

## Tricks...Tell Your Children:

- Remember, Halloween is a good time for dangerous strangers, so be careful.
- Don't play pranks. Damaging other peoples' property is a crime.
- If your child is a victim of a crime (stolen candy, intimidation, threats, etc.) either talk to the suspect's parents or call the police if you wish to prosecute.

## Safety Around the Home...

- Do not light candles around the walkways. If you would like luminaries, or to light a jack-o-lantern, use a battery operated light source.
- Keep walkways unobstructed and well lit.
- Don't let anyone you don't know into your home.

## Safe Alternatives...

- Trick or Treat in a local shopping mall.
- Attend community-sponsored events. Watch newspapers for additional information.
- Host a family party.
- Join your neighbors for a theme block party.



Have a Safe and  
Happy  
Halloween!

**HALLOWEEN**  
Safety Tips

To help ensure this Halloween is a safe and happy holiday for you and your children, here are some things to be aware of.

## Costume Suggestions:

- Choose light or bright colored costumes and use light-reflective tape.
- Children shouldn't wear a mask; it restricts vision. If a mask must be worn, cut large eye holes. Make-up is much safer than a mask because it doesn't obstruct vision.
- Toy weapons, wands, brooms, etc. should be made of paper or cardboard; they are safer than plastic, wood or metal.
- Put the child's name, address and phone number on the inside of their costume in case of an accident or lost child.
- Children should wear comfortable shoes; poor fitting shoes are uncomfortable and may cause a fall.
- Trick or Treat bags should not be too large; they can obscure vision or cause your child to trip.
- Make sure wigs and costumes are fire proof.



## To Trick or Treat Safely, Your Child Should:

- Eat a full meal prior to going out so he/she won't be tempted to eat treats before they can be properly checked out. Tell your children not to eat treats until you have checked them out.
- Plan your child's route and visit only homes in your neighborhood that are well lighted.
- Travel in a group or with an adult; never enter a home.
- Carry a flashlight or glow stick.
- Cross streets at corners, never from between two vehicles.
- When crossing a street, STOP, LOOK and LISTEN. Look both ways before crossing.
- Walk on the sidewalk or facing traffic if there are no sidewalks.
- Watch for cars driving into or backing out of driveways.

## Treats — Give them a Safety Check:

- Check for holes or loose wrappers, pour powdered candy into a container and look for discoloration or lumps.
- Don't eat opened candy, fruit, etc. unless you know the person it came from.
- Wash fruit, then cut into bite-sized pieces.
- Soft candy should also be cut up into pieces before eating.
- Homemade treats should not be eaten unless you are absolutely sure they came from a safe source.
- Some hospitals will x-ray treat bag contents. Check with your local hospital for additional information.
- If any problems arise, call the Merrillville Police Department at (219) 769-3531.

