HALLOWEEN SAFETY

Ghosts and vampires are not the only spooky things Hoosiers should be concerned about on Halloween. Trick-or-treating can be filled with an array of dangers. According to Safe Kids Worldwide, children are more than twice as likely to die from a vehicle accident when they are out collecting treats than any other time of the year. Practice a few of these simple tips to keep the holiday safe and fun.

QUICK TIPS

- Masks can dangerously restrict vision. Try using non-toxic makeup to make sure children can see everything happening around them.
- Tell children to never enter a stranger's home or vehicle.
- Make sure young children are accompanied by a responsible adult.
- To prevent the chances of a fire, consider using a flashlight or glow stick in jack o' lanterns.

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

COSTUMES

For many, a great part of Halloween is the ability to dress up. Here is how to stay safe and stylish when gathering treats:

- Make sure costumes, wigs and accessories are fire resistant.
- Costumes and accessories should fit correctly to prevent tripping.
- Avoid dark colors — it could make it difficult for drivers to see the children.
- If avoiding dark colors is impossible, place reflective tape on costumes and bags so trick-or-treaters are more visible to drivers at night.
- Masks can dangerously restrict vision. Try using non-toxic makeup to make sure children can see everything happening around them.
- Remove makeup at the end of the night to prevent any potential allergic reactions or skin irritations.

TRICK-OR-TREATING

- Tell children to never enter a stranger's home or vehicle.
- No treats should be eaten until they are checked by an adult.
- Young children should be with a responsible adult.
- Older children should have a specific route and time they return home.
- Stay in well-lit areas and on sidewalks to prevent being hit by a vehicle. When crossing a street, remind children to look both ways before stepping off the sidewalk.
- Carry flashlights or electric lanterns to prevent injuries, both on the sidewalk and in the street.
- Notify law enforcement immediately if something is suspicious.

HOME SAFETY

Halloween safety does not only apply to costumes and trick-or-treating. Safety should be remembered when decorating and handing out treats.

- When preparing a jack o' lantern, consider having young children draw the pumpkin's face, but have parents do the actual carving.
- To prevent the chances of a fire, consider using a flashlight or glow stick in pumpkins.
- If using a candle in a pumpkin, display it in an area where costumes will not accidently brush against the pumpkin.
- Remove dangerous items from the yard that can injure and trip children.
- Keep the sidewalk and porch free from debris and slipping hazards.
- Pets should be restrained to avoid any stress-induced aggression and to prevent them from escaping.