



## SAFETY TIPS

**T**o help ensure this Halloween is a safe and happy holiday for you and your children, here are some things to be aware of.

### Costume Suggestions

- Choose a light or bright colored costume and put reflective tape on the costume.
- Make-up or face paint is much safer than a mask because it doesn't obstruct vision.
- Toy weapons, wands, brooms, etc. should be made of paper, cardboard or extremely flexible material; they are safer than plastic, wood or metal.
- Put the child's name, address and phone number on the inside of their costume in case of an accident or lost child.

comfortable shoes; poor fitting shoes are uncomfortable and may cause a fall.

- Trick or Treat bags should not be too large; they can obscure vision or cause your child to trip.
- Make sure wigs and costumes are flame resistant.

### To Trick or Treat Safely, Your Child Should:

- Eat a full meal prior to going out so he/she won't be tempted to eat treats before they can be properly inspected. Tell your children not to eat treats until you have checked them out.
- Plan your child's route and visit only homes in your neighborhood that are well lighted. Establish a time for them to be home.

- Travel in a group or with an adult; never enter a home or car. Small children should never be out alone.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.

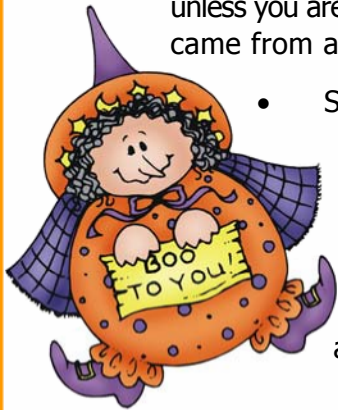


- Cross streets at corners, never from between two vehicles.
- When crossing a street, STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Look both ways before crossing.
- Walk, slither and sneak on the sidewalk or facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.
- Watch for cars and trucks driving into or backing out of driveways. That goes for low-flying brooms, too!



## Treats — Give Them a Safety Check:

- Check for holes or loose wrappers; pour powdered candy into a container and look for discoloration or lumps.
- Don't eat opened candy, fruit, etc. unless you know the person it came from.
- Wash fruit, then cut into bite-sized pieces.
- Soft candy should also be cut up into pieces before eating.
- Homemade treats should not be eaten unless you are absolutely sure they came from a safe source.



- Some hospitals will x-ray treat bag contents. Check with your local hospital for additional information.
- If any problems arise, call the Dave

County Sheriff non-emergency number at (336) 751-0896, unless it is an emergency situation — then call 9-1-1.

## Tricks.. .Tell Your Children:

- Be cautious of strangers and animals.
- Don't play pranks. Damaging other peoples' property is a crime.
- If your child is the victim of a crime (stolen candy, intimidation, threats, etc.) either talk to the suspect's parents or call the police.

## Safety Around the House....

- Do not light candles around walkways. If you would like luminaries or to light a Jack-O-Lantern, use a battery operated light source. If you must use candles, make sure they are far enough away so costumes and other objects won't catch fire.
- Keep walkways unobstructed and well lit.
- Don't let anyone you don't know into your home.

## Don't Forget Your Pets!

Leaving your pets outside on Halloween is not a good idea. There are plenty of tales of people who tease, injure, steal, torture and even kill animals on Halloween. Not to mention that dogs and cats can scare easily with all the trick-or-treaters coming to your house.

Here are some tips to keep your pets happy on Halloween:

- As much as your pet may beg you for Halloween candy, remember that chocolate is deadly to them.
- Candy wrappers, such as tin foil, can get stuck in your
- pets digestive tract and make them ill or cause death. There are plenty of recipes for homemade dog and cat treats to make for them.
- Tails and curious cats can accidentally knock over candles or Jack-O-Lanterns and start a fire. They could also burn themselves.
- If you are going to dress your pet in a costume, keep in mind that unless your pet is receptive to this kind of thing, you could be causing it stress and discomfort; no masks for your pet.
- If you're having a party, it's best to put your pet in a room with food and water for the night, away from the festivities. Even the best tempered animal can get snippy with a lot of people, noises and music around.
- Make sure they don't run out the door when you open the door for trick-or-treaters.

