

More Resources on Halloween Safety

- » **US Consumer Product Safety Commission** — Stay up to date on the latest tips and suggestions for having a safe Halloween. Visit www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/hallow.html.
- » **US Food and Drug Administration** — Get tips on food safety, makeup, and contact lenses. See www.fda.gov/oc/opacom/kids/candyandtreats.html.
- » **National Safety Council** — A national non-profit advocacy organization dedicated to promoting life and protecting health. Get tips on halloween safety at www.nsc.org/library/facts/halloween.htm.
- » **Halloween Magazine** — Take the Halloween Magazine Halloween Safety Quiz and brush up on your knowledge of safe trick-or-treating. To play, go to www.halloweenmagazine.com/play.html.



Get More Safety Tips

For tips on other ways to stay safe from crime in your daily life, see the other brochures in this series, available from our Website at www.mpdc.dc.gov/safety. Or visit your local police district. To find the one nearest you, visit www.mpdc.dc.gov/districts.



Get Involved!

No one individual or agency working alone can prevent crime. It takes police and citizens working in partnership. The District of Columbia's community policing strategy provides many ways for police and communities to work together to prevent crime and build safer neighborhoods. These include regular Police Service Area meetings in your community, citizen patrols and more. To learn more about community policing activities in your neighborhood, call your local police district:

1st District	Main:.....(202) 698-0555..... TTY: 727-8506
	Substation:.....(202) 698-0068..... TTY: 543-2352
2nd District	Main:.....(202) 715-7300..... TTY: 364-3961
3rd District	Main:.....(202) 673-6815..... TTY: 518-0008
4th District	Main:.....(202) 715-7400..... TTY: 722-1791
	Substation:.....(202) 576-8222..... TTY: 576-9640
5th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0150..... TTY: 727-5437
6th District	Main:.....(202) 698-0880..... TTY: 398-5397
	Substation:.....(202) 698-2088..... TTY: 281-3945
7th District	Main:.....(202) 698-1500..... TTY: 889-3574

Know Something About a Crime? Don't Keep It a Secret

If you have important information to share with the police, the Anonymous Crime Tip Line and Text Tip Line enables you to give MPD vital information anonymously. Just dial (202) 727-9099 or text to 50411 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Your name will not be used, only the information you provide. Your information could lead to a cash reward. For more details, see www.mpdc.dc.gov/tipline.



GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Metropolitan Police Department
300 Indiana Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001

September 2013

FOR YOUR SAFETY



Halloween Safety

Tips for keeping your children safe on Halloween



Teach your kids to trick-or-treat safely.

Halloween is fun for people of all ages, but it's important that you and your children remain safe. These simple tips will help make your Halloween celebration better than ever.

Costume Safety

Children should:

- » Wear clothing that is bright, reflective and flame-retardant; wear short clothing that prevents tripping.
- » Wear sneakers or comfortable shoes.
- » Use face paint (non-toxic, hypoallergenic) and avoid masks — especially if the eye holes obstruct the child's vision.
- » See well through facemasks, or use make-up.
- » Not wear floppy hats or wigs that slide over the eyes. Also, children should not wear long, baggy, or loose costumes or oversized shoes.
- » Avoid toy weapons — if desired, use costume knives and swords that are flexible, not rigid.
- » Stay away from pets. The pet may not recognize the child and become frightened.

Pedestrian Safety

- » Children should stay within familiar areas and surroundings. Parents should establish a route for children.
- » Children should use flashlights and stay on sidewalks.
- » Children should cross the street at corners/crosswalks and not between parked cars.
- » Motorists should drive slowly and watch carefully for children.

General Safety

- » Many police districts, community groups, business associations and others host Halloween parties. Parents should consider these as a safe alternative to door-to-door "trick-or-treating" for their children.
- » Children should never go into homes — stay on the porch or stoop when asking for treats.
- » Children should avoid homes that don't have their outside lights turned on.

- » Children should never talk to strangers or get into strangers' cars.
- » Children should travel in small groups and be accompanied by parents or an authorized adult chaperone.
- » Children should know their home phone number and their parents' cell phone numbers, when applicable. They should carry coins for emergency telephone calls or know how to make collect calls.
- » Children should have their names and addresses attached to their costumes.
- » Children should bring home treats before eating them so parents can inspect them. When children get home, parents should inspect all candy and other treats before they are eaten. Discard all unwrapped or loosely wrapped candy or fruit.
- » If you have any questions about suspicious looking treats, call the police department non-emergency number, 3-1-1.
- » Parents and children should carve pumpkins on a stable, flat surface with good lighting. Small children should never carve pumpkins. Instead, they can help by drawing faces with markers, while a parent does the cutting. Older children carving pumpkins should always be supervised.
- » Adults should only give and accept wrapped or packaged candy.
- » Adults should keep porch lights on and their driveways illuminated.
- » Homeowners should ensure that their walkways are cleared of debris on which children may trip and fall.
- » Parents should cut into fruit, such as apples, to make sure they do not contain foreign objects.
- » If in doubt, throw it out.

Celebrate Responsibly

Halloween is a time of celebration and revelry for some adults. Drinking and driving is a danger to everyone on the road. Anyone with a BAC of .08 or higher is in violation of DC law and may go to jail. Remember that the risk isn't worth it — if you choose to drink alcohol at a party, don't drive.



Take a cab, use public transportation or a designated driver, or call Halloween SoberRide® (800-200-TAXI), a free cab service in DC and the surrounding area active on Halloween and the closest weekend. Have fun, but remember to celebrate responsibly. Additional information about SoberRide® is available online at <http://www.soberride.com>.

