



HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS



The Village would like all BHI families to have the best time possible on Halloween. The following are some tips to keep everyone who is participating in trick or treating safe and healthy this year!

BEFORE TRICK OR TREATING

Pumpkin Safety:

- Never allow small children to carve pumpkins. Allow children to draw the design on the pumpkin with markers. Then parents can do the cutting. For the best control while carving, the American Society for Surgery of the Hand (AAHS) recommends adults use a small pumpkin saw (sold with other Halloween goods) in small strokes, directing the blade away from themselves and others.
- ON BALD HEAD ISLAND use a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. We want VERY FEW fire risks and hazards present on the island.

Costume Safety:

Make sure your costumes are safe by:

- Making sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping or entanglement.
- Considering non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives to masks that go over the eyes. Hats should fit properly to prevent them from sliding over the eyes. Makeup should be tested ahead of time on a small patch of your child's skin to ensure there are no unpleasant surprises or allergic reactions on the big day. Toxic ingredients have been found in cosmetics marketed to teens and tweens.
- Avoiding any sharp or long swords, canes, or sticks as a costume accessory. Your child can easily be hurt by these accessories if he or she stumbles or trips.
- Not using decorative contact lenses without an eye examination and a prescription from an eye care professional.

Other Health & Safety Tips:

For parents and their trick or treaters

- Practice good hand hygiene like washing hands and using hand sanitizer before trick or treating is a good idea.
- A good meal before parties and trick or treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- If your older children are going trick or treating with friends, plan and review the route that is acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home. Give them a cell phone so they can call 9-1-1 or reach you.
- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 if they ever have an emergency or become lost or are prone to wander. Remember that when you are on the island, you need to tell the operator that you are on Bald Head Island.
- Pin a piece of paper with your child's name, address, and phone number inside your child's pocket in case you get separated.

For treat givers

- Non-edible treats are a good option, especially for children who suffer from food allergies.
- Keep the porch, front yard, and walkways clear of anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes, and lawn decorations.



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DURING TRICK OR TREATING

For parents and their trick or treaters

- Parents should always accompany young children.
- Never enter a home for a treat. Notify law enforcement Public Safety immediately about any suspicious or unlawful activity by calling 9-1-1.
- Watch children and make sure they do not eat the candy before they get home.
- Where there are no sidewalks, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing oncoming vehicles.
- Children and adults are reminded to put electronic devices down, keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

For treat givers

- Sweep wet leaves from sidewalks and steps.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater. All animals should wear collars and proper I.D. tags.

For drivers

- Slow down. Take the curves in the villages wynds even more slowly than usual.
- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians, and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween. Underage drivers are never allowed on BHI.

AFTER TRICK OR TREATING

- Good hand hygiene like washing hands and using hand sanitizer after trick or treating is a good idea.
- Inspect your child's candy before you allow them to eat it. Consider throwing away any treats that are unwrapped, loosely wrapped, damaged, or homemade.

