



# Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department

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## Halloween Safety

Parents may overestimate their child's street-crossing skills. Halloween poses special risks to young pedestrians, because trick-or-treating usually occurs outdoors and often after dark.

Children tend to get caught up in the excitement and are more likely to choose the shortest, rather than safest route, ignoring traffic, which can put them at risk for injury.

Children under 9 should generally be accompanied by an adult. Children over 9 may be old enough to trick-or-treat with a group of responsible children the same age or older.

Costumes with masks that sit on top of the head, lower-face masks that cover the nose or nose and mouth, and decorative hats are safer alternatives to masks.

Painting faces with non-toxic makeup is safer yet. However, if your child wears a mask, be sure that: the eyeholes and ear holes are large enough not to limit vision or hearing; it fits snugly; and that it doesn't restrict breathing.

## Halloween Life Safety Tips

- ✓ Encourage children to attend local community events and organized festivities.
- ✓ If your child attends a party, know who is sponsoring it, how long it will last, and make sure it is supervised by an adult.
- ✓ Put pets in the house or garage for the evening to keep them from being scared or injured.
- ✓ Ensure that costumes are flame resistant.
- ✓ Ensure that costumes are bright/light colored so they are easily visible—especially after dark.
- ✓ Conceal appropriate I.D. (name, address, phone numbers).
- ✓ Be sure children are, regardless of the costume they will be wearing, dressed appropriately for the current weather conditions while out trick or treating.

### Did you know?

- ✓ Almost 4 times as many children, aged 5 to 14 are killed while walking on Halloween night between 4:00 and 10:00 p.m., compared to other evenings of the year.
- ✓ Falls are the leading cause of injuries among children on Halloween.
- ✓ Other injuries from this holiday are to the eyes from sharp objects, skin irritations or rashes from makeup and face paints, and burns from flammable costumes being near open flames such as candles and jack o lanterns.
- ✓ Teach your child how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.
- ✓ Each year around Halloween, many states turn their clocks back one hour (daylight savings time ends).
- ✓ Use this time to change the batteries in your smoke detectors!

\*\*\*All information shown in this section is from the National Fire Safety Council Inc. Halloween Safety brochure. ©MMII

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