



NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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Firefighters: Keep Halloween a fun night of treats, not troubles

Halloween decorations are fuel for more than 1,000 residential fires every year across the country. Candles and holiday lights, along with unsafe or home-made porch decorations, can create the opportunity for a preventable accident, said Beaufort Fire Chief Sammy Negron.

“As you prepare your home and family to have fun on Halloween, the City of Beaufort-Town of Port Royal Fire Department would like help keep it safe,” he said. “We would like for you and your families to enjoy lasting memories of good holidays, not memories of an accident that could have been prevented.”

Capt. John Robinson, fire prevention specialist with the Beaufort-Port Royal Fire Department, recommends keeping all combustibles three feet from any sources of heat. Don’t overload electrical circuits with lights and never leave lit candles unattended, he said.

“For Halloween, most safety concerns are common sense, but when the kids get excited about their costumes and the candy, adults can become distracted and forgot some of the basics,” Robinson said. “That can be a terrible oversight.”

Firefighters shared these additional safety tips for making Halloween a thrilling night to remember, in a good way:

Tips for kids

- NEVER go into a stranger’s house
- Always stay with an adult
- Have a flashlight that’s lit, especially when walking along streets and sidewalks

- Ensure you can see out of your costume
- Be careful crossing streets
- Don't run – always walk

Tips for parents

- Stay with your children
- Check the Internet for offenders who may live nearby (www.bcsso.net, click on “Offender Watch” in the upper left corner)
- When possible, add reflective tape to a dark-colored costume so that drivers can better see the youngsters
- Ensure your children's costumes are treated with fire retardant
- Make sure your children know to “stop, drop and roll” in case their costume catches fire
- Check your children's candy before they eat it
- Don't visit homes without porch lights lit, and advise your children those houses are off-limits

Tips for your home

- Ensure your walkways and front yards are clear for visitors
- Don't put lit pumpkins or lit candles near walkways or steps
- Use battery powered candles
- Prepare for all ages of visitors
- Use the time-tested technique of keeping on your porch light when you are entertaining trick-or-treaters and turn off your porch light when you are done.

END