

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY

## "BOO!"

"Trick-or-Treat!", Smiling faces of pirates, cheerleaders, and ghosts as they hold open their bags for treats of candy.

Halloween may be a fun holiday for children, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky. Concerns about children's safety- whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with bags of booty-can darken the day more quickly than a black cat. But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips:

- Make sure your children dress up safely.
- Check that the costumes are flame-retardant so the little ones aren't in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable and more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision- a dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets and going up and down stairs.
- Make sure kids wear bright colors or put reflective tape on their costumes.
- Trick-or-Treaters always should be in groups so they aren't a tempting target for real-life goblins. Parents should accompany young children, make trick-or treat trouble free.
- Make sure older children trick-or-treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so parents know where they'll be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside lights are on.
- Try to get your children to trick-or-treat while it's still light out. If it's dark make sure someone has a flashlight and pick well-lighted streets.
- Make sure kids know not to enter strange houses or stranger's cars.

Consider avoiding trick-or-treating troubles, entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire fighters, libraries, or civic groups in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other Halloween festivities for families.

## Treats

- Children need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or a snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted place.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for a while!

Halloween can be a lot of fun for parents and children alike - if everybody remembers the tricks and the treats of playing it safe.

## Dressed up and dangerous?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a super hero or an alien from outer space -coupled with the excitement of Halloween- brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, guns, and other costume accessories can hurt people. If these objects are parts of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to be scary and fun.

**BE SAFE - HAVE FUN "HAPPY HALLOWEEN"**

**Provided by Troy Police Department Auxiliary**