids and adults. Parents should take all precautions to make sure that their kids are safe and will observe good safety rules while enjoying the season.

## **Facts that re-enforce the need for safety to be stressed by parents:**

- ✓ Twice as many kids are killed in pedestrian/vehicle incidents on Halloween between 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm as compared to the same hours on the other days throughout the year.
- ✓ 89% of parents in the USA report that their kids participate in Halloween activities.
- ✓ 73% go trick-or-treating door to door.
- ✓ 50% attend parties at school.
- ✓ 36% participate in events at shopping malls or recreation centers.
- ✓ 29% attend parties at friends' homes.
- ✓ 13% march in Halloween parades.
- ✓ 79% have discussed Halloween safety with their kids.

These are all positive facts regarding children's safety during the Halloween season; however, there are approximately 10 to 25% of kids unaccounted for in regards to safety precautions. The safety precautions we shall discuss below should be passed on to those who might not get exposed to them.

## **HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS-**

### **Walk Safely-**

- Cross streets at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Look left, right and left again before crossing and keep looking as you cross the street.
- Put electronic devices down and keep your head up and walk-don't run across the street.
- Teach children to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.
- Always walk on sidewalks or paths. If there no sidewalks, walk facing the traffic as far to the left as possible. Teach children to walk on the most direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Teach children to never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

### **Trick or treat with an Adult-**

- Children under the age of 12 should not be alone at night without adult supervision.
- If kids are mature to be out without adult supervision, they should stick to familiar areas that are well-lit and do their trick-or-treating in groups.

## **Keep Costumes Creative and Safe-**

- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights to help them see and be seen by drivers.
- When checking for a costume, check to be sure the size is right to prevent slips and falls.
- Avoid carrying sticks, swords or other sharp objects.
- Check treats for tampering before children are allowed to eat them. Candy should be thrown away if the wrapper is damaged or worn looking.
- When looking to buy costumes, wigs and accessories, look for flame retardant fabrics and articles.
- If a sword, stick or cane is part of the costume, try to get one made of plastic without a sharp point on it.
- Try to use face paint or makeup instead of masks. Masks sometimes can block the vision without a real proper fit.
- Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors.

## **Driving on Halloween-**

- Slow down and be especially alert in residential neighborhoods. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Take extra time to double-check at intersections, on medians and on curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys slowly and carefully.
- Eliminate any distractions inside your car so that you can apply full concentration on the road and the surrounding areas.
- Drive slowly, anticipate heavy traffic and turn your headlights on earlier in the day to spot children from greater distances.
- The most popular time for trick or treaters is from 5:30 pm to 9:30 pm. Be ***Especially Careful*** and alert for kids during these hours.
- Remember that costumes can limit a child's visibility, so they not are able to see your vehicle.

## **Other Safety Tips-**

- ✓ Teach children how to call 9-1-1 or another local emergency number if they have a problem or are lost.
- ✓ Don't let small kids carve pumpkins. Let them mark the outline with a "magic marker", and then the adults can do the carving.
- ✓ Refrain from using candlelit pumpkins, and if you do, then definitely don't leave them unattended.
- ✓ Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or a car for a treat.
- ✓ Carry a cellphone for quick communication.
- ✓ Safe home – parents should remove any items on the front porch that could cause a kid to trip and /or fall.

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Excerpts: <http://www.safekids.org/tip/halloween-safet-tips>  
<http://www.aap.org/en-us>

***SAFE ACTIONS BRING LASTING***  
***\*\*\* SATISFACTION \*\*\****  
***DON'T LEARN SAFETY BY ACCIDENT!***