



**American
Red Cross**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: October 28, 2024

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**KEEP CHILDREN SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN:
ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND AMERICAN RED CROSS SHARE
IMPORTANT HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS**

Ahead of Halloween, the NYC Administration for Children's Services (ACS) and the American Red Cross in Greater New York shared important tips to help keep New York City's children safe this Halloween.

As two organizations dedicated to helping families have the tools and information they need to keep children safe, we are coming together to get these important safety tips out to New York City's parents and responsible caregivers.

"Parents and caregivers can help make Halloween safe and fun for children by following a few safety tips, like making sure kids don't go trick-or-treating without an adult, looking both ways before crossing the street, and having an adult check their bags before they eat their treats," **said Commissioner Jess Dannhauser, Administration for Children's Services.** "ACS thanks the American Red Cross for teaming up to get this valuable message out."

"Halloween is just days away, and as our little superheroes and storybook characters prepare to be out in their neighborhoods for trick-or-treat fun, we are so proud to partner with ACS to help keep New Yorkers safe. We encourage community members to review and follow these Halloween tips and to prepare their home or business to welcome trick-or-treaters by making sure the area is well-lit and clear of any obstacles someone could trip over," **said Doreen Thoman-Howe, regional CEO, American Red Cross in Greater New York.**

Pick Safe Costumes and Gear

- Wear light-colored clothing and flame-resistant costumes.
- Add reflective tape to costumes and pack a flashlight. That way kids are easier to see and can see better in the dark.
- Try on costumes ahead of trick-or-treating to ensure children can see properly through masks or headwear.

Never let children trick or treat alone.

- A parent or responsible caregiver should accompany young children.
- Plan the trick-or-treat route in advance. Walk only on the sidewalks, not in the street.

Walk on sidewalks and be careful in the street

- Walk, don't run.
- Look both ways before crossing the street, and cross only at the corner and with the green light/walk sign.
- Don't cross between parked cars.
- Never walk through alleys or cut across yards. Only cross the street in designated crosswalks.
- Adults should use extra caution if driving. Trick-or-treaters are excited and may forget to look both ways before crossing.

Accept treats at the door – never go inside.

- Children shouldn't go inside a stranger's home. Adults should not invite children into their homes.
- It's not only vampires and monsters children have to look out for. Children and adults should be cautious around animals and pets.
- Always be aware of your surroundings.

Check children's candy and treats before eating.

- Make sure to remove loose candy, open packages and choking hazards.
- Discard any items with brand names with which you are not familiar.

Leave the pumpkin carving to adults.

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Instead, let them draw a face with markers.
- Use a flashlight or glowstick to light the pumpkin instead of a candle.

Have Fun

- Happy Halloween!