

October 19, 2010

Media Contact: Captain Susan Pearson, 941-861-2260, spearson@scgov.net
Jane Ross, Fire Marshal, 941-861-2290, jeross@scgov.net

Children's Halloween safety tips

There are many ways to keep children safe during Halloween, when they are susceptible to accidents and injuries. The excitement of children at this time of year sometimes makes them forget to be careful. Sarasota County Fire Marshal Jane Ross, offers the following tips for keeping children safe during Halloween:

- Make or purchase a costume that is safe, one that's being fire proof and has eye holes large enough for good peripheral vision.
- Make sure jack-o-lanterns with candles in them aren't in traffic areas so costumes won't accidentally be set on fire.
- If a child's costume includes a prop, such as a knife or a pitchfork, the tips should be smooth and flexible to avoid causing injuries.
- Each child should carry a flashlight, glow stick or have reflective tape on their costume to make them visible to cars.
- Young children should be accompanied by an adult or responsible teen.
- Adults should carve pumpkins. Let children clean out the pumpkins and draw faces on them.
- Treat kids to a Halloween dinner. They will be less likely to eat the candy they collect. That helps prevent choking and gives parents an opportunity to inspect candy.
- Teaching children everyday safety such as not getting into cars or talking to strangers, watching both ways before crossing the street and crossing when the lights tell them to, will help make them safer when they are Trick or Treating.

-end-