

Safety Alert

From the LEG HSE Department

Halloween
Safety

Safety Tips for Motorists

- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Never use your cell phone while driving.
- Discourage teens from driving on Halloween. There are too many hazards and distractions for inexperienced drivers.

Trick-or-Treating

Most importantly, **all children under the age of 12 should be accompanied by a parent or responsible adult**, but before trick-or-treating, parents should:

- Instruct your children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and avoid trick-or-treating alone.
- Tell your children **not** to eat any treats until they return home.
- Teach your children to never enter a stranger's home.
- Agree on a specific time for children to come home.
- Give your children flashlights with fresh batteries to help them see and for others to see them.
- Make sure your child or a responsible adult with them carries a cell phone for quick communication.
- Review pedestrian/traffic safety rules with your children.
- Walk, do not run, from house to house.
- Do not cross yards/lawns where unseen objects/terrain presents tripping hazards. Never walk near lit candles.
- Walk on sidewalks. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the far edge of the road facing traffic.

Costumes

When making or purchasing Halloween costumes, follow these safety precautions to ensure your children remain safe while looking great:

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags to make sure they are visible.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is nontoxic and always test it in a small area first. Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.
- Masks can limit or block eyesight, so consider non-toxic makeup or decorative hats as safer alternatives.
- If masks are worn, they should have large eye holes and nose and mouth openings. Encourage your children to remove their masks before crossing the street.
- Children should only wear well-fitting costumes and shoes to avoid trips and falls.
- Do not allow your children to wear decorative contact lenses, as they present a risk for serious eye injury.
- Knives, swords and other accessories should be made from cardboard or flexible materials. Do not allow children to carry sharp objects.



Children will be anxious to stuff themselves with treats, but parents need to take these necessary precautions first:

- *Insist that treats be brought home for inspection before anything is eaten. Examine all treats for choking hazards and tampering before your children eat them.*
- *Give children an early meal before going out to prevent them from filling up on Halloween treats or eating anything before you can inspect it.*
- *Only let your children eat factory-wrapped treats. Avoid homemade treats unless you know the cook, well.*
- *When in doubt, throw it out.*

The biggest, real threat to kids' health on Halloween? An injury from a car- [American Academy of Pediatrics](#).

But this year, keep this in mind...

In August, the US D.E.A. sent out a warning about a new form of fentanyl that appears like brightly colored pills similar to SweetTarts.

Fentanyl is a synthetic opioid that is about 50 times more potent than heroin and about 100 times more potent than morphine.

