

Halloween Safety

According to the NFPA, “During 2000-2004, decoration fires accounted for an estimated 1,610 reported home structure fires per year, the majority involving candles as a heat source, and causing seven civilian deaths, sixty civilian injuries and 24.9 million in direct property damage per year.”

As you plan for Halloween keep the following safety tips in mind:

1. Costumes, wigs and props should be labeled flame resistant or flame retardant.
2. Use flashlights or battery-operated candles to illuminate carved pumpkins.
3. Pumpkin carving should be left up to adults.
4. Use caution if decorating with candles and candle lit jack-o-lanterns. Children should be supervised at all times.
5. Supervise children trick-or-treating. Discuss pedestrian safety and carry flashlights to make sure that you can be seen by traffic. Stick to sidewalks whenever possible.
6. Instruct children never to enter the home of strangers.
7. Don't decorate yards or walkways with candles. If you choose to decorate with lights look for UL mark on light strings, electrical decorations and extension cords. The UL mark indicates that UL engineers have tested samples of the product for safety hazards such as fire and electrical shock.
8. Keep decorations clear of exits. Nothing should block escape routes. If you are hosting a party, make sure that your guests know where the exits are in your home and what to do in case of an emergency.
9. As a precaution, teach your children never to trick-or-treat in unfamiliar neighborhoods. Many churches, malls, and nursing homes have trick or treat safe nights. Take your children to one of these events in place of going door to door.
10. Carefully inspect all candy before allowing your children to eat it.

