



Scare Away Danger this Halloween!

Halloween is a time for fun and adventure for children, but experts at the Illinois Poison Center (IPC) warn parents to use extra caution and to keep safety in mind. Every trick-or-treater is at risk for the dangers that result as part of the holiday mayhem, including being out after dark, using toxic paints as part of a costume, and eating treats that may have been injected with a poisonous substance.

Follow these safety and prevention tips from the IPC for safe trick or treating:

- 🍷 Feed your children before taking them out to reduce the urge to snack on the route.
- 😊 Bring your own candy to give your children along the way so they will not be tempted to eat from their bags before the treats can be checked.
- 👁️ Make certain masks fit properly and have large eyeholes so the child can see and breathe easily. Raise mask when crossing the street.
- ☠️ Purchase non-toxic face paint or makeup for a safe, creative alternative to masks. Other products may contain emollient laxatives, talc or hydrocarbons, which can be toxic. Home food colorings are not recommended because the tint may be difficult to wash off.
- ☎️ If any makeup is swallowed, call the IPC at 1-800-222-1222 for treatment instructions.
- ❄️ Dry ice can be used in punch bowls, but should not be used in individual glasses. If swallowed, oral burns may occur. Direct contact with the skin can cause a frostbite type injury. Wash skin immediately with water.
- ✓ Carefully check all candy before allowing your child to eat it.
- 📦 Eat only those treats still in their original unopened wrappers.
- ☠️ Throw away all unwrapped candy. Also throw away candies if wrappers are faded, have holes or tears or signs of re-wrapping
- ✓ Check fruit and homemade treats for punctures or foreign bodies that may have been injected, such as pins, metal needles or razor blades. Allow your child to eat such items only if from someone you know and trust. Most treat makers have good intentions, but it's not worth the risk.

For more helpful tips and suggestions, [click here](#) to check out the IPC's new Halloween brochure.