

MAFES Dawg Tracks



October, 2013



Halloween Safety Tips



October is here and with it many good things happen. Football season for high schools and colleges are in full swing and Halloween is just around the corner. That is a great time for kids and adults seem to get as big a kick out of it as the kids. However, not meaning to be the bearer of bad news, but without proper safety precautions Halloween can be a “downer” if we aren’t careful with all the various activities. Hopefully with the contents of this letter, it can help you to remain focused throughout the Halloween activities to avoid an accident.

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 younger kids.

F – **Fasten reflective tape** to their costumes and bags so that drivers can see them better.

E - **Examine** all their bounty to be sure that all their candies are safe for consumption and check fruits for pin holes (from possible injections).

H – **Hold** flashlights so others can see you and you can see what you’re getting for a treat.

A – **Always** test makeup in small parts of your skin to make sure there are no allergies, rashes, or swelling that would affect you.

L – **Look** before crossing streets and cross at only designated cross walks..

L – **Lower** your risks 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’re 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.

OTHER GENERAL TIPS-

- ✓ Homeowners- Clean up debris and obstacles in your yard. Restrain your dogs, and maintain a well-lit porch and yard area.
- ✓ Decorate with artificial lighting – refrain from using live flame accessories.
- ✓ Adults – If you are planning to attend a Halloween party where adult beverages will be served – don’t drink and drive. Call a cab or arrange for a non-drinking driver.

TIPS FOR KIDS & TEENS-

- We mentioned this above – avoid homes of strangers, don’t go inside and don’t even ask for treats unless you have a parent or adult with you.
- Be careful crossing a street. It’s much safer to cross at traffic lights, waiting until the crosswalk signal appears. If you have a younger sibling with you hold their hand anytime you are crossing and look twice in both directions for oncoming traffic.
- Make sure that your parents know where you are and where you will be going for Halloween. If they give you a curfew time, abide by it. This builds trust between you and your parents.
- Refrain from all forms of vandalism! This only causes messes for someone to clean up and it might lead to an arrest, depending upon the nature of the act.
- For young kids – always have an adult chaperone.
- It is a good idea to have a cell phone in the group in case of an emergency.
- Don’t accept rides.
- Stay out of unfamiliar and poorly lit neighborhoods. Well-lit neighborhoods and homes usually are signs of inviting trick or treaters, where dark ones probably don’t want them.
- After the trick or treating is over for the night, kids should bring their goodies home and let Mom inspect them for injections in fruit or candy that may have been “doctored up.” Even though you caution kids to stay in familiar areas and with familiar people, an off-beat character might try to slip in some contaminated “loot.”

COSTUME SAFETY TIPS-

- Purchase costumes made with flame-retardant material. Be sure the fit is correct, so that you won’t be tripping on long legs and that it will be comfortable for several hours of moving around. Wear flat shoes as opposed to ones with heels for the young ladies.
- If make-up is used, pretest it ahead of time, in small area of your skin to be sure that no allergies are present such as rashes, swelling, etc.
- If you wear a mask, be sure that it fits comfortably, allows for adequate ventilation and the eye holes are large enough to enable you to see clearly.
- Try to work reflector strips on the child’s costume, a flash light or night stick to make them more visible at night. This will make them more visible to drivers and easier for the parents to track them, in case they get ahead in their trick or treating.

DON’T GET SPOOKED BY SAFETY!

<><><><>

BE ALERT ~~ ACCIDENTS HURT

Ted Gordon – Risk Mgmt./ Loss Control Mgr.
MAFES / MSU-ES (662) 566-2201

Excerpts: www.cdc.gov / www.halloween-safety.com 4/25/2013
www.keepkids healthy.com