










Happy, Safe Halloween: Keep Your Home and Kids Safe

Halloween means decorations, costumes, and trick or treating. It also means fire and safety hazards in and around the home. According to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), over 1,000 home fires a year are related to seasonal decorations, especially those involving candles.

Keep your home and kids safe this Halloween by following these NFPA recommendations:

-  Make sure costume labels say “flame-resistant” or “flame-retardant.”
-  Make your own costumes out of materials that don’t catch fire easily. Avoid features like long, loose sleeves, billowing or trailing capes.
-  Use flashlights instead of candles, both indoors and out. Even jack-o’-lanterns are more safely illuminated with flashlights.
-  Be very careful when decorating with dried flowers, cornstalks, and crepe paper, all of which are highly flammable. Make sure these decorations are well clear of radiators, light bulbs, and other heat sources.
-  Teach kids how to “stop, drop, and roll” to put out flames if their costumes catch fire. Remind them to stay away from candles and other open flames.
-  Make sure your children carry flashlights to light their way as they go trick or treating.
-  Don’t send small children out trick-or-treating without an adult to watch out for them.



WHAT TO DO IN A WORKPLACE FIRE

When you hear a fire alarm:

Evacuate using your assigned evacuation route. If that route is blocked, use your alternate. Close doors behind you as you leave. If you encounter smoke, crawl low under the smoke. Once outside move away from exits. Go to your assigned assembly area and report to the person taking a head count. Remain outside until you are told it is safe to reenter the building.

If you are unable to get out of the building:

Create an area of refuge in a room with windows. Use wet cloth to seal cracks under doors and vents against smoke. Don’t break windows. Open the window just a crack if you need air. Stay low under smoke, and cover your nose and mouth with a wet cloth. Signal for help by using a phone or hanging something in the window.

If you discover a fire:

Activate the nearest fire alarm. Call 911 immediately. Don’t assume that someone else has already done this. Evacuate the building.

If you fight a fire with an extinguisher:

Call 911 or get a co-worker to do that. Make sure everybody else in the area has been warned and is evacuating. Select the right extinguisher for the fire. Give up and evacuate if the fire is not out by the time the extinguisher is empty. Don’t try to fight a large or spreading fire. Evacuate.



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Quiz: Fire Safety

- 1. What are the three basic ingredients needed to start a fire?**
 - a. Gasoline, matches, & gravity.
 - b. Oxygen, fuel, & an ignition source.
 - c. Hydrogen, oxygen, & water.
- 2. In the event of a fire in your work area, your best course of action is to:**
 - a. Leave the area using a designated escape route.
 - b. Open all doors and windows in an attempt to fight the fire.
 - c. Shelter in a room without windows.
- 3. What characteristic of flammable liquids makes them an especially dangerous fire hazard?**
 - a. They give off invisible, lighter than air vapors that can explode.
 - b. They are corrosive and can eat through any metal container.
 - c. They give off invisible, heavier than air vapors that can ignite some distance from the liquid itself.
- 4. If a fire alarm sounds, but you see no sign of fire, you should:**
 - a. Ignore it.
 - b. Respond as if there were a real fire.
 - c. Call 911.
- 5. A fire extinguisher containing which of these materials would be most effective for fighting an electrical fire?**
 - a. Carbon dioxide (CO₂)
 - b. Water
 - c. Rated A B C.
- 6. Which of these words is an acronym for how to use a fire extinguisher?**
 - a. PUSH
 - b. PULL
 - c. PASS
 - d. PRAY
- 7. Why is good housekeeping an important way to prevent workplace fires?**
 - a. When things are neat, you can see fire hazards more easily.
 - b. It helps reduce the amount of materials that could catch fire.
 - c. There is no relationship between housekeeping and fire prevention.

ARE YOU A DISTRACTED DRIVER?

OSHA reports that distracted driving is a factor in more than 4,000 vehicle accidents a day. And it's not surprising. How often do you see drivers talking on a cell phone, fiddling with the radio or climate controls, grooming, or eating while they drive? How often do you do these things yourself?

Experts say that drivers make more than 200 decisions during every mile they travel. Clearly, you can't make good, safe decisions if your mind and eyes are not focused on the road when you drive.

Accident Prevention: *Look At Me, Always Thinking*

After an accident on the job, people often wonder what they could have done to have prevented it. That, of course, can help avoid similar accidents in the future. But the best way to prevent job accidents is to think about prevention *before* an accident happens, not after.

- Think about what could go wrong before you start any job. Then take necessary precautions to prevent accidents, such as eliminating hazards or wearing personal protective equipment.
- Consider the information, procedures, and techniques you've learned in safety meetings and training sessions that could help prevent an accident.
- Ask yourself if you know the requirements, safety rules, and regulations that apply to the job.
- Collect the equipment, tools, materials, etc. you need to perform job safely.
- Take into account your fellow workers, and encourage them to take proper safety precautions and work more safely.
- Have in mind some ideas for improving safety performance in your department and your organization.

Additionally, remember to use common sense and to pay attention to your "gut feelings." If something just doesn't seem right to you, it probably isn't.

Quiz Answers: (1) b (2) a (3) c (4) b (5) a & c (6) c (Pull the pin, Aim at the base of the fire, Squeeze the trigger, and Sweep back and forth) (7) b