



# HALLOWEEN SAFETY CHECKLIST

Courtesy of: OAK BAY FIRE AND POLICE DEPARTMENTS

<i>Before Halloween</i>	<i>During Halloween Day</i>	<i>When Trick-or-Treating</i>
Plan costumes that are bright and reflective.	Eat a good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating. This will discourage children from filling up on Halloween treats.	Younger children should never be allowed to go out alone, make sure a responsible adult accompanies them.
Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.	Agree on a specific time when children must return home.	Older children should not trick-or-treat alone, go with a least 2 buddies.
Make sure shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.	Decide on an approved trick-or-treat route.	Only trick-or-treat in well known areas that are well lit.
Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) discreetly within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.	Consider fire safety when decorating. Do not overload electrical outlets with special lighting or effects and <b>do not block exits.</b>	Always walk on the sidewalk. In the case where there are <u>no</u> sidewalks, walk close to the edge of the street or on the grass area (not across residents lawns) <b>facing</b> on-coming traffic.
Consider non-toxic and hypo-allergenic makeup or a decorative hat as a safe alternative.	While children can help with the fun of designing a Jack-o-lantern, leave the carving to adults.	When crossing a street, remove all masks or wigs that will interfere with your vision.
A mask can limit or block eyesight, and make it difficult to breathe. This can be dangerous.	Use a flashlight or electric lamp to light your Jack-o-lantern instead of candles.	Don't forget to obey all traffic and pedestrian regulations when walking across the street.
When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories purchase only those with a label indicating they are flame resistant.	Keep Jack-o-lanterns and hot electric lamps away from drapes, decorations, flammable materials or areas where children and pets will be standing or walking.	Only go to houses that have the porch lights on.
Think twice before using simulated knives, guns or swords.	Confine or otherwise prepare household pets for an evening of frightful sights and sounds. Be sure that all dogs and cats are wearing collars and proper identification tags.	<b><u>Never enter a stranger's house or car for a treat.</u></b>
If such props must be used, be certain they do not appear authentic and are soft and flexible to prevent injury.		Don't eat your candy until an adult at home has checked it. Throw away any treats that are not wrapped, in torn or open packages, or any that have small holes in the wrappers.
Plan ahead to use only battery powered lanterns or chemical light sticks in place of candles in decorations and Jack-o-lanterns.		<b>Fireworks are not allowed and are dangerous. STAY AWAY FROM FIREWORKS!!</b>
Take extra effort to eliminate tripping hazards on your porches and walkways.		
Items such as flower pots, low tree limbs, sprinklers or garden hoses may prove hazardous to young children rushing from house to house.		
<b><i>Review with your children the principle of "Stop-Drop-Roll", should their clothes catch on fire.</i></b>		
Review your home phone number and how to call 9-1-1 if they have an emergency or become lost. Remind them that 9-1-1 can be called free from any public pay phone.		
<b><i>Halloween is a good time to test your Smoke Alarm and change the batteries.</i></b>		

Oak Bay Fire Department: 250-592-9121

Oak Bay Police Department: 250-592-2424

