

HOMEOWNERS & PARENTS



-  Have your child draw a face on the pumpkin. Parents should do the carving on stable, flat surfaces with good lighting.
-  Use a flashlight in jack-o-lanterns instead of a candle to prevent a fire. Never leave lighted pumpkins unattended.
-  Only use UL-approved lighted decorations.
-  Never overload electrical outlets with holiday lighting or special effects.
-  Keep paper and dry fall decorations such as holiday leaves, cornstalks, hay bales, and branches away from open flames and heat sources.
-  Inspect your yard. Remove hazards such as wet leaves, low tree limbs, clotheslines, bikes, lawn furniture, or hoses.
-  Leave indoor lights, and porch lights on so children will know it's okay to visit your home.
-  Avoid giving choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys as treats to young children.
-  Put pets in the house or garage for the evening to keep them from being scared or injured, and to keep them from inadvertently biting a child. Never give candy to pets.
-  Encourage children to attend local community events and organized festivities.
-  If your child attends a party, know who is sponsoring it, how long it will last, and make sure it is supervised by an adult.

CANDY

- Check all treat wrappers for signs of tampering before allowing your child to eat any candy.
- Throw away anything unwrapped. *If in doubt, throw it out!*
- Discard items that can cause choking such as hard candies and small toys.
- Report any harmful items to the proper authorities.



DRIVERS

-  Drive slowly and remain cautious.
-  Watch for children in the street and on medians.
-  Exit driveways and alleyways carefully, especially when driving in residential areas.
-  Watch out for children darting between homes or across the road.
-  Have your child get out of the car on the curb side, not on the traffic side.

OTHER FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- ★ Teach your child how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency. (9-1-1 can be dialed free at any pay phone.)
- ★ Show your child how to stop, drop, and roll if his clothes catch on fire.
- ★ Each year around Halloween, many states turn their clocks back one hour. Use this time to change the batteries in your smoke alarms. Why not buy batteries when you buy Halloween candy?



S a f e t y
Celebrate the
holiday
Safely!

MIAMI VALLEY FIRE DISTRICT
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STREET SMARTS

Parents may overestimate their child's street crossing skills.

Halloween poses special risks to your pedestrian, because trick-or-treating usually occurs outdoors, and often after dark.

Children tend to get caught up in the excitement and are more likely to choose the shortest, rather than safest route, ignoring traffic, which can put them at risk for injury.

- ★ Almost 4 times as many children, aged 5-14 are killed while walking on Halloween night between 4:00 - 10:00 pm compared to other evenings of the year.
- ★ Falls are the leading cause of injuries among children on Halloween.
- ★ Other injuries from this holiday are to the eyes from sharp objects, skin irritations or rashes from makeup and face paints, and burns from flammable costumes being near open flames such as candles and jack-o-lanterns.



COSTUMES

Costumes with masks that sit on top of the head, lower-face masks that cover the nose or nose and mouth, and decorative hats are safer alternatives to masks. Painting faces with non-toxic makeup is safer yet. However, if your child wears a mask, be sure that:

1. The eyeholes and ear holes are large enough not to limit vision or hearing.
2. It fits snugly.
3. It doesn't restrict breathing.

Costumes should:

- ☑ Fit properly and not drag or cause falls.
- ☑ Be light colored or bright.
- ☑ Be flame-resistant.
- ☑ Include proper walking shoes even if they don't match the costume.
- ☑ Fit comfortably over temperature appropriate clothing.
- ☑ Incorporate hats, wigs, beards, and scarves that are flame-resistant and tied securely to prevent them from obstructing vision or creating falls.
- ☑ Be accented (especially on the backs) with reflective tape which glows in the beam of a headlight.
- ☑ Involve only soft and flexible props that have no sharp points such as knives or swords that do not appear authentic.
- ☑ Conceal appropriate I.D. (name, address, phone number)

TRICK-OR-TREATING

Children under 9 should generally be accompanied by an adult. Children over 9 may be old enough to trick-or-treat with a group of responsible children the same age or older.

Young Children:

- 🕷 Have children trick-or-treat in their own neighborhood, on safe well-lighted streets.
- 🕷 Make sure they only go to homes they know that have porch lights on.
- 🕷 Instruct them to only accept treats in the doorway. Stay outside in front or on the porch rather than entering houses.
- 🕷 Never accept a ride from a stranger.
- 🕷 Always trick-or-treat in small groups with a responsible adult.
- 🕷 Use trick-or-treat bags that are easy for the child to carry.
- 🕷 Know where your children will be, their routes, who they are with, and when they will be home.

All Groups:

- 🕷 Walk! Never run.
- 🕷 Use sidewalks when possible, or walk on the left-hand side of the road facing traffic.
- 🕷 Never take shortcuts across driveways or through yards, alleys, or parks.
- 🕷 Cross at crosswalks and corners. Look left, right, and then left again before crossing streets.
- 🕷 Have at least one person in the group carry a flashlight and coins for non-emergency phone calls.
- 🕷 Wear a watch that can be read in the dark in order to be home by the designated curfew.
- 🕷 Stay away from animals and never pet them even if you know them.