



News Release

OFFICE OF LOUISIANA STATE FIRE MARSHAL

Department of Public Safety & Corrections
Public Safety Services

8181 Independence Blvd.
Baton Rouge, LA 70806

VISIT OUR WEBSITE: www.lasfm.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Deputy Chief Brant Thompson

Release#:

Office: 225-925-3661

Date: October 28, 2015

Cell: 225-247-6251

"Treat" Yourself to Safety This Halloween

State Fire Marshal says smart preparation helps prevent fires

Baton Rouge, LA – Halloween is a time when thousands of Louisianans begin to conjure up thoughts and concoct plans as to how to deal with the hordes of little ghouls, goblins, and witches that will soon be descending upon countless neighborhoods in search of savory treats this Halloween weekend.

Unfortunately, it is also a time when the most well-thought-out plans do not involve aspects of fire safety.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, there are over 10,000 fires in America each year during the days leading up to and immediately following Halloween. Worse, those fires cause approximately 25 deaths and an additional 125 injuries. As for property, including homes, vehicles and other structures, Halloween fires account for 83 million dollars in damages and loss.

To help keep Halloween fun for the entire family while avoiding the tragic devastation of fire, the State Fire Marshal's Office encourages everyone to observe the following recommendations:

- When choosing a costume, select only those without long, trailing fabric which can cause trips as well as possibly catch fire if they come into contact with open flames that are often found in Jack-O-Lanterns and other decorations.
- If making a costume, utilize materials that do not easily burn, should they come into contact with heat sources.
- When possible, children should use flashlights or glow sticks to assist them in navigating darkened pathways.

- Always keep decorations that are combustible away from candles, electric bulbs, and/or heaters.
- When lighting a Jack-O-Lantern or other decorations, use flameless light sources that are cool to the touch when lit, such as LEDs and glow sticks.
- Do not block doorways and other exits with decorations.
- Plan, prepare, and practice the most effective ways to exit a home or building in the event of a fire.

“While Halloween is meant to be fun for all,” said State Fire Marshal H. “Butch” Browning, Jr., “there is nothing fun about a fire’s aftermath, which is why we must remain diligent as we prepare for this weekend’s festivities.”

For more information regarding Halloween safety tips, please see the U.S. Fire Administration website at http://www.usfa.fema.gov/data/statistics/snapshot_halloween.html, or the website of the National Fire Protection Agency at <http://www.nfpa.org/safety-information/for-consumers/holidays/halloween-safety>.

END – END – END