

## **Halloween Safety for the whole family**

For many families, October brings thoughts of witches, ghosts and goblins. Not to mention candy, gooey treats and parties. A large focus should also be the safety of children. Parents of trick-or-treaters sometimes spend so much time putting together costumes for their children and buying candy that they need to remind themselves about staying safe during this holiday. Below are a few common sense safety ideas for the entire family.

### **Tips for kids:**

- Always travel in groups (three or more people)
- Only approach houses that are well lit
- Stick to one side of the street. Don't criss-cross back and forth
- Carry a brightly coloured bag or pillow case for your candy
- Bring along a few quarters to make emergency calls if needed
- Don't eat any treats before you get home. Look through your candy with your parents when you get home

### **Tips for parents:**

- Encourage brightly coloured, creative costumes.
- Make sure their costume fits properly and ensure visibility. Masks are not recommended
- Always escort younger children. After age 10 your children can begin to venture out with friends
- Be sure to review safety tips and rules with your children
- Give your child a flashlight
- Ensure that you know the exact route your child will be taking while they are trick-or-treating

### **Tips for the homeowner:**

- Be sure to remove anything from your yard or porch that a child may trip over
- Sweep wet leaves from steps or sidewalk
- Turn on outdoor lights and replace burnt out bulbs
- If you use candles to light your pumpkin, be sure to keep them safely away from children
- Consider offering an alternative treat such as stickers, erasers, party favours for those who may have allergies or for the very young trick-or-treaters

Please have a safe and fun Halloween.