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## Keep children safe on Halloween

There are many ways to keep children safe at Halloween when they are more prone to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children at this time of year sometimes causes them to forget to be careful.

Sarasota County Fire Chief Brian Gorski offers the following tips to keep children safe at Halloween:

- Help the child select or make a safe costume. Make sure it is fire proof and the eye holes are large enough for good peripheral vision.
- If you set jack-o-lanterns on the porch with candles in them, keep them far enough away so kids' costumes won't accidentally catch on fire.
- If the child carries a prop such as a knife or a pitchfork, make sure the tips are smooth and flexible so they don't cause injury if the child falls.
- Make sure the child carries a flashlight, glow stick or has reflective tape on their costume to make them more visible to cars.
- An adult or responsible teen should accompany young children.
- Kids always want to help with pumpkin carving. There are many kits available to make pumpkin carving safe. Let the kids clean out the pumpkin and draw a face on it, which an adult can carve for them.
- Treat kids to a Halloween dinner. They will be less likely to eat the candy they collect which will help prevent choking, and give you an opportunity to inspect their candy before permitting them to eat it.
- Teaching kids basic everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing the street and crossing with the lights will keep them safer when they are out trick or treating.

Keeping a child safe at Halloween will add to the memories they'll have for a lifetime.

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