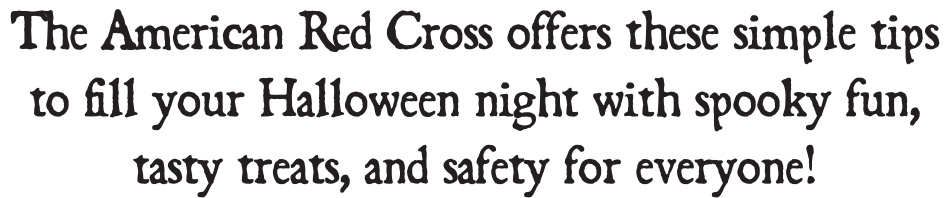




2008 Halloween Safety Guide



The American Red Cross offers these simple tips to fill your Halloween night with spooky fun, tasty treats, and safety for everyone!

TIPS TO TEACH CHILDREN

- **Plan your route** and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- **Walk, slither, and sneak** on sidewalks, not in the street. If there are no sidewalks, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.
- **Look both ways** before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks and low-flying brooms.
- **Cross the street** only at corners, not in the middle of the block and stay together in a group before crossing.
- **Never hide** or cross the street between parked cars.
- **Wear** light-colored or reflective clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards and brooms, too!)
- **Use face paint** rather than masks or big floppy hats that will cover your eyes.
- **Don't wear** long, baggy, or loose costumes or extra-large shoes—you could trip and fall!
- **Carry a flashlight** to light your way.
- **Keep away** from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.) If a costume catches fire, remember to **STOP, DROP and ROLL.**
- **Only visit** well-lit homes that have a front-porch light on.
- **Accept** treats at the door; never go into a stranger's house or apartment.
- **Be cautious** of animals and strangers.
- **Have a grown-up** inspect your treats before eating them.
- **Don't eat** candy if the package has already been opened.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!



ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK



2008 Halloween Safety Guide

TIPS FOR PARENTS

- **Establish** a route in a well-known neighborhood and discuss it with your kids.
- **Review** Halloween safety precautions with children, including pedestrian and traffic safety rules.
- **Accompany** children under age 12—either you, another responsible adult or an older youth.
- **Remember** that masks that can restrict peripheral vision and hearing and oversized or loose costumes and shoes can cause children to trip and fall.
- **Choose** a firm return time.
- **Make sure** children know their phone number and carry coins for emergency telephone calls or carry a cell phone.
- **Purchase** fire retardant/fireproof costumes. Check the tag/label on the costume to make sure it's flame-resistant.
- **Make sure** your older children are carrying ID.
- **Have children use** flexible costume knives and swords, not ones that are rigid or sharp.
- **Ask children** to bring treats home before eating them so you can inspect them. Remember: small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.
- **Call** your local poison control center if you believe your child has eaten something tainted.
- **Flush eyes** with cool water should face paint, glitter or shaving cream get into eyes.
- **Prepare** for trick-or-treaters by clearing porches, lawns and sidewalks and placing jack-o-lanterns away from doorways or landings.
- **When carving** pumpkins: use stable, flat surfaces with good lighting; draw and follow patterns on the outside of the pumpkin instead of freehand carving; and use blunt instruments with dull serrations specially designed for pumpkin carving.

TIPS FOR DRIVERS

- **Slow down** in residential neighborhoods (drive at least five miles under the speed limit) to give yourself time to react to excited trick-or-treaters who might dart into the street, especially mid-block or from between parked cars.
- **Broaden** your visual scanning—look to your right and left, into front yards and onto porches.
- **Watch carefully** for small superheroes, vampires and goblins in dark costumes walking on the road, medians and curbs; they can be hard to see after dark.
- **Use caution** when exiting driveways and alleyways.
- **Turn on** your vehicle's headlights, even during the day. They make you more visible.



2008 Halloween Safety Guide

PET SAFETY TIPS

Do you plan to bring your furry friend along for fright night activities?

Keep your pet safe while trick or treating by following these tips:

- **A t-shirt is probably the best costume if you need to use one.** Do not use anything that is around the neck or over the face. Make sure there is nothing detachable or chewable that can lead to stomach upset or intestinal obstruction.
- **Chocolate is TOXIC to animals.** Never give this to your pet and keep away other candy treats. Foil and wrappers are also dangerous too, potentially causing choking if swallowed. Raisins and grapes have also been found to be toxic to dogs, so please keep your treat bag away from your animals!
- **Keep Pets Confined During Trick or Treating.** Pets should be kept in another room during parties and when kids come to the door. If you don't keep your animal in another room, they can escape from the opening and closing doors, so make sure they are wearing identification.
- **Don't Let Your Pet Get Spooked.** Animals can definitely get "spooked" and scared from kids in costumes and all of the noise - another reason to keep them in another room and to not take them trick or treating.

Have a Safe and Happy Halloween!



ENTER AT YOUR OWN RISK