

Don't be like a zombie this Halloween – STOP, LOOK and LISTEN

(Penticton, BC – October 31, 2019) – With Halloween just around the corner, it won't be long before little ghosts and witches will be knocking on resident's doors trick-or-treating. The Penticton Fire Department would like to remind everyone that although Halloween is a fun and festive time of the year, there are still many hazards that can occur when it comes to costumes and decorations.

"Halloween is a very festive time of year with lots of creative decorations and displays," says Penticton Fire Chief, Larry Watkinson. "However, there can be hidden hazards and extra caution will ensure everyone's safety."

Follow these easy tips for a fun and safe Halloween:

- To prevent tripping, do not choose costumes that are billowing, long or have trailing fabric.
- Provide children with flashlights or glow-in-the-dark props to carry for lighting as part of their costume.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decoration so nothing blocks escape routes. Keep outdoor pathways clear of tripping hazards for trick-or-treaters.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If using a real candle, use extreme caution and make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit.
- Tell your children – if clothes catch on fire: **STOP** immediately, **DROP** to the ground and cover your face with your hands, **ROLL** over and over to extinguish the flames.

The Penticton Fire Department would also like to remind the community that the use of fireworks by untrained individuals may result in unnecessary injuries. The Fire and Life Safety Bylaw requires anyone who wants to put on a firework display to obtain a permit from the Penticton Fire Department.

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