

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FOR YOU AND YOUR FAMILY

Each year at Halloween, children are injured by automobile accidents, fires, falls, and on rare occasions poisoned by treats. All personnel should review these safety recommendations to assure that everyone has a fun and safe Halloween.

Children Should:

- ❖ Cross streets only at corners.
- ❖ Never cross streets between parked cars.
- ❖ Always walk, don't run. Stay on the sidewalks and obey traffic signals. If the area does not have a sidewalk, try to remain off the roadway or walk facing the oncoming traffic.
- ❖ Always remove masks while walking between houses and before crossing streets.
- ❖ Look in all directions before crossing the street.
- ❖ Be aware of cars that may be turning into or backing out of driveways.
- ❖ Never go into a stranger's house or car.
- ❖ Carry and use a flashlight and stay in well-lit areas. Only approach homes that are lit.
- ❖ Stay away from and don't pet animals. Pets do not always understand who is in the costume.

Parents Should:

- ❖ Know the route their children will be taking and keep children in familiar neighborhoods.
- ❖ Make sure younger children are accompanied by an adult.
- ❖ Know what other activities a child may be attending, such as parties.
- ❖ Set time limits on when children should return home and have them wear a watch that can be read in the dark.
- ❖ Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism.

- ❖ Although tampering is rare, instruct children **NOT** to eat treats until they return home and parents have had a chance to inspect those treats. Look at the wrapper carefully and toss out anything that looks suspect.
- ❖ Ensure that children eat dinner before they go trick-or-treating.
- ❖ Seek out community events or other activities for their family.

Costumes Should:

- ❖ Be made of flame retardant material.
- ❖ Be made of bright material, or hang reflector strips on the costume, so that they can be seen.
- ❖ Not include high heel shoes or long dangling articles that a child may trip over.
- ❖ Be comprised of props not real items such as swords, knives, or other dangerous items.

Motorists Should:

- ❖ Drive slowly and cautiously on Halloween Eve. Be aware of trick-or-treaters wearing dark clothing walking down the road or on shoulders. Children are focused on having fun, not necessarily on their safety.
- ❖ Be alert for youngsters who may forget safety rules and dart out in front of your car from the curb or from between parked cars.
- ❖ Make sure your headlights and windshield areas are as clean as possible to ensure good visibility that night.
- ❖ Concentrate on driving and not become distracted when chauffeuring a carpool group of trick-or-treaters. It is recommended to park on the right side of the road, turn off headlights, and use emergency flashers to warn other drivers. Don't forget to turn your headlights back on when pulling away.
- ❖ If you attend a party where adult beverages are served, ensure that you have a ride home or a designated driver.

Residents Should:

- ❖ Remove all obstacles (hoses, ladders, etc.) from their lawns and steps to prevent children from being injured.

- ❖ Have a well lighted home, both inside and out, to prevent vandalism and to prevent injuries to small children.
- ❖ Never allow animals around trick-or-treaters.
- ❖ Battery powered decorations are preferred over candles.
- ❖ Provide manufacture packaged treats. Or healthy alternatives such as fruit rolls or mini boxes of raisins.
- ❖ Give non-food items such as plastic rings, pencils, stickers or erasers.
- ❖ Contact the police for any suspicious or unlawful activities.
- ❖ If you are hosting a party, ensure that food is available and that all guests make it home safely.

On Fort Hood:

- ❖ The PMO will have extra foot and bike patrols in the housing areas during the evening.
- ❖ All lost children whose sponsor cannot be quickly located, will be transported to the PMO at Bldg 23020, Desk sergeant 287-4021.
- ❖ The PMO will have X-ray devices available for candy inspection at bldg 4246, off Tank Destroyer & 79th Street. There will be a sign to identify the facility.

Remember:

- ❖ Always have a parent or other responsible adult accompany small children when out trick-or-treating.
- ❖ Children should not eat any treats until checked by parents.
- ❖ Many local hospitals also offer x-ray services to screen candy for safety. Check local newspapers for information.
- ❖ Many towns have designated trick or treat times.

Have a Happy and Safe Halloween.

Steadfast & Loyal