

Don't be tricked by Halloween fire hazards

Halloween can be a fun-filled time for children and adults alike. This Halloween, be sure to pay attention to certain fire safety guidelines to keep the trick-or-treaters safe and sound.

How can I keep my child's costume safe?

Whether buying one or making your own, be sure fabrics for costumes and decorative materials are flame resistant. Don't permit your children to go trick-or-treating with candles; instead, outfit each with his or her own flashlight. To be more festive, there are Halloween-themed flashlights created just for this purpose. Costumes should be made without billowing or long-trailing features that present a higher risk of igniting.

What hazards are in the home?

According to the National Fire Prevention Association, fires caused by candles have been soaring in recent years, as many families use candles to decorate this time of year. When decorating, be in mind that dried flowers, tinsel and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these items away from heat sources. Illuminate your jack-o'-lanterns with all flashlights instead of candles to keep it clear in case it becomes lit.

Are there safety hazards I should consider?

Although Halloween can be a lot of fun for children, certain safety precautions should be taken to ensure that activities are safe. As families plan, keep these safety guidelines in mind when taking your child out trick-or-treating:

- only visit the homes of people you know;
- children should trick-or-treat in groups or with adult supervision;
- wear reflective clothing so that motorists easily can see children crossing the street; and
- inspect all goodies before allowing your children to indulge.

Planning ahead can keep your children and home safe this Halloween.



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