



Children bob for apples during a Halloween party at the Whitchurch-Stouffville Public Library Friday night.

Avoid candles, baggy costumes on Halloween

Open flames, dark and oversized costumes and children walking on dark streets.

As good a time as Halloween can be, there are precautions to be taken, Whitchurch-Stouffville Fire and Emergency Services says.

"We want this Halloween to be a treat," fire prevention officer Jeff Bignell said. "Don't be tricked by hidden dangers."

The department offers the following tips to residents:

- The best costumes are light colored or bright and reflective. Keep costumes short to avoid tripping and falling. Minimize the risk of contact with candles or other ignition sources by avoiding baggy pants, loose frills, or billowing skirts.

- Give every child a flashlight with fresh batteries. Remind them of traffic safety rules, and that they should cross streets at corners and never cross between parked cars.

- Make sure children know how to call 9-1-1 if they experience an emergency.

- Teach children to stop, drop and roll should their clothing catch fire.

- Accompany children when they go out trick-or-treating.

- Be extra careful when driving as excited children can forget safety rules when crossing the street.

► For more information call the fire department at 905-640-9595.

- Appoint a designated driver if you attend adult Halloween parties.

- Consider using only battery-powered lanterns, flashing lights or chemical light sticks instead of candles in decorations.

- Small flashlight candles are the safest for use in jack-o-lanterns. If you must use a candle, try a tea light or votive candle in a non-combustible holder. Always keep candles,

matches and Never leave them unattended.

- Candlelit jack-o-lanterns should be kept away from landings and doorsteps where costumes can brush against the flame.

- Ensure electrical outlets are not overloaded with holiday lighting or special effects. Keep exit doors unblocked.

- Replace bulbs on outdoor lights. Check batteries in smoke alarms.

- Keep pets safe by ensuring they stay away from the door. Do not let them outside.

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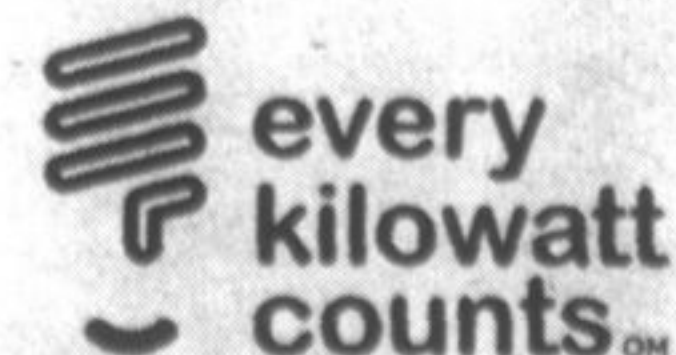
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