

# HALLOWEEN Safety Tips

## EVANSTON HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

Halloween is a fun and enjoyable Holiday. The Evanston Police Department Community Strategies Bureau would like to provide you with some safety tips for the Halloween Holiday in order to keep you and your community safe. Remember that the major dangers of Halloween aren't from witches and spirits, but rather from crime and pedestrians/vehicle accidents, so please use every precaution on this annual day of make-believe. Hours for "Trick or Treating" are from 4:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, October 31, 2009.



## PARENTS

- Accompany young children while "Trick or Treating"
- Carry a flashlight, cell phone and first aid kit.
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 should they encounter an emergency.
- Plan a route with your children and agree on a time to "check-in" with family.
- Only travel to neighborhoods you are familiar with and only to houses with front porch lights on.
- Never enter a person's home.
- Cross streets at intersections only.
- Eat dinner before "Trick-or-Treating", or bring a snack from home. Do not allow your children to eat any candy unless, **checked by an adult first**. Any unwrapped items should be discarded.
- Before you allow your child to knock on any door, become better informed. Check the Illinois Sex Offender Registry website at <http://www.isp.state.il.us/sor>. Learn who lives in the houses you plan to visit. **BE CAUTIOUS RATHER THAN SORRY!**
- Notify your Neighborhood Watch Groups of the "Trick-or-Treating" times, and have them walk the neighborhoods to look out for children.
- Have Neighborhood Watch groups report any suspicious activity to the Evanston Police Department at (847) 866-5000.
- Remind children to have respect for their neighborhood. Although these activities may seem like fun; smashing pumpkins, "egging", spray painting and spraying property with shaving cream are all illegal activities that damage a person's property. Police should be notified of any such activity.



## DRIVERS

- Drive slowly (with lights on) and defensively all evening.
- NO ONE should drive a vehicle while wearing a Halloween Mask of any type.
- **CAUTION:** Young trick-or-treaters may dart out in front of you at anytime.
- Obey all traffic signals, both as a driver and a pedestrian.
- DUI Enforcement will be strictly enforced, so make sure you have a designated driver.
- Persons under the age of 21 should not drink any alcoholic beverage.



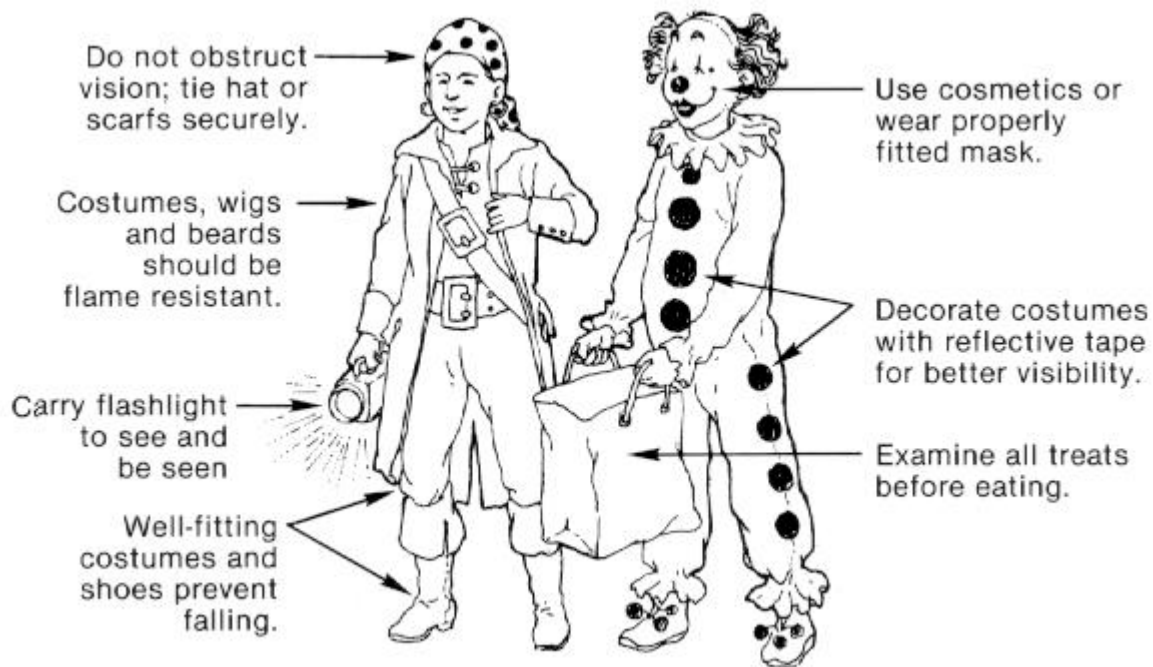
## PETS

- Halloween can be a very traumatic and even dangerous time for your pet(s).
- Don't leave your pet(s) out in the yard.
- Many strangers visiting in strange costumes can be scary for some pets.
- Make sure your cat or dog doesn't dart outside when you open the door.
- DO NOT! Dress your pet in a Halloween costumes, as it causes great stress in them.
- Trick-or-Treat candies OF ANY TYPE are not for pets. CHOCALATE is poisonous to many animals.
- Consult your veterinarian for further advice or visit the ASPCA's website:  
<http://www.aspca.org>



## COSTUMES

- Choose costumes that are bright and contain reflective material.
- Add a reflective stripe if necessary to make your child more visible to drivers.
- Carry a glow stick or glow necklace to be more visible.
- Avoid costumes that cover a child's head and may prevent them from seeing a vehicle or other hazard.
- **Remember toy guns look real. Choose costumes that do not contain guns or weapons.**
- Leave your pets at home. They may frighten easily and be more likely to bite.
- Only travel to neighborhoods you are familiar with.
- **Follow the following Costume Tips:**



A graphic with a black background. On the left, there is a stylized, glowing orange and yellow crescent shape resembling a moon or a piece of candy. To the right, the word "HALLOWEEN" is written in large, bold, yellow, slightly irregular capital letters. Below it, "Safety tips for kids..." is written in a smaller, yellow, cursive font. Two paragraphs of white, italicized text are positioned below the title. The first paragraph reads: "Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family." The second paragraph reads: "There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening."

**HALLOWEEN**  
*Safety tips for kids...*

*Anytime a child has an accident, it's tragic. The last thing that you want to happen is for your child to be hurt on a holiday, it would forever live in the minds of the child and the family.*

*There are many ways to keep your child safe at Halloween, when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children and adults at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Simple common sense can do a lot to stop any tragedies from happening.*

If you should have any further questions or concerns feel free to contact the Community Strategies Bureau or the Crime Prevention Specialist Officer L. Spells at 847-866-5019.



1454 ELMWOOD AVE.  
EVANSTON, IL. 60201  
(847) 866-5000 (NON-EMERGENCY)  
911 (EMERGENCY)