



# CITY OF TOPEKA



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## NEWS RELEASE

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### Halloween Fire Safety Tips

As children and adults head out to celebrate Halloween, your Topeka Fire Department would like to wish everyone a safe and happy holiday evening. The Topeka Fire Department and the International Association of Fire Fighters, Local 83 will be giving away candy at all Topeka Fire Stations. To insure everyone has a safe and happy Halloween, we are also offering a few simple safety tips.

1. When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabrics. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out.
2. Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costumes. The contents of liquid in glow sticks are hazardous, so remind children not to chew on or break them.
3. Dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper are highly flammable so keep these and all decorations away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs, heaters and candles.
4. It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candle in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution.
  - Make sure children are watched at all times if candles are used.
  - Use long, fireplace style matches or utility lighters when lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns.
  - Be sure to place lit pumpkins away from anything that can burn and far enough away from trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.

### Decorations are the first thing to ignite in more than 1,000 nationally reported home fires each year

5. Remember to keep exits clear of decorations so nothing blocks your escape routes.
6. Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothes catch on fire. Have them practice so you can be sure they know the reason is to smother any flames.
7. Use flashlights or torch lights as alternatives to candles to decorate walkways and yards.
8. If your children are going to a Halloween Party at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home, and plan how they would get out in an emergency.

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