

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

In a few days, our streets will be invaded as ghosts, witches, goblins and superheroes head-out for some Hallowe'en fun. Will your children be joining in the festivities?

The trick to making trick-or-treating a real treat for you and your children is to plan ahead. Make sure your little ones don't hit the streets before reviewing the following safety tips:



Choosing a costume:

- Choose a costume and accessories that are fire retardant, clearly visible and marked with reflective tape.
- Check the length of the costume in order to ensure that your children cannot trip and fall.
- Opt for make-up - a mask is not recommended as it can restrict breathing or obscure one's vision.

Before leaving the house:

- Plan a route with your children. Visit only those homes that are well-lit and decorated. Avoid deserted homes and always wait on the porch.
- Review street safety rules with your children: always stay on the sidewalks, cross only at intersections, obey traffic lights, look both ways before crossing and avoid running.
- Provide your children with a snack before they head out. They will be less tempted to sample their goodies before you have had a chance to inspect their treats.
- Pin a slip of paper with your child's name, address and phone number inside a pocket. Make sure they carry emergency money or a cell phone in case they need to reach you.

Along the Route:

- No trick-or-treater, even the older ones, should ever hit the streets alone. Traveling with a group of friends is much more fun and a lot safer.

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- Ensure that your children know to never accept a ride or go with anyone unless they have your permission first.
- Make sure older children wear a watch and give them a definite time to return home. Ask them to immediately contact you if there is a sudden change in plans.

Upon returning:

- Thoroughly inspect all treats and watch for any evidence of tampering. Immediately discard any treat that is not wrapped.



Keep in mind that children will need a little time to wind down and talk about the fun they had. Oh yes, and to sample their treats... maybe one or two or...!

For more information regarding the Missing Children's Network personal safety workshops, offered year-round, please contact our offices at 514 843-4333 or visit our website at www.missingchildrensnetwork.ngo

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!