

BE HALLOWEEN Safe

Halloween is a fun, and spooky, time of year for kids. Make trick-or-treating safe for your little monsters with a few easy safety tips.



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HALLOWEEN FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- »» **When choosing a costume**, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- »» **Provide children** with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- »» Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper catch fire easily. **Keep all decorations** away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters.
- »» **Use a battery-operated** candle or glow-stick in jack-o-lanterns. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- »» **Remember** to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- »» **Make sure** all smoke alarms in the home are working.
- »» **Tell children** to stay away from open flames including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice, stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)

If your children are going to **Halloween parties** at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

Did you know?



Decorations are the first thing to ignite in **900** reported home fires each year. Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle.



Your Source for **SAFETY** Information

NFPA Public Education Division • 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02169

Halloween Treats...No Tricks



Top 10 Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween can be the most frightful night of the year, as ghosts and goblins haunt the streets of River Forest. But with just a little attention to safety, we can make the holiday filled with treats. Following are ten Halloween safety tips that are good to review before you send your costumed characters out for the night.

1. **Unsafe Costumes Scare Me!** Be sure the costumes you choose are made out of flame-resistant materials, which will be clearly marked on the packaging. This means that the costume will resist burning and can be extinguished quickly, so make sure we review the “Stop, Drop and Roll” if your clothes catch fire with your children.
2. **Light It Up!** Make sure costumes have plenty of bright colors so kids can be easily seen at night. If the costume is dark, add some reflective tape to the costume. Glow sticks can also be used to accessorize, and give the group a flashlight.
3. **Keep Monsters Vertical!** Make sure costumes don't drag, which can trip up kids. Look at your front yard and eliminate all trip hazards, such as hoses, rakes and wet leaves.
4. **Hungry Monsters Like to Feed!** Send your children out after they have eaten dinner so they are more likely to resist eating treats before you get a chance to inspect them in the light of your home. Remind them the rule of no treats before inspection.
5. **Don't Decorate like Dr. Frankenstein!** Purchase electrical lights and decorations that bear the label of an independent testing laboratory such as UL. Check the wires for cracks or fraying before plugging them in and placing them for decorations.
6. **Candles can Combust!** Any candles should be off the ground and out of the reach of children. Better yet, try the battery-operated flameless candles or other lighting options.
7. **Keep Monsters in Packs!** Make sure kids go out with a group of friends. If they are young, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult.
8. **Informed Goblins are Smart Goblins!** Go over safety rules with the group before they head out for the night. Only go to homes with lights on, stay together and look before crossing streets.
9. **Keep Your Creatures Connected!** If your kids are old enough to go out without adults, make sure there are cell phones in the group so they can call if there are any problems.
10. **Vampire Roll Call!** Have a set schedule so that kids will call or text parents to let them know their whereabouts. This keeps adults informed so we can have treats or drinks ready when they arrive at the home for a break or a late night snack.

DEADLY CUTE



DARK COLORS
Hard to see at night

BAD FITTING MASKS
Hard to see, breathe
or hear

BAD FITTING COSTUMES
Most injuries from trips
and falls

DANGEROUS TREATS
Toys with small parts

CANDLES
Keep away from kids

River Forest Fire Department
For more information call 708-714-3562

TO HAVE FUN SAFELY

COSTUMES: Flame-resistant fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, are best. They should be brightly colored or trimmed with reflective tape to make them visible to motorists at dusk and in the dark.

MASKS: Check that eye holes are large enough to allow full visibility and nose holes allow for adequate breathing.

CANDLES: Keep candle-lit jack-o-lanterns and other decorations where children cannot brush against the flame. Try LED lights instead.

TREATS: Put reflective tape on treat bags. No toys with small parts for children under 3.



www.CPSC.gov

Candle Safety

River Forest Fire Department
For More Information call
708-714-3562

Candles may be pretty to look at but they are a cause of home fires — and home fire deaths. Remember, a candle is an open flame, which means that it can easily ignite anything that can burn.

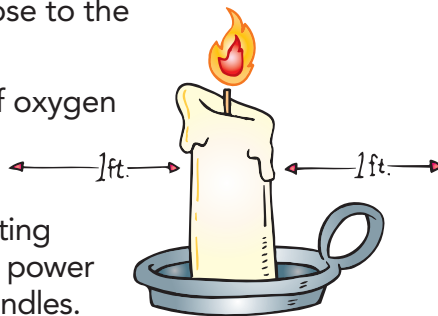
"CANDLE WITH CARE"

- » Blow out all candles when you leave the room or go to bed. Avoid the use of candles in the bedroom and other areas where people may fall asleep.
- » Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn.

Think about using flameless candles in your home. They look and smell like real candles.

IF YOU DO BURN CANDLES, make sure that you...

- » Use candle holders that are sturdy, and won't tip over easily.
- » Put candle holders on a sturdy, uncluttered surface.
- » Light candles carefully. Keep your hair and any loose clothing away from the flame.
- » Don't burn a candle all the way down — put it out before it gets too close to the holder or container.
- » Never use a candle if oxygen is used in the home.
- » Have flashlights and battery-powered lighting ready to use during a power outage. Never use candles.



CANDLES AND KIDS

Never leave a child alone in a room with a burning candle. Keep matches and lighters up high and out of children's reach, in a locked cabinet.



FACTS

- ! On average, a candle fire in the home is reported to a U.S. fire department every **30** minutes.
- ! Roughly **two-fifths** of home candle fires started in the bedroom.
- ! More than half of all candle fires start when things that can burn are too close to the candle.



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