

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



Halloween is being celebrated on Wednesday, October 31st from 6 p.m. - 8 p.m. this year in the City of Medina, Brunswick and most other Municipalities with is in the same time frame. Their parents or a responsible adult should always accompany children. This should be considered quality time for the family and an enjoyable time for the children. Be Aware of Pranksters and those with criminal intent. Unfortunately crimes have occurred all around us these days, with child abductions and assaults on the rise, Vandalisms as well as other issues, we need to be more vigilant and aware of our surroundings...Please review the following to ensure a Safe and Fun Halloween.....Check out http://www.medinasheriff.com/important_disclaimer.htm for sexual Predators in your area.

Children and Parents should:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- REMEMBER – A costume might look pretty nice and fun with all that hanging stuff on it, or that hat or mask that looks pretty neat. But with a lot of walking or running, your child will be faced with falling or tripping on these things. They may not be able to see thru masks. They shift and get hot inside. Makeup works very well.
- Wear masks, hats and scarves that don't obstruct vision or ventilation.
- Wear costumes that are made of flame-resistant material.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and Trick-or-Treat bags for greater visibility.
- Be accompanied by an adult and travel in small groups.
- Go only to well-lit houses and remain on porches.
- Never enter a stranger's home or car for a treat.
- Children should know their phone number and carry a cell phone for emergencies. You don't have to get a fully functional phone. Cheap ones are available with a card with allotted hours of time. Keep this sort of thing for emergencies, or these types of things, without giving you child a fully functional phone and all those issues. They can be set to only call you or specific numbers or 911.
- Small Children should have their names and addresses attached to their costumes, should the child become lost.
- Bring treats home before eating them so parents can inspect them.
- Use costume knives and swords that are flexible, not rigid or sharp.
- Wear some comfortable shoes. Take some band-aids with you.

When walking in neighborhoods, you should:

- Be aware of children walking in the dark. Have flashlights with fresh batteries for children and their escorts.

- Stay on sidewalks, and avoid crossing yards.
- Cross streets at the corner, use crosswalks (where they exist), and do not cross between parked cars.
- Stop at all corners and stays together in a group before crossing.
- Wear clothing that is bright, reflective, and flame retardant.
- Consider using face paint instead of masks. (Masks can obstruct a child's vision.)
- Avoid wearing hats that will slide over their eyes or become a choke hazard.
- Avoid wearing long, baggy or loose costumes or oversized shoes (to prevent tripping).
- Reminded them to look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.



Parents and adults should:

- Prepare homes for trick-or-treaters by clearing porches, lawns, and sidewalks of any trip hazards and by placing jack-o-lanterns away from doorways and landings, away from foot traffic and things that can catch fire, to include children's costumes. This includes extension cords for electrical Holiday Items in your yard. Be aware of electrical use on wet ground and in the rain.
- Park your cars so the driveway is unobstructed and allows for a clear walkway for Halloween participants. Keep your car locked and do not leave valuables in plain view. Any thing of value should really be kept in the trunk of the car.
- Remember - Pets can become frightened with all the activity of Halloween. Keep them inside to protect them from cars or children (trick-or-treater) walking through your yard or at you door and inadvertently getting bitten.
- It may help to eat supper before the children go out. They may eat less candy during the evening. Well, it's the thought that counts...
- Supervise outings with children under age 12.
- Accompany children under 12 years of age.
- If you're walking young ones, you may want to think about taking a pull wagon with you. As they tire, you'll have a way of getting them back home safely.
- Have a cell phone, pencil and paper for emergencies. Photo phones could document crime and perpetrators or other issues.
- Establish a curfew (a return time) for older children. Plan and review with your children the route, which is acceptable to you.
- Make sure children under age 10 are supervised as they cross the street.
- Drive slowly.
- Watch for children in the street and on medians.
- Exit driveways and alleyways carefully.
- Have children get out of cars on the curbside, not on the traffic side.

- Have any decoration lights checked for safety, and don't overload extension cords.
- Be careful Holiday lighting does not distract from pedestrian safety in your yard. Also remove garden hoses, kid's toys, bikes and lawn decorations. Wet leaves and other slip hazards should be removed from sidewalk areas. If you have your lights on and are giving out candy, you are inviting the public onto your property. You have a responsibility to keep them safe.
- Holiday Candles in the home. Used safely. Use a non-flammable, heat resistant plate under the candle. Don't use long candles without a safe base. Ask your selves, should the candle fall over, what will the flame reach, or what can reach the flame. Can curtains or other decorations blow into the flame when doors are opened and closed, or when the furnace comes on? Candles under table lamps with flammable shades or under cabinets where flames can reach something that will catch fire.
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.
- Teaching your child to say PLEASE and THANK YOU again uses this HALLOWEEN to use good manners and for you to get to know your neighbors and neighborhood.

Candy Safety Tips

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Although sharing is encouraged. Make sure items that can cause choking (such as hard candies), are given only to those of an appropriate age. Avoid giving choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, or small toys as treats to young children.
- Tell children to watch the candy being dropped in their bag and to try to remember who gave them what. Or children can take the candy themselves; helping them to better remember who gave them a certain treat.
- Children shouldn't snack while they're trick-or-treating. Parents should check treats at home. Give children an early meal before they head out to discourage snacking.
- Watch for signs of tampering, such as small pinholes in wrappers and torn or loose packages.
- Inspect all candy for safety before children eat it.
- Accept and give out candy that isn't easily unwrapped. Candies such as Tootsie Rolls, hard candies and certain bubble gums with twist-type wrappings can be tampered with more easily than those that are sealed.
- Try to portion treats for days following Halloween.
- When in doubt, throw it out.



Pumpkin Safety Tips

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with marker, and then parents can do the cutting. Carve pumpkins on stable, flat surfaces with good lighting.
- Have children draw a face on the outside of the pumpkin, and then parents should do the cutting.
- Place lighted pumpkins on sturdy foundations away from young children, curtains and other flammable objects, and do not leave lighted pumpkins unattended.
- Keep candles and Jack-o'-lanterns away from landings and doorsteps where costumes could brush against the flame. Votive type candles are the safest for lighting pumpkins.

Greater Cleveland Poison Control Center

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Remember that Halloween is for children of all ages, so get involved with your little ghost or goblin!

Have a safe and happy Halloween!

—From your Administrative Team—

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