

working together...

**KIDSAFE** alberta  
...preventing injuries

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## Did you know?

- > Children suffer a variety of injuries during Halloween.
- > Common causes of injuries include: contact with motor vehicles, falls, and burns.

# Halloween Safety

Halloween is a fun and exciting time for children. They get to dress up as ghosts and goblins, and visit their neighbours to play tricks and get treats.

Although Halloween activities should be fun and harmless, they could also be dangerous. The weather, darkness, and excitement of the night can create dangerous situations for children.

**Proper supervision, safe environments, hazard awareness, and participating in age-appropriate activities all help reduce the risk of injuries on Halloween.**

[Learn more... >](#)

# Managing the Risks ...

To help manage risks on Halloween: Look First, Wear the Gear, and Get Trained.

## General Tips

### Look First

- Choose a route for your child's trick-or-treating before Halloween night.
- Set a time for children to return home.
- Accompany children under eight years old. Older children should trick-or-treat with a responsible adult and/or in a group. No child should trick-or-treat alone.
- Have your child wear face paint or cosmetics rather than masks as they can interfere with vision.
- Make sure your child carries a flashlight.
- If you are giving out treats, leave your porch light on to light the children's way up your path and step.

### Get Trained

- Teach children to stay in well-lit areas and only visit houses with the outside light on.
- Teach children to always walk on sidewalks. Never walk on the road or across yards.
- Remind your trick-or-treater to walk, never run.

## Falls

### Look First

- Make sure costumes and footwear fit properly. Costumes should not be too loose or too long. Avoid large costumes with baggy sleeves and skirts.
- Never allow children to carry sharp, dangerous props such as knives or swords. These could cause injuries in a fall.
- Remove obstacles in your yard that could be hazards for trick-or-treaters in the dark, such as tools, toys, and lawn ornaments.

## Motor Vehicle

### Look First

- When driving in residential areas, slow down and be alert for children.

### Wear the Gear

- Make your child visible. Add reflective tape to costumes and bags.

### Get Trained

- Teach your children how to cross the road safely using **Point, Pause, and Proceed**. If there is no crosswalk, cross at the nearest corner. Point across the road to tell drivers you want to cross. Pause until the cars stop. Proceed when it is safe. Keep checking for traffic.
- Children under the age of nine must be accompanied by a responsible adult or older child when crossing the street.

## Burns

### Look First

- Make sure all costumes, wigs, and hats are made of fire-resistant materials.
- Children should not play near lit Jack O'Lanterns.
- Keep lit Jack O'Lanterns out of the way of trick-or-treaters.
- Keep Jack O'Lanterns away from curtains and other flammable materials.

## Treats

### Look First

- Have children bring home treats before eating them. Send snacks with them to eat if they get hungry.
- Check for punctures or holes in the candy wrapping or surface of fruits. Cut fruit open before eating.

## Manage the risks...

- > look first,
- > wear the gear,
- > get trained,
- > buckle up, and
- > drive sober.