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FOR FAMILIES

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# Halloween Safety

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❖ INSIGHTS FOR FAMILIES is provided by your child's school in recognition of your role as a partner in education. Adapted by Judy McDaniel, communications consultant.

A few safety tips from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission can protect children trick-or-treating on Halloween.

- ❖ **Treats:** Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has carefully examined them for evidence of tampering.
- ❖ **Flame Resistant Costumes:** When purchasing a costume, masks, beards, and wigs, look for the label Flame Resistant. This label does not mean these items won't catch fire, but it does indicate the items will resist burning and should extinguish quickly once removed from an ignition source. To minimize the risk of contact with sources of ignition, avoid costumes made with flimsy materials and outfits with big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts.
- ❖ **Costume Designs:** Purchase or make costumes that are light and bright enough to be clearly visible to motorists.
  - For greater visibility during dusk and darkness, decorate or trim costumes with reflective tape that will glow in the beam of a car's headlights. Bags or sacks should also be light colored or decorated with reflective tape. Reflective tape is usually available in hardware, bicycle, and sporting goods stores.
  - To easily see and be seen, children should also carry flashlights.
  - Costumes should be short enough to prevent children from tripping and falling.
  - Children should wear well-fitting, sturdy shoes. Mother's high heels are not a good idea for safe walking.
  - Hats and scarves should be tied securely to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
  - Apply a natural mask of cosmetics rather than have a child wear a loose-fitting mask that restricts breathing or obscures vision. Make sure masks fit securely and have eyeholes large enough to allow full vision.
  - Swords, knives, and similar costume accessories should be of soft and flexible material.
- ❖ **Pedestrian Safety:** Young children should always be accompanied by an adult or an older, responsible child. All children should WALK, not run from house to house and use the sidewalk if available, rather than walk in the street. Children should be cautioned against running out from between parked cars, or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture, or clotheslines present dangers.
- ❖ **Choosing Safe Houses:** Children should go only to homes where the residents are known and outside lights are on as a sign of welcome.
  - Children should not enter homes or apartments unless they are accompanied by an adult.
  - People expecting trick-or-treaters should remove anything that could be an obstacle from lawns, steps and porches.