Halloween is a night filled with witches, ghosts and ghouls but they’re not the only frightening part of the holiday.

Spooky things like children dressed in costumes and festive decorations like glowing jack-o-lanterns can present lurking fire risks that have the potential to become truly scary. But by planning ahead, you can help make this Halloween a fire-safe one.

Taking simple fire safety precautions, like keeping decorations far away from open flames and using battery-operated candles or glow-sticks in jack-o-lanterns, can help ensure your holiday remains festive and fun.

Follow these tips to keep everyone safe this Halloween:

- Use a battery-operated candle or glow stick in place of a candle in jack-o-lanterns
- When choosing costumes, stay away from long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eyeholes are large enough so they can see out of it.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper catch fire easily. Keep all decorations away from open flames and other heat sources like light bulbs and heaters
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks escape routes. Make sure all smoke alarms are working.

You can find out more Halloween safety tips at getprepared.in.gov

Mary Moran
IDHS Director of Emergency Management
Exercise Updates

The FEMA National Exercise Division is still accepting Fall 2021 requests for exercise support from the National Exercise Program (NEP). The NEP offers no-cost assistance to state, local, tribal and territorial jurisdictions for exercise design, development, execution and evaluation to validate capabilities across all mission areas.

Fall submissions are due no later than Nov. 1, 2021 and decisions will be sent by Dec. 10, 2021. To submit a support request, please email the completed nomination form and required supporting documentation to the National Exercise Division by the deadline. The nomination form and detailed instructions on how to submit your support request package are available on the NEP website.

For jurisdictions not ready to submit a request at this time, the NEP will hold additional exercise support rounds in spring and fall of 2022. If you have any questions, please contact the National Exercise Division.

- The LSA TTX/FX After Action Conference with central and south districts is scheduled for October 27, 2021.
- The Civil Unrest Table Top Exercise (TTX) After Action Conference with northern districts is scheduled for November 10, 2021.
- The CCTA FSE After Action Conference is TBD at this time.
- Exercise planning is beginning soon for a cyber Security Workshop with southern districts and all EMAs will be invited to the Workshop. It will be facilitated through Microsoft Teams. Please watch your email inbox for further information on developing the two workshop exercise planning teams or you can email the South Exercise Program Manager (Casey Fizer) at CFizer@dhs.IN.gov or the Exercise@dhs.IN.gov inbox.

Planning Update

The Planning Section finished the Indiana County EOP Template and uploaded the document to
Dashboard. If your agency is hiring and would like to promote the job, submit your information below the dashboard. It's free.

Note: If the link above does not load, please copy and paste this address into the browser: https://www.in.gov/dhs/fire-and-building-safety/public-safety-job-postings/

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**Public Assistance Program**

The Request for Public Assistance deadline remains open. A specific deadline for RPAs will be announced when a disaster end date for the COVID-19 pandemic is established by FEMA.

Continue checking the IDHS Public Assistance Program webpage for updates on guidance, trainings and other vital information.

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**Operation Allies Welcome Update**

Donations are still needed for the Afghan evacuees temporarily housed at Camp Atterbury.

For anyone interested in donating items, only new items will be accepted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday at the following National Guard armories:

- Evansville: 3300 E. Division St.
- Greenfield: 410 Apple St.
- Terre Haute: 3614 Maple Ave.
- Danville: 1245 E. Main St.
- Muncie: 401 N. Country Club Road
- Indianapolis: Kessler-Moore Readiness Center, 2625 W. Kessler Blvd. North Drive
- Fort Wayne: 130 W. Cook Road
- South Bend: 1901 Kemble Ave.
- New Albany: 2909 Grant Line Road

Items needed include:

- Men’s and women’s unbranded, modest clothes such as long-sleeved t-shirts, underwear, pants and jackets in sizes small to large. No shorts or tank tops.
- Winter clothes such as coats, gloves and hats
- Children’s clothing, including baby and newborn clothes, hats and socks
- Powdered baby formula
- Socks, hats, shoes and slide-on sandals (no flip flops) for evacuees of all ages

Any organization or business seeking to make a large donation and cannot deliver to a designated site should contact IDHS at privatesector@dhs.in.gov.