

# Halloween Safety Tips

## STAY SAFE:

Here are a few tips to keep you, your family, and your home safe this Halloween!



**DON'T  
GET  
SPOOKED!  
STAY  
SAFE!**

## USE THESE TIPS TO KEEP YOU & YOUR FAMILY SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN!

**Brought to you by Sutton Group - West Coast Realty & the BC Professional Fire Fighters Association**

At Sutton Group – West Coast Realty we believe in supporting the communities in which we live and work. In September 2009 Sutton West Coast adopted the BC Professional Fire Fighters' Burn Fund ("BCPFF Burn Fund") as our official corporate charity. Through a multitude of fundraising initiatives, Sutton West Coast & its REALTORS® will help raise funds for the BCPFF Burn, Plastic and Trauma Unit located in Vancouver General Hospital.

Through our partnership with the BCPFF Burn Fund, we are proud to support their safety and education efforts by providing you with the following "Halloween Safety Tips" to keep you and your little ones safe this Halloween.

On behalf of everyone at Sutton Group – West Coast Realty we would like to wish your family a safe and happy Halloween.



# SAFETY TIPS

## FAMILY OR CONSUMER FIREWORKS

Check with your local Fire or Police Department for by-laws and regulations on discharging fireworks in your municipality. Be aware many municipalities have changed their by-laws concerning rules and regulations regarding fireworks.

## Family or Consumer Fireworks Safety Tips:

Adults must take responsibility to supervise all fireworks activities. Fireworks are not toys. They burn at approximately the same temperature as a household match and can cause burn injuries and ignite clothing if improperly lit.

Read and follow all warnings and instructions. Do not purchase or use unlabeled fireworks. Homemade fireworks are deadly. One third of the injuries associated with fireworks have typically been caused by illegal explosives or homemade fireworks.

It is illegal for minors to purchase and possess fireworks. It is illegal to sell fireworks to minors

Use fireworks outdoors only. Never try to re-light fireworks that have not fully functioned and always have water handy in a garden hose or bucket.

Sparklers are often considered harmless fun. However, they can burn as hot as 650° Celsius (1200 °Fahrenheit) and can ignite clothing. As with other fireworks, always use them outdoors under adult supervision. Place used sparklers immediately into a metal container.

The majority of the injuries from family or consumer fireworks involve misuse rather than malfunction.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR CHILDREN WHILE TRICK OR TREATING

Buy flame resistant costumes, wigs & accessories. The best costumes are bright & reflective. Keep costumes short enough to prevent tripping. Consider adding reflective tape or striping for greater visibility.

- Give every child a flashlight with fresh batteries. Remind children of traffic safety rules, and that they should cross streets at corners, and to never cross between parked cars.
- Make sure that children know how to call 9-1-1 or their local emergency number if they experience an emergency or become lost. 9-1-1 can be dialed free from any pay phone.
- Secure emergency information (name, address, telephone number) within a child's Halloween attire.
- Give older children coins for non-emergency calls.
- Teach children to STOP, DROP & ROLL should their clothing catch fire: STOP immediately. DROP to the ground & cover face, unless hands are on fire. ROLL over & over until the flames are extinguished.

## SAFETY TIPS FOR ADULTS

- Be extra careful when driving. Excited children can forget safety rules. Make sure to appoint a designated driver if you are attending adult Halloween parties.
- Accompany children when they go out trick or treating. Explain to children the difference between tricks and vandalism.
- Community centres, shopping malls and houses of worship may hold organized Halloween events. As an alternative, start one in your neighbourhood.

## SAFETY AT HOME

- Consider using only battery powered lanterns or chemical light sticks instead of candles in decorations.
- Votive candles are the safest for pumpkins. Keep candles, matches and lighters away from the reach of children. Place lighted pumpkins on sturdy tables, away from curtains and other flammable objects. Never leave them unattended.



**Keep costumes short to prevent tripping**

- When decorating your home, ensure that electrical outlets are not overloaded with holiday lighting or special effects. Keep exit doors unblocked. Replace bulbs on outdoor lights. Check the batteries in your smoke alarms. Test monthly; replace annually.
- Eliminate tripping hazards on your porch and walkways. Check for flower pots, low tree limbs, support wires or garden hoses that may prove hazardous for young children as they rush from house to house.

## PET SAFETY

- Make pets safe by keeping them away from the door and visiting trick or treaters, and do not let them outside. Ensure that they are wearing collars and proper I.D. tags. Talk to a veterinarian for advice more specific to individual pets.
- Remember that chocolate is deadly for pets. So are plastic and foil candy wrappers. Give pets an extra biscuit, not Halloween candy.
- Dog's tails can be lethal weapons. Keep dogs and cats away from Jack-O-Lanterns or lighted candles; they could knock them over and start a fire or receive serious burns.
- If holding an indoor Halloween party, place pets in a room, well away from the party. Leave them with food and water. Check on them once in a while, to let them know everything is fine.



## BC Professional Fire Fighters Association

For more information on the BCPFF Burn Fund or to donate, please visit [www.burnfund.org](http://www.burnfund.org).



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