



The Newsladder

Tips for a Spooktacular Safe Halloween



Ghouls and goblins will take over the night. But even scary creatures need to be safe and celebrate Halloween right. Halloween's greatest hazards aren't vampires and villains, but falls, costume mishaps and automobile collisions.

The Red Cross wants your family to have a safe Halloween so we're providing these tips, the Lucky 13:

- Map out the route that you plan to roam, so adults are assured you will find your way home!
- From the bravest of superheroes to the noblest of knights, everyone should remember to bring their flashlights!
- If you visit a house where a stranger resides, accept treats at the door and, please, don't go inside.
- When you get ready to put on your disguise, use face paint instead of masks, which will cover your eyes.
- Always remember, before you embark, to wear light-colored clothing to be seen in the dark! (And remember to use reflective tape, even on

- bikes, and brooms and the edges of your cape!)
- Whether you walk, slither or sneak, do it on the sidewalks and not in the street.
- As you roam through the neighborhood collecting your treats, please look both ways before crossing the street! (And speaking of streets, the corners are the place for trick or treaters to cross no matter their pace.)
- Wigs, capes and costumes are flammable attire, so avoid open flames to prevent a fire!
- Use a glow stick instead of a candle so your jack-o-lantern isn't a safety gamble!
- You may fly on a broom or a space ship from Mars, but please be on the lookout for drivers in cars! (Between parked cars is no place to hide, be sure that you're seen whether you're a clown or a bride.)
- Monsters and zombies should stay off the lawn, and only visit homes with their porch lights turned on!
- You may be dressed as a werewolf, a cat or a frog, but be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.

www.redcross.org

Fall Brings Falling Leaves—Can You Burn Them?

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 permit 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 extinguish 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.talgov.com

October is Fire Prevention Month

Fire Prevention Week was established to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire, the tragic 1871 conflagration that killed more than 250 people, left 100,000 homeless, destroyed more than 17,400 structures and burned more than 2,000 acres. The fire began on October 8, but continued into and did most of its damage on October 9, 1871.

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. "Smoke Alarms: A Sound You Can Live With!" is NFPA's official theme for Fire Prevention Week (FPW), October 3-9.

This year's campaign is designed to educate people about the importance of smoke alarms and encourages everyone to take the steps necessary to update and maintain their home smoke alarm protection.

Smoke alarms should be installed on every level of the home, outside each sleeping area, and inside each bedroom. Larger homes may need additional smoke alarms. Never remove or disable smoke alarms.

Interconnection of smoke alarms is highly recommended; when one smoke alarm sounds, they all do. (This is particularly important in larger or multi-story homes, where the sound from distant smoke alarms may be reduced to the point that it may not be loud enough to provide proper warning, especially for sleeping individuals.) A licensed electrician can install hard-wired multiple-station alarms. Wireless alarms, which manufacturers have more recently

begun producing, can be installed by the homeowner.

There are two types of smoke alarm technologies – ionization and photoelectric. An ionization smoke alarm is generally more responsive to flaming fires – like a pan fire or the smoke from cooking. A photoelectric alarm is generally more responsive to smoldering fires – like a cigarette, overheated wiring or something hot like a space heater. Install both types of alarms in your home or combination ionization and photoelectric alarms that take advantage of both technologies.

Test smoke alarms at least monthly by pushing the test button. If an alarm "chirps," warning the battery is low, replace the battery right away.

All smoke alarms, including alarms that use 10-year batteries and those that are hard-wired alarms, should be replaced when they're 10 years old (or sooner) if they do not respond properly when tested. Never remove or disable a smoke alarm.

Smoke alarm facts:

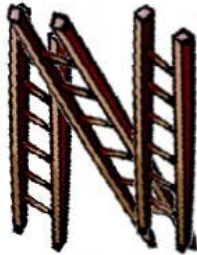
- Smoke alarms cut the risk of dying in a reported fire in half. Most homes (96%) have at least one smoke alarm (according to a 2008 telephone survey.) Overall, three-quarters of all U.S. homes have at least one working smoke alarm. Each year, nearly 3,000 people die in U.S. home fires. In 2003-2006, roughly two-thirds of home fire deaths resulted from home fires in homes with no smoke alarms or no working smoke alarms.
- No smoke alarms were present in 40% of the home fire deaths.
- In 23% of the home fire deaths, smoke alarms were present but did not sound.
- In more than half of the reported home fires in which the smoke alarms were present but did not operate even though the fire was large enough, batteries were missing or disconnected. Nuisance alarms were the leading reason for disconnected alarms.
- More than half of the smoke alarms found in reported fires and two-thirds of the alarms found in homes with fire deaths were powered by battery only.
- Most homes still have smoke alarms powered by battery only. In a 2007 American Housing Survey (AHS), 67% of the respondents who reported having smoke alarms said they were powered by battery only.
- In a 2008 telephone survey, only 12% knew that smoke alarms should be replaced every 10 years. In fires considered large enough to activate a smoke alarm, hard-wired alarms operated 91% of the time; battery-powered smoke alarms operated 75% of the time.
- Interconnected smoke alarms on all floors increase safety. In a U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) survey of households with any fires, interconnected smoke alarms were more likely to operate and alert occupants to a fire. (This includes fires in which the fire department was not called.)

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THE TALLAHASSEE FIRE DEPARTMENT
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Vintage TFD

