

Tips For A Safe Halloween

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Halloween is a time of great fun and excitement for children and adults alike. However, with all of the fun and excitement it is easy to forget to be careful and safe when participating in the festivities of Halloween. Halloween is considered one of the most dangerous holidays in the United States when it comes to accidental injuries and deaths. The leading causes of these deaths and injuries are falls, fire hazards, and car accidents. In fact the Center for Disease Control and Prevention reported that children are four times more likely to be killed by a pedestrian/motor vehicle accident on Halloween than on any other day of the year.

We at Cusimano, Keener, Roberts, Knowles, & Raley want to make sure you and your family have a safe and enjoyable Halloween, so here are a few safety tips to take into consideration when getting ready to hit the town on Halloween night.

Costume Safety Tips

- Costumes should be bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping.
- Always purchase flame resistant costumes, masks, beards and wigs.
- If you or your children are carrying a prop such as a sword, make sure they are made out of a flexible plastic that will bend if fallen on.
- Reflective tape added to costumes and trick-or-treat bags ensure greater visibility.
- Consider cosmetics and face paints rather than masks that can obscure vision.

Trick or Treating Safety Tips

- Assign a parent or responsible adult to accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Provide flashlights or glow sticks for children and escorts to help enhance visibility.
- Make sure you remove any mask or costume that will obscure vision before crossing a street, driveway or alley.
- Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks (where they exist), and do not cross between parked cars.

- Do not assume the right of way. Be sure that all cars are stopping before crossing the street.
- Remain on well-lit streets and use the sidewalk; don't cut across yards or use alleys.

Halloween Driving Tips

- Don't use a cell phone or other electronic device while driving on Halloween night. You should never do this on any day of the year.
- If you are dropping off or picking up your kids in an area, pull off the road into a safe spot and turn on your hazard lights to alert other motorists. If you go with your kids from door to door, leave the hazard lights on so other drivers can see your car parked there.
- Drive slowly.
- Have children get out of cars on the curb side, not on the traffic side.
- Do not pass other vehicles that have stopped in the roadway, they could be dropping off children.
- Pay extra attention, particularly to crosswalks, intersections and the side of the road.

Tips To Help Prevent Injuries On Your Property

- Check your property low tree limbs or tripping hazards that may prove dangerous in the dark.
- Place lighted pumpkins away from curtains and other flammable objects, and do not leave lighted pumpkins unattended.
- Keep pets safe in the house on Halloween, when costumes and noises can cause alarm.

Happy Halloween and please be SAFE!

