

Halloween Safety Tips for Nevada's Families

Senator Joyce Woodhouse

October 29, 2009

One of my favorite memories of being a first grade teacher in the Clark County School District has been seeing the excitement and anticipation that builds up in young students before Halloween. All over Nevada, children have been preparing for weeks as to how they will spend their Halloween night, and more importantly, what their costume will be. Although this is a time of fun and celebration, parents and children must be reminded of the safety hazards they can encounter on Halloween night.

Below I've compiled a list of helpful safety tips for families on Halloween:

- * Help your child pick out a costume that will be safe. Plan a costume that is bright and reflective (consider putting reflective tape on the costume) and short enough so the child does not trip. Use non-toxic make-up rather than a mask. Make sure the costume is flame resistant.

- * A parent or responsible adult should accompany children while trick-or-treating. NEVER let young children trick or treat alone. Emphasize the importance of staying in groups at all times. Parents should review the route to be used for older children who are going alone (teenagers). Flashlights with fresh batteries should be used with each group, and at least one person in the group should have a cell phone available for use.

- * If your child wants to help with pumpkin carving, it is recommended that the child draw the face on the pumpkin with markers. If it must be carved, an adult should do the carving. Children should never use sharp knives.

- * Once back home, a parent or a responsible adult should check the candy before the children are allowed to eat it. Always throw away any candy that is spoiled, unwrapped, or looks suspicious.

- * Review the basic, everyday safety tips with your children before they go out for Halloween (i.e. don't get in cars with strangers, look both ways before crossing the street, etc...).

Following these safety tips will help ensure that you and your family have a safe and memorable Halloween. As usual, do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns. You can reach me at (702) 488-2766 or at jwoodhouse642@yahoo.com.

All my best,

Joyce Woodhouse

State Senator, Clark 5