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Halloween Should Be a Fun, not Dangerous Night for Children

Children are twice as likely to be hit by a car and killed on Halloween than on any other day

Missoula – Halloween is one of the most anticipated nights of the year for kids, but Safe Kids’ research show some scary statistics on Halloween safety—making Halloween scary for different reasons than you think. On average, twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween than on any other day of the year. With a few tips and tricks, kids can stay safe while out walking. Safe Kids Missoula urge parents to prepare their children to walk safely, and remind drivers to be particularly alert this Halloween.

“On Halloween, more children are on the street after dark than normal, and they are so excited that they may run out into the street without thinking,” said Dannette Fadness of Safe Kids Missoula. “Drivers need to take extra care and slow down on neighborhood roads. And, of course, it’s very important that drivers put down mobile devices to avoid distraction.”

“Parents need to talk to their children about watching out for cars while trick-or-treating,” says Dannette Fadness. “And make sure that their costume has something reflective on it so cars can see them. You could even have kids put on a glow stick necklace or a reflective slap bracelet.”

Safe Kids recommends these top tips to keep kids safe on Halloween.

Top safety tips for kids:

- **Costumes can be both creative and safe.** The most important thing is to make sure you can be seen by drivers. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape or stickers and, if possible, choose light colors. Masks can obstruct your vision, so choose non-toxic face paint and make-up whenever possible. Carry glow sticks or flashlights so you can see better, as well as be seen by drivers.

- **Cross the street safely at corners**, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross.

- **Put electronic devices down** and keep heads up and walk, don’t run, across the street.

- **Walk on sidewalks or paths.** If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible.

- **Slow down and stay alert** - Watch out for cars that are turning or backing up and don’t dart out into the street or cross in between parked cars.

Top safety tips for drivers:

- **Slow down** in residential neighborhoods. Remember that popular trick-or-treating hours are 5:30 to 9:30 p.m.

- **Be especially alert** and 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.

- **Reduce any distractions** inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

For more tips on how to help kids become safer pedestrians on Halloween, and throughout the year, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org). For more information, visit [www.fchwmt.org](http://www.fchwmt.org) or [www.facebook.com/safekidsmissoula](http://www.facebook.com/safekidsmissoula)

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About Safe Kids Missoula

Safe Kids Missoula works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Its prevention advocates include ABCFOXNEWS, American Red Cross, Beach Transportation, Buckle-Up Montana-Missoula/Granite County Coalition, Community Medical Center, FedEx, Foundation for Community Health—Robinson Endowment, Full Circle Counseling Services, Infant Swimming Resource-Kaci Briggeman, Let’s Move! Missoula, Missoula Broadcasting, Missoula Children’s Museum, Missoula County Health Department, Missoula County Office of Emergency Management, Missoula Emergency Services, Missoula Fire Department, Missoula Forum for Children and Youth: MUSAP, Missoula Police Department, Missoula Rural Fire Department, Missoula YMCA, Be SMART with Mom's Demand Action for Gun Sense in America, Montana Highway Patrol, Mountain Home Montana, Providence Saint Patrick Hospital, UM Athletic Training Program. Safe Kids Missoula is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing unintentional injury. **Safe Kids Missoula was founded in 1991 and is led by the Foundation for Community Health.** For more information, visit [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) or [www.fchwmt.org/safe-kids-missoula-coalition/](http://www.fchwmt.org/safe-kids-missoula-coalition/).