Halloween Safety Tips

For inquiries regarding this safety alert, contact the HSEQ department at 985-868-1950

Halloween is a cherished tradition but the excitement of the night can cause children to forget to be careful. There is no real “trick” to making Halloween a real “treat” for the entire family. The major dangers are not from witches or spirits, but rather from falls and pedestrian/car crashes. Our communities designate specific hours for trick-or-treat. Both children and adults need to think about safety on this fun night.

PARENTS
Before children start out on their trick-or-treat rounds, parents should:
• Make sure an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.
• Plan and discuss the route trick-or-treaters intend to follow.
• Teach your children to stop only at houses that are well-lit and never enter a stranger’s home.
• Establish a return time.
• Tell your youngsters not to eat any treat until they return home.
• Pin a slip of paper with the child’s name, address, and phone number inside a pocket in case the youngster gets separated from the group.
• Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.

COSTUME DESIGN
• Only fire-retardant materials should be used for costumes.
• Costumes should not be so long that they are a tripping hazard.
• If children will be out after dark, outfits should be made with light colored materials. Strips of reflective tape should be used to make children visible.

FACE DESIGN
• Masks can obstruct a child’s vision. Use face paint instead.
• When buying special Halloween makeup, check packaging for labels such as “Laboratory Tested,” “Non-toxic,” “Meets U.S. Standards.”
• If masks are worn, they should have nose and mouth openings and large eye holes.

ACCESSORIES
• Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials.
• Bags carried by youngsters should be light-colored or trimmed with reflective tape.
• Carrying flashlights will help children see better and be seen more clearly.

MOTORISTS
The National Safety Council urges motorists to be especially alert on Halloween:
• Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
• Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
• Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
• At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.

ON THE WAY
Children should understand and follow these rules:
• Do not enter homes without adult supervision.
• Walk, do not run, from house to house. Do not cross yards or lawns where unseen objects or the uneven terrain can present tripping hazards.
• Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
• Walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.

TREATS
To ensure safe trick-or-treating, parents are urged to:
• Give children an early meal before going out.
• Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten.
• Wash fruit and slice into small pieces.
• When in doubt, throw it out.