

## TREATS

- ◆ Kids need to know not to eat their treats until they get home. One way to keep trick-or-treaters from digging in while they are still out is to feed them a meal or snack beforehand.
- ◆ Check out all treats at home in a well-lighted area.
- ◆ What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in their original wrappers are ok. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. It is recommended that your child not eat any of these types of treats unless they have come from someone you know personally. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything all at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish!

Halloween can be a lot of fun for both parents and kids-if everybody remembers the tricks of playing it safe.



## DRESSED UP AND DANGEROUS?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. But sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a swash-buckling pirate, or an alien from outer space-coupled with the excitement of Halloween-brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, and other costume accessories can hurt people. Toy guns, such as air soft, are not recommended as they look so much like a real firearm and can pose many problems with citizen's and the police alike. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from flexible material. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to be scary and fun.



Unified Police Department

## Halloween Safety



## HALLOWEEN SAFETY

### Pointers for Parents

UNIFIED POLICE DEPARTMENT

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**H**alloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky. Concerns about children's safety, whether they are out in the neighborhood or back home with bags of goodies, can darken the day more quickly than a black cat. But not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips:

## MAKE SURE YOUR KIDS DRESS UP SAFELY

- ◆ Check that the costumes are flame-retardant so that the little ones are not in danger near burning jack-o-lanterns and other fire hazards.
- ◆ Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- ◆ Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable, and more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision—a dangerous thing when kids are crossing the street and going up and down steps.
- ◆ Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes and take a flashlight.
- ◆ Trick-or-treaters always should be in a group so they are not a target for real-life goblins. Parents should accompany young children.



## MAKE TRICK-OR-TREATING TROUBLE FREE

- ◆ Make sure older kids trick-or-treat with friends. Together, map out a safe route so you will know the area where they will be. Tell them to stop only at familiar homes where the outside light is turned on.
- ◆ Have them take a cell phone.
- ◆ Try to get your kids to trick-or-treat while it is still light outside.
- ◆ Make sure kids know not to enter strange houses or stranger's cars.

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Parents and kids can avoid trick-or-treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests, music, scary stories and more. Make you Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire-fighters, libraries and civic groups in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other festivities for families

