

# Halloween Safety Tips

Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday. It would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.

There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, a time when they are more at risk for accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop a tragedy from happening.

- ▶ Help your child pick out or make a costume that will be safe. Make it fire proof. The eye holes should be large enough for good peripheral vision.
- ▶ If you set jack-o-lanterns on your porch with candles in them, make sure they are far enough out of the way so that kids' costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- ▶ Make sure that if your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, that the tips are smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen upon.
- ▶ Kids always want to help with the pumpkin carving. Small children shouldn't be allowed to use a sharp knife to cut the top or the face. There are many kits available that come with tiny saws that work better than knives and are safer, although you can be cut by them as well. It's best to let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which you can carve for them.
- ▶ Treating your kids to a spooky Halloween dinner will make them less likely to eat the candy they collect before you have a chance to check it for them.
- ▶ Teaching your kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing streets and crossing when the lights tell you to. This advice help make them safer when they are out Trick or Treating.
- ▶ Know the route your kids will be taking if you aren't going with them. Let your children know not to cut through back alleys and fields. Make sure they know to stay in populated places and don't go off the beaten track. Stay in well lighted areas.
- ▶ The best bet is to make sure that an adult is going with them. If you can't take them, see if another parent or a teen-aged sibling can go along.
- ▶ Stop only at familiar houses in your own neighborhood unless they are accompanied by an adult. Instruct your child to never go into the home of someone they don't know.
- ▶ Make sure you set a time that they should be home. Make sure they know how important it is for them to be home on time.
- ▶ Make sure your child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- ▶ Explain to children they should stay together as a group if going out to Trick or Treat without an adult.
- ▶ Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun but they need to know the other side of the coin as well. Clean up and damages can ruin Halloween. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.
- ▶ Explain to your kids that animal cruelty is not acceptable. Kids may know this on their own but peer pressure can be a bad thing. Make sure that they know that harming animals is not only morally wrong but punishable by law and will not be tolerated.
- ▶ Instruct your children not to eat any treats until they bring them home to be examined by you.



**EPHRATA**  
**FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
*Multicultural Fire & Life Safety Programs*