



The City of Tallahassee and The Tallahassee Fire Department Present:



# The Newsladder

## Keep your Ghouls and Goblins Safe this Halloween

With witches, goblins, and super-heroes descending on neighborhoods across America, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Halloween should be filled with surprise and enjoyment, and following some common sense practices can keep events safer and more fun.

- Walk, slither, and sneak on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for cars, trucks, and low-flying brooms.
- Cross the street only at corners.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes, skateboards,

- and brooms, too!)
- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult go with you.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Keep away from open fires and candles. (Costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's house.
- Use face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Be cautious of animals and strangers.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

[www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org)



## Fire Facts: Vehicle Fires



U.S. fire departments responded to an estimated 278,000 vehicle fires in the United States during 2006. These fires caused an estimated 490 civilian deaths, 1,200 civilian injuries and \$1.3 billion in direct property damage.

### Facts and Figures

- In 2002-2005, highway-type vehicle fires accounted for 18% of reported fires and 13% of U.S. civilian deaths.
- Older teens and young adults are age groups at highest risk of highway vehicle fire death.
- On average, 33 highway vehicle fires were reported per hour. These fires killed one person a day.
- Cars and other passenger vehicles account for the vast majority of highway vehicle fires and associated losses. In 2002-2005, only 19% of highway vehicle fires actually occurred on highways; 33% occurred on streets, roads or driveways, and 17% were in parking lots.
- Three-quarters of highway vehicle fires resulted from mechanical or electrical failures or malfunctions. Collisions or overturns caused only 3% of these fires but 57% of the associated deaths.
- One-third of non-fatal highway vehicle fire injuries occurred when civilians attempted to fight the fire themselves.

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)

## Leaves Need Burning? Make Sure to Meet These Requirements



A burn permit is required before burning any leaves, limbs or yard clippings. You must meet the state requirements for burning before you are issued a permit. These requirements are as follows:

- You must be at least 50 feet from your house, and
- You must be at least 100 feet from a road or street, and
- You must be at least 300 feet from a neighbor's house, and
- You must burn in a barrel or pit with a screen over it.
- Burning is not permitted on

rainy, foggy or windy days.

- Only natural vegetation can be burned. No processed wood, rubber, wiring, pvc piping, or shingles.

If you meet these requirements and live within the city limits call 891-6629 or contact the Bureau of Fire Prevention to set up an appointment with an inspector. If you reside in the county, please call the Division of Forestry at 922-5155. This permit shall be revoked at any time that:

- The conditions of this per-

mit are not strictly adhered to

- The Fire Department determines that the smoke or fumes create a nuisance
- The Fire Department determines that the health, safety, or welfare of the citizens of Tallahassee, Florida, requires revocation
- The Fire Department determines that environmental and atmospheric conditions do not allow for safe burning
- The Fire Department equipment and personnel must be dispatched to ex-

tinguish or control a fire which is the subject of this permit

### Notices:

City Ordinance provides for criminal penalties for the violation of terms and conditions of burn permits.

Compliance with the terms of the permit does not relieve the permittee of civil liability to third person as a result of any damage or injury caused by the fire.

[www.tal.gov.com](http://www.tal.gov.com)

## October is Fire Prevention Month

Since 1922, the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has sponsored a fire prevention campaign each October to raise the public's awareness about the importance of fire safety. The theme for the 2009 campaign: "Stay Fire Smart-Don't Get Burned"

Fire Prevention Week 2009 focuses on ways to keep homes fire safe and prevent painful burns. By following simple safety rules, you can "Stay Fire Smart!"

### Don't Get Burned

- Keep hot foods and liquids away from tables and counter edges so they cannot be pulled or knocked over.
- Have a 3-foot "kid-free" zone around the stove.
- Never hold a child in your arms while preparing hot food or drinking a hot beverage.
- Teach children that hot things hurt.
- Be careful when using things that get hot such as curling irons, ovens, irons, lamps, heaters.
- When using heating pads, only use for 15-20 minutes at a time and don't lie, sit or place anything on the pad.

### Just Right?

- To avoid scalds, set the thermostat setting in your water heater to no higher than 120 degrees F.
- Remember young children and older adults skin burns more

easily.

- Test the water before placing a child or yourself in the tub.
- Never leave young children alone in the tub, shower or near a sink.
- Be careful about scalding water. The water should feel warm, not hot. Before you put your child in the tub, test the temperature with your wrist, elbow, or the back of your hand.

### Cooking with Caution

- The leading cause of fires in the kitchen is unattended cooking.
- Pay attention to what you are cooking. Stay in the kitchen when you are frying, grilling, or broiling food.
- When you are simmering, boiling, baking, or roasting food, check it regularly, stay in the home, and use a timer to remind you.
- If you must leave the room even for a short time, turn off the stove.
- If you have young children, use the stove's back burners whenever possible.
- Keep children and pets at least 3 feet away from the stove.
- When you cook, wear clothing with tight-fitting or short sleeves.
- Allow food cooked in a microwave oven to cool for a few minutes before you take it out.
- Open microwaved food slowly. Hot steam from the container can cause burns.

### Stay Grounded

- Keep lamps, light fixtures, and light bulbs away from anything

that can burn, such as lamp shades, bedding, curtains, and clothing.

- Replace cracked and damaged electrical cords.
- Use extension cords for temporary wiring only. Consider having additional circuits or receptacles added by a qualified electrician.
- Call a qualified electrician or landlord if you have recurring problems with blowing fuses or tripping circuit breakers, discolored or warm wall outlets, flickering lights or a burning or rubbery smell coming from an appliance.

### Fire-Safety Basics

- Install smoke alarms in every bedroom, outside each sleeping area and on every level of the home. For the best protection, interconnect all smoke alarms throughout the home. When one sounds, they all sound.
- Test smoke alarms at least once a month using the test button.
- Replace smoke alarms every 10 years.
- Make sure everyone can hear the sound of the smoke alarms.
- Have a home fire escape plan. Know at least two ways out of every room, if possible, and a meeting place outside. Practice your escape plan twice a year.
- When the smoke alarm sounds, get out and stay out.

[www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org)



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The Newsladder  
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The Newsladder is a publication of the  
Tallahassee Fire Department  
Intended For  
The Citizens of Tallahassee

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