



CONSUMER NEWS

Office of Consumer Affairs

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Tips for a Safe and Happy Halloween

Summit County Halloween celebrations begin mid-October. Check with your local municipality for a list of events and Trick or Treat dates and times in your area. For the web sites of Summit County Cities, Villages and Townships, visit: <http://www.co.summit.oh.us/conaffairsHelpLinks.htm>.

Below are important safety tips to ensure all a safe and fun time:

- Keep jack o' lanterns and other decorations containing lighted candles away from doorsteps and walkways; children's costumes can touch them and catch fire.
- Indoor jack o' lanterns should be kept away from curtains, decorations, and other furnishing that could be ignited.
- Make or buy costumes that are light and bright or apply reflective tape on costumes for better visibility to motorists.
- Costumes should be short enough to prevent tripping and falling and wear sturdy shoes for walking.
- Swords, knives, and other similar costume accessories should be made of soft or flexible materials.
- Do not obstruct vision, consider face paint or costume makeup. If hats, masks or wigs are used make sure they are tied on well and fit well to prevent them from slipping over children's eyes.
- Carry flashlights to see and be seen. Visit homes with porch lights on.
- Look both ways before crossing the street and cross at street corners. Do not run between parked cars or across lawns and yards where ornaments, furniture or clotheslines present dangers.
- Adults should accompany smaller children. Children who are old enough to trick-or-treat without an adult should stay in a group – there is safety in numbers.
- Remind children not to eat any candy before coming home. Parents should carefully examine all treats for signs of tampering, and discard anything not sealed or in its original packaging.



Driving Safety Tips

- Drive slowly, and do not pass stopped vehicles. The driver might be dropping off children.
- Watch for children. They may cross the street anywhere because they are excited and distracted. If they are wearing masks, their vision may be impaired.
- Avoid distractions by turning off your cell phone and make sure your radio volume is low.
- Always use your turn signals. If you have to pull over to drop off or pick up your children, turn on your hazard lights.