

Be Safe, Not Spooked: A HALLOWEEN SAFETY GUIDE

Brought to you by **Mushkatel, Robbins & Becker, PLLC**

Pumpkin carving, wearing costumes, going to parties, trick-or-treating and – most of all – eating candy: It's no wonder that Halloween is one of the most popular holidays of the year for children.

However, it can also be a scary time for adults. In a Safe Kids Worldwide poll, 77 percent of parents expressed safety concerns about the holiday.

We don't want you to be spooked this holiday. We want you and your child to be safe instead. We offer the following tips to help you enjoy a happy Halloween (based on helpful advice from Safe Kids Worldwide and other sources):

CONTACT US FOR A
**FREE
CONSULTATION**

15249 North 99th Avenue
Sun City, AZ 85351
(623) 889-0691

6424 E. Greenway Parkway, Suite 114
Scottsdale, AZ 85254
(480) 704-3037

www.PhoenixLawTeam.com



CHOOSING A COSTUME

Are you buying a costume?

Avoid a costume with a mask that can obstruct your child's vision, a cape or long dress that can create a tripping hazard or a sword, stick or other sharp object that can only lead to trouble. Choose a costume that is brightly colored (or apply reflective tape) so your child can be seen at night. Also, pick a costume that is made of flame-resistant material.

Are you making a costume?

Again, avoid costumes that could create vision or tripping issues. Also, use non-toxic face paint to create a cosmetic mask. Apply a dab of the paint first to make sure it does not irritate your child's skin. Incorporate reflective tape into the design.



DECORATING THE HOME

Are you carving pumpkins?

Involve your child in the process by allowing him or her to pick the design, but don't allow the child to use a sharp knife. Keep the seeds out of the reach of small children who could choke on them.

Are you putting out a jack-o-lantern?

Place the decoration on a steady surface that is away from flammable objects such as drapes – and make sure it cannot be reached or knocked over by a pet or child. Extinguish the flame if you leave home.

Are you using lights?

Test the bulbs first. Don't overload sockets. Tape down cords so people do not trip over them. Never use a strobe light.



THROWING A PARTY

Are you inviting young children?

Check the temperature of any food you serve. Put out small amounts of perishable items and replenish them as the night goes on instead of letting a large amount sit for too long.

Do you have pets?

The costumed strangers and loud noises of Halloween may be too much for your dog or cat to handle. Play it safe by moving your pet into a quiet room away from the party, with plenty of food and water available.

Are you inviting adults?

If you plan on serving alcohol, make sure your imbibing adult guests have a designated driver or another safe way to get home. Note: Walking home after drinking is not a safe option.



TRICK-OR-TREATING

Are you giving out treats?

Make sure your door area and walkway are well lit and cleared of any tripping hazards. Also, keep jack-o-lanterns out of the reach of young visitors to your property.

Are you going out at night?

Again, make sure your child has reflective tape on his or her costume or bag. Use glow sticks and flashlights so your child can see and be seen by others. Also, check with your local municipality or homeowners' association to see what hours trick-or-treating will be allowed.

Are you driving to a location?

You will likely be going through a residential neighborhood where many small princesses, superheroes, ghosts, witches, vampires and goblins will be walking. Turn on your headlights. Drive slow. Be alert. Avoid distractions that will prevent you from keeping a good lookout.

Are you walking?

Before you head out, make sure your child knows to walk – not run – and to cross streets only at designated crosswalks (preferably an intersection with a stop sign or stop light). The best route is one that will take you up one side of the street and down the other side, so you will cut down on the number of times you have to cross.

Are you planning to go with your child?

Good – because you don't want your child to go trick-or-treating without supervision. While allowing an older sibling to keep watch may be OK, you have to keep in mind that tweens and teens can easily become distracted. Having an adult watching over the children is preferred.

ENJOYING YOUR TREATS



Are you ready to dive into the Halloween bag?

It's the best part of Halloween, right? Still, wait for your child to get home first so you can inspect the candy before it is consumed. Throw away any items with torn or faded wrappers. We strongly caution against eating any fruit, popcorn or other perishable treats.

