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# CAL FIRE NEWS RELEASE

## California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection



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### Prepare For a “Spooktacular” Time! *Halloween Safety Is a Real Treat!*

**Sacramento** – It’s time to carve out good times with family and friends as Tuesday marks Halloween! While it is a festive time for most, everyone still needs to be extremely careful with decorations, costumes, and candles. Did you know that decorations are most often the first thing to ignite in reported home fires each year? Two of every five of these fires were started by a candle. You can make your holiday safe with a few easy Halloween safety tips:

- **Trick-or-treating:** Never trick-or-treat alone. Always go with a parent or another adult. Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility. Only visit houses with their lights on.
- **Costumes:** Plan costumes that are bright and reflective as well as make sure costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- **Visibility:** Provide children with flashlights or glow sticks as part of their costumes. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so he/she can see clearly out of it or use face paint and makeup as an alternative.
- **Decorations:** Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters. Ensure decorations do not block escape routes.
- **Candles/jack-o-lanterns:** While your jack-o-lanterns are on the cutting edge, it is safest to use a glow stick or battery-operated candle inside to illuminate it. If you must use a candle inside your jack-o-lantern, use a utility lighter to light it. If you choose to use candle decorations, make sure to keep them well attended always, and do not leave them near flammable objects or where trick-or-treaters may walk. Make sure to watch children at all times, when candles are lit to prevent burns.
- **Healthy Halloween:** A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats. Consider purchasing non-food treats. Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Try to ration treats for the days and weeks following Halloween.

CAL FIRE wishes all Californians a safe and enjoyable Halloween! For more Halloween fire safety ideas and tips, please visit the [CAL FIRE website](http://www.calfire.ca.gov).