

October 2023

Fire and Halloween Safety

October is Fire Prevention Month. As the weather turns colder, we start using heaters, fireplaces, and candles more. Here are some quick fire safety tips from the NFPA:



1. Put candles on a sturdy, uncluttered surface, and never leave a child alone with a burning candle.
2. Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like a furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or space heater.
3. Only plug one heat-producing appliance (coffee makers, toasters, or space heaters) into a receptacle outlet at once.
4. Never burn candles if you use oxygen in the home.
5. Test your fire and carbon monoxide detectors to ensure the batteries are fresh and your equipment is not older than ten years.

Keep the kids safe this Halloween with tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics:



1. When shopping for costumes, look for and purchase wigs and accessories with a label indicating they are flame-resistant.
2. If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, be sure it is not sharp or too long. If a child stumbles or trips, they can easily be hurt.
3. Do not use decorative contact lenses without an eye examination and a prescription from an eye care professional. While packaging on these lenses often makes claims such as "one size fits all" or "no need to see an eye specialist," obtaining decorative contact lenses without a prescription is dangerous and illegal. These can cause pain, inflammation, eye disorders, and infections, which may lead to permanent vision loss.
4. Young children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers, and parents can cut.
5. Use a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. If you opt to use a candle, a votive candle is safest.