

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH
MATERNAL, CHILD, & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

As the 31st of OCTOBER approaches, it's imperative that we help our children have a safe and fun Halloween. The Child Abuse Prevention Program would like to provide these safety tips for children, parents, homeowners and motorists to make "trick-or-treating" a little bit more safer and enjoyable.

TRICK-OR-TREATERS

- Carry a flashlight.
- Walk, don't run.
- Obey traffic signals.
- Stay in familiar neighborhoods.
- Don't cut across yards or driveways.
- Make sure costumes don't drag on the ground (shoes should fit).
- Avoid wearing masks while passing from one house to another.
- Wear clothing with reflective marking or tape.
- Only carry flexible swords or other props.
- Walk on sidewalks, not the street.
- Walk on the left side of the road facing traffic.
- Do not enter homes or apartments without adult supervision.



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH
MATERNAL, CHILD, & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

PARENTS



- **Make sure your child eats dinner before leaving.**
- **Ensure that an adult or an older responsible youth will be supervising the outing for children under age 12.**
- **Pin or attach a slip of paper that identifies your child's name, address and phone number in case he/she gets lost.**
- **Plan and discuss a trick-or-treat route your children intend to follow.**
- **When buying a costume, look for one made of flame-retardant materials.**
- **Know the names and phone numbers of the companions that accompany your older children.**
- **Establish a curfew or return time.**
- **Look at the candy wrapping careful and toss out anything that looks tampered with.**
- **Review all appropriate trick-or-treat safety precautions, including pedestrian/traffic safety rules.**
- **Try to participate in local programs rather than going door to door.**
- **Warn your child against eating any and all treats until they return home, so you can inspect it.**



HOMEOWNERS

- **Prepare homes for trick-or-treaters by keeping your yard clear of such things as ladders, hoses, dog leashes and flower pots that can trip young ones.**
- **Put pets up to protect them from cars or inadvertently biting a trick-or-treater.**
- **Battery-powered jack o'lantern candles are preferable to a real flame.**

**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES-DEPT. OF HEALTH SERVICES
PUBLIC HEALTH
MATERNAL, CHILD, & ADOLESCENT HEALTH PROGRAMS
CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION PROGRAM**

HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

- If you do plan to use candles, please place the pumpkins away from the area where the trick-or-treaters may walk or stand.
- Make sure paper or cloth decorations can't be blown into a flame candle.
- Avoid giving choking hazards such as gum, peanuts, hard candies, small toys as treats to young children.
- Healthy food alternatives for trick-or-treaters include packages of low-fat crackers with cheese or peanut butter filling, single-serve boxes of cereal, packaged fruit rolls, mini boxes of raisins.
- Non-food treats include plastic rings, pencils (not sharpened), stickers, erasers, tooth brushes, and coins.



MOTORISTS



- Watch for children darting out from between parked cars.
- Have children get out of the car on the curb side, not on the traffic side.
- 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.
- Most importantly, **DRIVE SLOWLY.**



600 S. Commonwealth Ave., 8th Fl., Los Angeles, CA 90005
Tel: (213) 639-6444 Fax: (213) 637-8291
E-mail address: Michael Durfee, MD: mdurfee@dhs.co.la.ca.us
Sandra Guine, LCSW, ACSW: sguine@dhs.co.la.ca.us