

## PROPER COSTUMES: SAFETY IN DISGUISE

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- Choose brightly colored costumes or add reflective tape to increase visibility.<sup>9</sup>



- Ditch the masks. They make it harder to cross streets safely. Instead, opt for face paint.<sup>10</sup>

- Choose flame resistant costumes. If buying a costume, check for a “flame resistant” notification on the label.<sup>11</sup>



- Glow sticks or flashlights are another way to increase the visibility of your children.<sup>12</sup>

- Avoid pointy swords and sticks. Instead use cardboard and tape to make bendable props and accessories.<sup>13</sup>



## REFERENCES:

1. National Retail Foundation, “The (Not so) Spooky Stats for Halloween 2013”
2. U.S. Census Bureau, “Population Estimates”
3. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, “Pedestrian fatalities in motor vehicle crashes occurring between the hours of 4:00 pm and 10:00 pm by crash year, hour, age, and Halloween time period.”
4. Food and Drug Administration, “Halloween Food Safety Tips for Parents”
5. Consumer Product Safety Commission, “Halloween Safety”
6. Consumer Reports, “Trick or treat! Tips for Halloween safety: More kids get hit by cars on Halloween than any other night”
7. Crime Stoppers, “Halloween Safety”
8. Miami-Dade Police Department, “Halloween Safety Tips”
9. Joint Base Charleston, “Halloween safety information for parents”
10. Kids.gov, “Five Tips to Make Your Halloween Safe”
11. Food and Drug Administration, “Lucky 13 Tips for a Safe Halloween”
12. Safe Kids Worldwide, “Halloween Safety: A National Survey of Parents’ Knowledge, Attitudes, and Behaviors”
13. American Academy of Pediatrics, “AAP: 5 Halloween Safety Tips”

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# HALLOWEEN SAFETY FOR FAMILIES



# HALLOWEEN SAFETY FOR

## FAMILIES

Every year, **over 150 million** Americans participate in Halloween festivities. <sup>1</sup> Of these, **41 million children** age 5 to 14 will go trick-or-treating.<sup>2</sup>



However, the quest for candy isn't all fun and games. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, **more than twice as many children are injured** in pedestrian accidents on Halloween than other days throughout the year. <sup>3</sup>



In addition to learning about pedestrian safety, Halloween is a great chance to talk to your children about

- Food safety,
- Fire safety, and
- Situational awareness



### CONTROL THE CANDY

Feed your children a light meal or snack before going trick-or-treating. This will discourage them from snacking on their bounty. Urge your children to wait until they get home to eat their candy. **Inspect their candy** when they get home. <sup>4</sup>

### FLAME OFF

Avoid using Halloween decorations with real flames. Instead, **use battery-operated lights** to illuminate your jack-o-lanterns. If you must use actual candles, never leave them unattended and keep them away from curtains. <sup>5</sup>

### HOUSE RULES

Go with your children to the door of every home you visit. Never let your children enter a stranger's home without your permission. **Only approach homes with lit porch lights** or ones that clearly are inviting trick-or-treaters.<sup>7</sup>

### WALK THE WALK

Always accompany your children when trick-or-treating. Walk, **don't run**, from house to house. Only cross streets at crosswalks. Teach your children to look both ways before crossing the street. <sup>6</sup>

### CONSIDER YOUR ALTERNATIVES

If you're at all concerned about your children's safety during Halloween, **consider going to a party** at a friend's home or attending a well-planned, local event. Many schools, malls, or theme parks offer trick-or-treating events. <sup>8</sup>