

Halloween Safety

Halloween is an exciting time for kids, but the North Dakota Safety Council (NDSC) reminds the public that pedestrian safety should be a top priority for both drivers and parents. On average, twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween compared to other days of the year. With hundreds of kids hitting the streets this Halloween, the NDSC offers a few simple tips to help keep kids safe:

Parents:

- Children under 12 should trick-or-treat and cross streets with an adult. If kids are mature enough to be out without supervision, remind them to stick to familiar areas that are well lit and to trick-or-treat in groups.
- Cross the street at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Make sure your little ghouls and goblins walk, not run, across the street.
- Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the side as possible.
- Make sure your child's creative costume is also safe. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and choose light colors. Masks can obstruct a child's vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible.
- Have kids carry glow sticks or flashlights in order to see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

Drivers:

- **SLOW DOWN.** Popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., so be especially alert for kids during those hours.
- Take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
- Slowly and carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
- Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating.
- As always, **NEVER** drink and drive.



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PROTECTION**

Check out our course list online for a variety of safety trainings provided across the state at

www.ndsc.org

The North Dakota Safety Council is a private non-profit organization supported through grants, donations, memberships and training.

