

Halloween Safety Tips: For Parents

Trick or Treating hours for Urbana are 6 p.m. – 8 p.m., Tuesday, October 31, 2017

Make sure a trusted adult, an older child, or you accompany your younger children when Trick or Treating.

Serve your kids a filling meal before trick or treating and they won't be as tempted to eat any candy before they bring it home for you to check.

Know the route your kids will be taking and any other activities a child may be attending, such as parties, school or mall functions. Establish a check-in time, or have them take a cell phone.

Make sure your children wear reflective clothing and carry a flashlight or glow stick when traveling during the evening hours.

Make sure your children are able to see and breathe properly and easily when using facial masks. All costumes and masks should be clearly marked as flame resistant. If your child is carrying a prop, such as a scythe, butcher knife or a pitchfork, the tips should be smooth and flexible enough to not cause injury if fallen on. Make sure that costumes won't get in the way when they are walking, which could cause them to trip.

Teach your children to only approach homes that are well-lit both inside and outside, and never to go into a stranger's house.

Teach your children to never approach a strange vehicle even if it appears no one is inside the vehicle.

Teach your children to always stay in well-lit areas, never take shortcuts, and never go into isolated areas.

Teach your children to stay alert for any suspicious incidents and report anything unusual to you and/or law enforcement.

Teach your children if anyone tries to grab them to draw attention to themselves and loudly yell "This person is trying to take me," or "This person is not my dad/mom." Instruct your children to make every effort to escape by walking, running, or pulling away; yelling; kicking; attracting attention; and/or otherwise resisting.

Consider organizing or attending parties at home, in schools, or in community centers as a good alternative to "Trick or Treating."

Explain to kids of all ages the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem funny but they need to know the other side of the coin as well, that clean up and damages can ruin Halloween for everyone. If they are caught vandalizing, make them clean up the mess they've made.