Trick or Treaters Need to Know What to Do on Halloween

It’s time for trick-or-treating as the kids enjoy Halloween this Wednesday. With the excitement of Halloween, though, I’d recommend parents put safety first and prevent Halloween disasters before they happen. One of the most dangerous elements during this holiday is a mask that restricts the vision of trick-or-treaters. Parents would do well to widen the eye holes on masks or use face paint instead.

It is difficult to predict the unforeseen dangers that surround Halloween, but there are a number of safety precautions that will help make this a happy and safe holiday.

TRICK-OR-TREATERS
n Carry a flashlight.

n Walk, don’t run.

n Stay on the sidewalks.

n If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left side of the road, facing traffic.

n Obey traffic signals.

n Stay in familiar neighborhoods.

n Don’t cut across yards or driveways.

n Approach only houses which are lit.

PARENTS
n Make your child eat dinner before going trick-or-treating.

n Put your children in costumes and accessories which are bright, reflective, fit well and are flame resistant.

n For greater visibility, add reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags.

n Secure emergency identification (name, address, phone number) within Halloween attire or on a bracelet.

n Teach your children how to call 9-1-1 should they have an emergency or become lost.

n Young children should be accompanied by an adult.

n Older children should know where to reach you and when to be home.

n If your children go on their own, be sure they wear a watch.

n Although tampering is rare, tell children to bring the candy home to be inspected before eating

any.

n Make sure your kids know how important it is for them to be home on time.

n Make sure your kids know the difference between tricks and vandalism. Throwing eggs at a house may seem like fun, but they need to know such activity causes damage and must be cleaned up.

n Make sure your kids know animal cruelty is not acceptable.

HOMEOWNERS
n Make sure your yard is clear of such things as ladders, hoses and flowerpots that can trip kids and adults.

n Pets get frightened by all the activity on Halloween. Put them up to protect them AND the trick-or-treaters.

n Battery powered jack o’ lantern candles are preferable to a real flame. If you do use real candles, place the pumpkin well away from where trick-or-treaters will be walking or standing.

n If you suspect there is a problem with your child’s candy, call the Bossier Sheriff’s Office at 965-2203, and a deputy will be dispatched to your house.

Everyone wants to have a safe and happy Halloween for themselves, their guests and their children. Making good use of safety tips and common sense can help you make the most of the Halloween season. A few safety precautions can mean the difference between a fun and memorable celebration, or one spoiled by an avoidable incident. I hope you and your kids enjoy an injury-free Halloween.

Bossier Sheriff Julian Whittington’s column appears periodically in the Bossier Press-Trbune.