

# Halloween Safety Tips



## Decorations

- Pumpkin carving is the leading cause of Halloween injuries. Leave it to adults. Use carving tools rather than kitchen knives.
- Use glow sticks or battery-operated candles in pumpkins instead of open-flame candles.
- Keep decorations like scarecrows, cornstalks, and hay bales away from doorways, stairways, and windows. Always keep your emergency exits clear.
- Keep flammable decorations away from lamps, heaters, and any heat source.

## Costumes

- Children should carry a flashlight and their costumes should be bright-colored or have reflective tape to highlight them.
- Be sure all parts of the costume are labeled flame retardant.
- Costumes should not have trailing material or tails long enough to trip on.
- Pointed objects such as swords and pitchforks should be made of soft material.
- If your child wears a mask instead of make-up on their face, be sure they can see clearly.

## Firecrackers

- Fireworks of all types are illegal in Massachusetts.

## Trick or Treating

- Smaller children should always be with an adult. It's best to take little ones out early. If older children are going out without you, go over the ground rules first.
- Know what neighborhoods they will be in.
- Don't allow them in areas with which you are not completely comfortable.
- Have the children stay in a group.
- Let them know what time to be home.
- Give them a cell phone to use if necessary.
- Use sidewalks and cover one side of the street at a time.
- Cross only at the corners, never dart out between parked cars.
- Never accept a ride in a car or go inside a home unless it is a friend's.
- Only approach houses where the outside lights are on as a signal of welcome.
- Bring bags home to be checked by an adult before eating a single treat.



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