



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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TRICK-OR-TREAT SAFETY TIPS

St. Luke's and Safe Kids Remind the Community About Halloween Safety

Boise, ID (Friday, October 29, 2007) – Halloween is supposed to be a spooky night, but parents don't have to be scared about their kids' safety if they follow some simple tips from Safe Kids Treasure Valley and St. Luke's Children's Hospital.

Halloween is one of the most dangerous days of the year for our youngest pedestrians. Children are more than twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than the rest of the year—it's essential for parents to educate their children on how to stay safe while trick-or-treating.

Shorter fall days mean less visibility, and children tend to be less cautious due to the excitement of the holiday. Parents need to remind their children about the importance of walking safely, and making sure that motorists can see them. Safe Kids and St. Luke's Children's Hospital recommend that children under age 10 do no trick-or-treat without an adult. If a child is mature enough to trick-or-treat alone, parents should make sure that their child will stick to a pre-determined route with good lighting.

Parents need to remind their kids of the following:

- *Cross Streets Safely.* Cross at a corner, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them. Look left, right, and left again when crossing, and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don't run, across the street.
- *Walk on well lit sidewalks or paths.* If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk in familiar areas with minimal street crossings.
- *Be a safe pedestrian around cars.* Watch for cars that are turning or backing up. Never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.

Make sure your child is visible. Give your child a flashlight or glow sticks, use reflective treat bags, or put reflective tape on your child's costume. Also, it is a good idea for your

child not to wear a mask with their costume, as they can prevent them from being able to see hazards.

Drivers also need to be aware, and do their part to keep trick-or-treaters safe from harm. If you are going to be on the road this Halloween, be mindful of the following:

- *Be especially alert.* Remember that popular tick-or-treat hours are during the typical rush-hour period, between 5:30-9:30 p.m.
- *Drive more slowly.* Slow down and anticipate heavier than usual pedestrian traffic.
- *Lights On.* Be sure to drive with your headlights on so you can spot children from greater distances.

Although pedestrian safety is a main concern on Halloween, parents also need to keep in mind that there are other hazards for children who are trick-or-treating. Parents need to make sure that they check treats for signs of tampering before children are allowed to eat them. Finally, Safe Kids suggests that parents look for non-flammable costumes, and non-toxic designations when choosing Halloween makeup.

For more information on keeping kids safe on Halloween, and throughout the year, visit <http://www.usa.safekids.org/wtw>.

St. Luke's Children's Hospital, the only children's hospital in Idaho, treats more than 50,000 children every year, including 28,000 who visit its Pediatric Emergency Department. St. Luke's Children's Hospital provides expert care to critically and chronically ill infants and children. These patients are routinely referred to St. Luke's Children's Hospital from a multi-state region for a variety of services including heart surgery, cancer treatment, orthopedics, neurological disorders, newborn intensive care, and rare infectious diseases.

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