



**Northern Ireland
Fire & Rescue Service**

Protecting Our Community

COMMUNITY INFORMATION BULLETIN No 3

BE HALLOWEEN SAFE

Halloween can be an exciting time for children with bonfires, fireworks, dressing up and parties with plenty of treats and party games. But with these added distractions comes an increase in the likelihood of accidents. These simple tips can make Halloween a safe night for everyone:

Tips for Parents and Carers

Remind children to be extra careful when crossing any roads.

Choose a costume and mask that doesn't restrict a child's visibility.

Provide children with a torch or glow stick as part of their costume.

Avoid using a naked flame or candle in pumpkins; use a torch or battery-operated candle.

Tell children to stay away from any naked flames. Be sure they know how to '**Stop, Drop and Roll**' if their clothing catches fire.

Bonfires

Keep bonfires to a manageable size, in a clear space, at a safe distance from buildings and overhead cables.

As a rule the bonfire should be a minimum of 5 times its height from buildings and property. The bonfire should not contain potentially hazardous material which may explode or give off toxic fumes.

Never use flammable liquids such as petrol or paraffin as these can produce explosive vapours.

Fireworks

Greater availability has increased the popularity of fireworks, yet despite the warnings their use can often end in disaster with a visit to the hospital. **Remember:**

Outdoor fireworks cannot be bought in Northern Ireland without a licence.

Ensure fireworks comply with BS 7114 or its European equivalent.

Read the instructions carefully before use and always supervise children around fireworks.

Further information can be found at www.saferfireworks.com www.nidirect.gov.uk/fireworks.

Sparklers

Never give sparklers to children under the age of five.

Always wear gloves with sparklers, preferably leather ones.

Hold it at arms length and never wave sparklers at someone else as you could burn them.

When the sparkler has finished put it into a bucket of cold water immediately.

Road Safety

Halloween means that there will be more children out on the streets. Drivers need to take extra care especially when driving in residential areas. **Drivers should:**

Reduce their speed in residential areas.

Watch out for children, many of whom will be wearing costumes with masks that often restrict their visibility and makes it more difficult for them to see when crossing the road.

Remember to enter and exit driveways slowly and carefully.

Reduce your distractions in the car and stay alert.

Further information can be found at www.nifrs.org