



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – October 30, 2011  
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## **AVOID A HARROWING HALLOWEEN**

Halloween can be a day full of fun or it can be a real fright. Nationwide, the number of pedestrians hit by cars is double what it is on other nights of the year.

Fortunately, you can avoid a harrowing Halloween with some planning and being prepared. Whether you're a parent, a driver or a trick-or-treater, there are some easy steps you can take to make sure it is a safe and fun time.

Keep costumes short enough not to trip over and make sure masks don't interfere with the ability to see or hear. Costume accessories should be short, soft and flexible, if they have to carry them. Carry a flashlight and glow sticks to make it easier to see and be seen. Reflective tap attached to candy bags or on the backs of costumes will help drivers notice the children.

Drivers should turn on lights early and drive slowly through residential areas. Remember that excited children may dart out from behind cars or forget to stop before crossing a street. Don't drink and drive. If you're going to a party, be sure to have a designated driver.

It's a good idea for parents to either go with children or make sure there is a large group together. Parents can go over routes with children before they leave and set a specific time to return. Sending along a cell phone can help if the children are lost, hurt or need help of any kind.

When youngsters return with their bundle of delicious treats, check and toss opened or homemade treats unless you know the person who gave them. If those goodie bags are too full, [many dentists are](#) buying candy that is then shipped to service members overseas.

For more ideas on safe Halloween, visit the [CDC](#) or [Safe Kids USA](#).

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