



Oak Bay Fire Department

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News Release

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For Immediate Release:

Weekly Media Release for the period of Monday October 19, 2015 to Sunday, October 25, 2015.
Over the past week, Oak Bay Fire Department members responded to **39** calls for assistance.
These calls for assistance included:

- 17 – Medical Aid**
- 14 – Residential / Commercial Alarm Bells**
- 3 – Public Assistance**
- 2 – Motor Vehicle Incident**
- 1 – Hazmat**
- 1 – Natural Gas / Propane**
- 1 – Outdoor Burning**

Halloween safety: Tips for families

Halloween can be a fun and exciting time for kids. These safety tips for parents, children and homeowners will help keep everyone safe and happy this Halloween.

For parents:

- Do not use masks. Masks make it hard for children to see what's around them, including cars. Try a hypoallergenic (less likely to cause an allergic reaction), non-toxic make-up kit instead.
- Make or buy costumes in light-coloured material.
- Place strips of reflective tape on the back and front of costumes, so that drivers can better see your child.
- Costumes should fit properly to prevent trips and falls. Avoid items such as oversized shoes, high heels, long dresses and long capes.
- Dress your child for the weather. Add layers if needed.
- Put your child's name, address and phone number on his costume.

- Children under 10 should be accompanied by an adult for trick or treating. By the age of 10, some children are ready to go trick-or-treating with a group of friends.
- Keep in mind that gum and hard candy can pose a choking risk for young children.
- Remove make-up before bedtime to prevent possible skin and eye irritation.

If your child is going out without an adult:

- Make sure your child is in a group of at least 3 people.
- Give them a flashlight. A cell phone is also a good idea if you have one.
- Discuss in advance the route they should follow. Ask them to call you if they plan to go on a street that isn't on the route.
- Set a curfew (and make sure they have a watch with them).
- Tell your children not to eat anything until they get home.

For children and youth:

- Carry a white bag or pillowcase for your candy, and add some reflective tape.
- Dress for the weather. Cold weather or water absorbent materials in the rain can be very uncomfortable.
- Bring a cell phone, in case you need to make an emergency phone call.
- Always travel in groups. Be sure there are at least 3 of you at all times.
- Let your parents know where you're going to be at all times.
- Don't visit houses that are not well lit. Never go inside a stranger's house.
- Use the sidewalk whenever possible. If there's no sidewalk, walk on the side of the road facing traffic.
- Don't criss-cross back and forth across the street. Work your way up one side of the street, and then start on the other.
- If you have any allergies, tell the person who is giving out the treats.
- Don't eat any of your treats before you get home. Once home, ask your parents to look through your treats with you to make sure everything is okay.

For homeowners:

- Turn on outdoor lights, and replace burnt-out bulbs.
- Remove items from your yard or porch that might trip a child.
- Sweep wet leaves from your steps and driveway.
- Use alternative to candles in your pumpkins, such as a flashlight or a battery-operated candle.
- Remember that some children have food allergies. Consider giving treats other than candy, such as stickers, erasers or a yo-yo.

Alternatives to traditional trick-or-treating

- Local community centres sometimes offer Halloween night activities.
- Local shopping centres often have trick-or-treat nights for young children in a more controlled environment.
- Plan a Halloween night at home with themed games and movies. Invite friends.