

# AFTER TRICK -OR- TREATING

- Porch lights should be turned off to discourage unwanted visitors for a couple of hours after trick-or-treat time.
- Check all candy for signs of tampering.
- All items unpackaged or with open wrappings should be discarded.



## DRESSED UP AND DANGEROUS ?

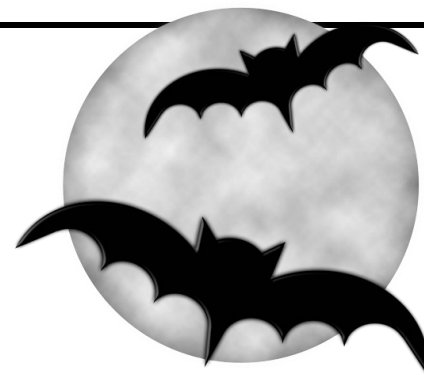
Halloween fun is harmless for the most part, but sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a swashbuckling pirate, or an alien from outer space — coupled with the excitement of Halloween — brings out aggressive behavior. Even fake knives, swords, guns, and other costume accessories can hurt people. If these objects are part of your child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible materials. Better yet, challenge kids to create costumes that don't need "weapons" to be scary and fun.



**PRINCE WILLIAM COUNTY POLICE**

**EMERGENCY—DIAL 911**

**NON-EMERGENCY — 703-792-6500**



# HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS

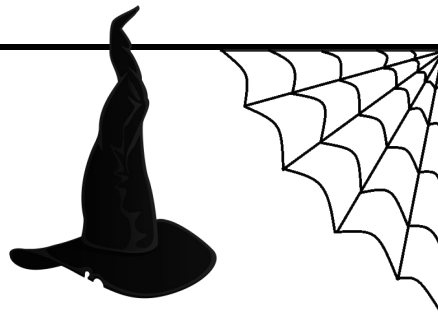


**Prince William County Police Department**



# HALLOWEEN

Halloween may be a fun holiday for kids, but for parents, trick-or-treat time can be a little tricky. Concerns about children's safety — whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bags of treats — can darken the day more quickly than a black cat; but not to worry! To make Halloween a treat for all, follow these safety tips!



## BEFORE HALLOWEEN

- Costumes should be flame resistant.
- Costumes should be short enough that children won't trip on them.
- Put reflective tape on costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
- Use makeup instead of masks. If masks are used, make sure the eye holes are big enough to see out clearly to the sides.
- Shoes should fit well and have low heels so children won't fall.
- Make arrangements for a parent or responsible adult to accompany your children.
- Decide what route will be used — try to avoid crossing streets.
- Set reasonable time limits.
- Decide what homes will be visited.
- Many shopping malls offer indoor trick-or-treating for your safety.

## DURING HALLOWEEN

- Have children carry a flashlight or glow stick. This helps them to see and to be seen.
- Trick-or-treat in groups.
- Have children walk only in well-lit areas.
- Only trick-or-treat at homes with porch lights on.
- Follow safety rules for walking:
  - \* Cross streets at crosswalks or corners.
  - \* Look both ways before crossing.
  - \* Never step into the road from between parked cars.
  - \* Walk on the sidewalk.
  - \* At intersections, watch for turning cars.
- Children should not eat any candy until they get home and have it checked.
- Have a cell phone with you. Any suspicious behavior or criminal activity should be reported to the police immediately.
- If driving a car, be extra alert for pedestrians.
- To receive trick-or-treaters, leave your porch light on and greet them at the door. Do not encourage them to come inside.

**Neighborhood Watches should extend their active patrols past trick-or-treat times.**

