



# NEWS RELEASE

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## **SAFETY TIPS KEEP HALLOWEEN FUN**

Halloween is a time for ghosts and ghouls, tricks or treats. And while the night is sure to be full of spooky fun, it should be safe for children and people of all ages.

“This is a very exciting time of year for kids – and many adults too,” said Public Fire and Life Safety Educator Krista Barton. “But when you are decorating, carving pumpkins, and creating your costume, it is very important that everyone follows a few basic safety rules to ensure you and your loved ones have a safe and enjoyable Halloween.”

This Halloween, the Township of Langley Fire Department encourages residents to follow these easy tips to ensure nobody gets hurt:

- When choosing a costume, avoid long trailing fabric that can get snagged, cause tripping, or come in contact with sources of heat. When wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough to easily see out of.
- Trick or treaters should carry flashlights or glow sticks, and be taught to stay away from open flames, including jack-o-lanterns with candles in them. Be sure children know how to stop, drop, and roll if their clothing catches fire by having them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with their hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.
- Avoid open flames when illuminating pumpkins. Instead, use a battery-operated candle or glow stick. If you do use a real candle, use extreme caution and make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. Use long, fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter to ignite candles in jack-o-lanterns and place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far from doorsteps, walkways, and yards that will be frequented by trick or treaters.
- Decorations are the first thing to ignite in 900 reported home fires each year, and two of every five of those fires were started by a candle. When creating Halloween ambience in your home, keep all decorations away from open flames and heat sources like light bulbs and heaters, especially dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper, which catch fire easily.
- Keep exits clear of decorations so that nothing blocks escape routes. Children attending Halloween parties at other people’s homes should be taught to look for multiple ways out and plan how to get out in case of an emergency.

“It is very important to be prepared and ensure children are informed,” Barton said. “Trick or treating and many Halloween parties take place in the dark, and open flames such as candles are often used to add ambience to the evening. There is a potential for danger during this particular holiday, but if people think ahead and make smart choices, they can help protect their families and homes and ensure Halloween is safe and enjoyable for everyone.”

For more information, call the Township of Langley Fire Department at 604.532.7500.