



October 2014

## Halloween Safety Tips for Residents and Trick-or-Treaters

At NRMC, safety for our members and their residents is of paramount importance. Now that fall is here and Halloween is around the corner, we wanted to offer the following tips to keep your properties and their residents. This year Halloween will be on Friday, October 31, 2014.

### Property Safety - Set your Rules in Advance

Remind your Residents to take these Trick-or-Treat safety precautions:

- **Escorts:** Older children and adults must be vigilant when escorting trick-or-treaters. Handheld devices should not be used when escorting, especially when walking the streets in the dark. Escorts should watch what is in front and around the children. No texting or checking devices when escorting. The potential for accidents is great.
- **Flame retardant costumes only.** Most commercial costumes are made of flame-retardant materials. If you make your own costume, only use flame-retardant materials.
- **See and be seen!** Make sure your children can see and be seen. Expand the eye holes in commercial masks to improve peripheral vision. Add reflective tape to costumes to make them more visible to motorists.
- **Take flashlights.** Ensure that each trick-or-treater has a working flashlight.
- **Remove Masks to cross the street.** Tell the children to remove their masks and look both ways before they cross a street.
- **Never let children trick-or-treat alone.** Adult supervision is a safety "must" during Halloween. Children under the age of 12 should be escorted by an adult.
- **Stay away from candles and jack-o-lanterns that may be on steps and porches.** Costumes can catch fire if someone gets too close to a flame. Insist on the use of battery-operated candles for all holiday decorations, including jack-o-lanterns.

- **Never carry open flame candles when trick-or-treating.** Always use a flashlight, flameless candle, or light stick. This is true for children trick-or-treaters and their adult escorts.
- **Report suspicious activities.** Remind children to report to adults any suspicious activities, including other children playing with matches or tossing candies, liquids and other items.
- **Drive Safe!** Even if you are not participating in trick-or-treating this year, lots of other people will be out because Halloween is a Friday. The prime hours will be during 5:30-9:30 PM, coinciding with rush hour traffic. If you are driving during these hours, please be aware of the kids around you, turn your lights on earlier and slow down.

*Happy and Safe Halloween!*



Battery-operated candle Jack-o-Lantern

For Further Information and Tips contact Deborah Aschheim of Neighborhood Risk Management Corporation, 212.509.6762 [daschheim@neighborhoodrisk.org](mailto:daschheim@neighborhoodrisk.org)