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News Release

*For Immediate Release*

### **Springfield Fire Department shares trick-or-treating safety tips**

Each year, dozens of children are injured on Halloween nationwide. The Springfield Fire Department hopes to reduce these numbers by sharing some simple safety tips.

- Buy costumes and wigs labeled "flame resistant." Stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
- 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.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop, cover their face and roll if their clothing catches fire.

Fire-related injuries are not the only concern on Halloween. Because they may be walking on the street after dusk, children should be aware of pedestrian safety, too.

- Fasten reflective tape to costumes and bags to help drivers see you.
- Avoid trick-or-treating alone. Walk in groups or with a trusted adult.
- Always walk, don't run from house to house
- Hold a flashlight while trick-or-treating to help you see and others see you.
- Stay on sidewalks whenever possible, or on the far edge of the road facing traffic. Look for cars when walking by a driveway.
- Never accept rides from strangers.

All 12 Springfield Fire Stations will be open this Halloween from 6-8 p.m. Feel free to bring the kids by to say hello and meet your neighborhood fire crew.

For more tips, visit our website at [www.springfieldmo.gov/fire](http://www.springfieldmo.gov/fire). From the Springfield Fire Department, have a safe and happy Halloween!

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