



Special points of interest:

Child Passenger Safety Seat Checks — Oct. 23, 26
 Child Passenger Safety Seminars —

Call 952-4536 for locations & times, or go to: <http://brevard.ifas.ufl.edu>

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Take steps to make this Halloween a safe and exciting time for all.



For Safety's Sake

TIPS FOR A SAFE HALLOWEEN

Ghouls and ghosts are not the only scary things to be on the lookout for this Halloween. While Halloween is a fun and festive time for children, it can also be a time of increased injury and danger. By taking simple steps, you can make this Halloween a safe and exciting time for all.

Costume Safety

- When purchasing costumes, make sure they are labeled “flame retardant” or “flame resistant”.
- Avoid costumes that are too long or too big and could pose tripping hazards, or those that have sleeves that hang low and could catch on fire. Hem any costumes that are too long or use belts to hold them up.
- If wearing a mask, make sure it fits properly and that the eyeholes are wide enough to allow your child to see fully. Try using face makeup as an alternative where possible.
- Choose costumes that are bright and clearly visible, or decorate costumes with retro-reflective tape or stickers, especially when trick-or-treating after dusk.
- Use props and accessories that are made of soft, flexible materials to protect against injuries.
- Make sure shoe laces are securely tied and avoid big, floppy shoes which can pose a tripping hazard.
- Carry a flash light, glow stick, or reflective trick-or-treat bag when walking at night so you can see and be seen.

Street Safety

- Kids under the age of 12 should have an adult present when trick-or-treating. Older children should trick-or-treat with a friend or group.
- Trick-or-treating should be done in areas that are familiar to you and that are well lit.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths when available. If none are present, walk facing traffic, as far to the right as possible.
- Cross streets at corners or crosswalks. Stop; look left, right, then left again before crossing. Don't allow children to cross between parked cars where their view of oncoming traffic, and that of motorists, could be blocked.
- Stress walking, not running.
- Make sure children stick to driveways and walkways. Never allow children to walk through yards and lawns where hidden objects and holes could cause falls.
- Make eye contact with drivers before crossing a road and keep an eye out for vehicles that are backing up or turning.

Treat Safety

- Parents should ALWAYS check treats before allowing children to consume them.
- Treats that are open or not in their original wrappers, or homemade treats from sources unknown should be discarded.

- Fruits should be sliced open before eating to check for foreign objects.

Home Decorating Safety

- Avoid using candles when decorating porches. Use a small flashlight as an alternative to a candle in your jack-o-lantern. If candles are used in a jack-o-lantern, keep well away from where trick-or-treaters may knock them over or where costumes may come in contact with them.
- Provide clearly illuminated walkways and porches to avoid trips and falls. Clear lawn and walkways of any tripping hazards.
- Avoid overloading electrical outlets with holiday lighting or decorations.

Driving Safety

- Be on high alert in residential areas and drive slowly. Be aware of the increased pedestrian traffic on and near the road.
- Drive with full headlights on to help spot children from greater distances.
- Take time to scan for children at intersections and on medians and curbs.
- Use extra caution and proceed slowly when entering and exiting driveways.
- Reduce distractions in the car and concentrate on the road and pedestrians.

PROTECTING YOUR FAMILY FROM HOME FIRES

A small fire in a home can spread to the rest of the house in less than two minutes. There are two steps that are recommended that can help you be prepared to protect your family in the event of a fire.

The first step in keeping your family safe in the event of a fire is to install a smoke detector in the home. Smoke detectors are instrumental in saving lives when properly maintained. To properly use and maintain your smoke detector:

- Choose one that has the Underwriters Laboratory (UL) label, indicating that it meets all applicable codes.
- Install them on the ceiling outside of each bedroom and on every level of the home.
- Test it once a month to make sure it is properly functioning. This is vitally important. A smoke detector that doesn't work will not be able to alarm your family in time to get out.
- Replace the batteries twice a year.
- Replace your smoke detector every 10 years.
- Vacuum your smoke detector once a year to remove dust and grime.

The second step in keeping your family safe in the event of a fire is to develop a fire escape plan and practice the plan

at least twice a year. Make sure that at least one practice is held at night. Be sure to sound the alarm before a drill so that children know what it sounds like. When possible, a cell phone or cordless phone should be taken outside. Be sure to practice this during your drills. Because children often sleep more deeply than adults they may not wake up to alarms. Alarms are available that allow a parent to be the sound that their child hears. Studies have shown that some children respond more quickly to a parents voice than to a beeping sound. If you have small children, you may consider purchasing this type of alarm. If you have children who are real young and will need assistance, make sure your plan includes which adult will be responsible for helping them. When making a plan, be sure that each person in your family:

- Knows two ways to get out of every room.
- Is able to open all doors and windows easily.
- Knows where to meet outside.
- Knows how to crawl or crouch low in the event there is any smoke.



Smoke detectors are a first step in protecting your family in the event of a fire.

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