

10 Tips for a Safer Halloween

A quick safety checklist for parents and families

1

Make them visible.

Child pedestrian deaths roughly double on Halloween night. Add reflective tape to costumes and bags, and give every child a glow stick or small flashlight.

2

Check costume fit.

Hems above the ankle to prevent trips. Masks should not block side vision; face paint is safer. Props like swords should be short and flexible.

3

Brief them before you leave.

Go over the route, the rules, and what to do if separated: go to the nearest house with a porch light on and ask them to call you.

4

Put your number on them.

Write your phone number on their arm in marker or on a wristband. Snap a photo of each child in costume so you have a current picture if needed.

5

Assign adults and count heads.

Young kids always walk with an adult. In big groups, give each adult specific kids to watch, and do a headcount at every street crossing.

6

Older kids: groups and check-ins.

Agree on the streets, the curfew, and a text check-in every 30 to 45 minutes. Turn on phone location sharing before they go.

7

Stick to lit, familiar streets.

Only visit homes with porch lights on. Kids never go inside a house or get into a car, no matter who offers.

8

Treat every crossing seriously.

Use corners and crosswalks. No darting between parked cars. Eyes up, not on phones or candy bags. Drivers are distracted and kids are hard to see.

9

Inspect all candy first.

Toss anything unwrapped, homemade by strangers, torn, or tampered with. Watch for THC edibles disguised as name-brand candy. Screen carefully for food allergies.

10

Secure your own home.

Light your porch and walkway and clear tripping hazards. Keep pets put away. Check the sex offender registry (FDLE offers a searchable map) for addresses on your route.

Have fun, stay visible, and keep your eyes on your kids.