

Halloween Safety Tips for Parents



One trip to Wal-Mart and you will see rows upon rows of candy laid out for that night which brings excitement to so many children - Halloween. Halloween use to be a time for excitement over what costume your young child wanted to wear *and* finding it, getting that trick-or-treat bag, and mapping out where you were going to walk with your children to trick-or-treat. It was clearly a holiday for the little ones and their parents.

Now, it seems as if there are more older kids – late teens and in their 20's collecting candy as well. That being said, not only will there will be more people than ever crowding the streets and neighborhoods, but now you have different age groups mixing together that could pose a safety issue, not to mention a bit intimidating for the little ones. This may be a time to sit down with your children and go over some rules.

As parents of young children, you will undoubtedly be walking along side them. However, it's always a good idea to go over a few rules and safety issues whether or not you are there with them that night.

TIPS FOR PARENTS:

- ❖ Talk to your child about what they should do if they are approached by a stranger.
- ❖ Remind them to look both ways before crossing the street.
- ❖ It's always best to have a buddy system, group, or stay with an adult at all times.
- ❖ Always be sure to have a flashlight; not only to see where you are going, but to warn traffic that you are present.
- ❖ The safest place to trick-or-treat is a sponsored event at a mall, school or church event.



- ❖ As a parent, if you have designated the care of your child to someone else for the evening, make sure you agree on a route so that you always know the area that your children will be trick-or-treating. You might even want a “check in” time for a phone call if you think it’s taking longer than usual. Have everyone’s cell phone number.
- ❖ Remind your children about the unwrapped candies and anything that looks out of the ordinary and be sure you check all their treats when they get home before they start eating them.

ANOTHER GOOD RESOURCE:

Last year at this time, my Fact of the Week was on **Halloween Safety Tips for Drivers** (still available on the website archives @ http://www.kingscountyoem.com/CountyKings/Preparedness_FOW_10182010_Halloween_Safety.htm)

This article also had Halloween links for *Children’s Safety Zone*, *American Academy of Pediatrics*, *CDC* and *ASPC* – we can’t forget our beloved animals. Check it out! It’s good “refresher” information.



Resources:
www.kingscountyoem.com

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