Poko Press

October 2025

October Occurrences

October	Fire Safety Month
October 2	Yom Kippur
October 7	Parent Breakfast
October 13	Columbus Day
October 18	Sweetest Day
Oct. 27 - 29	Staff Pumpkin Carving Contest—Please Vote!!
October 31	**Happy Halloween!** Halloween Party - Wear Your Costume. Treats are Welcome!

Local Trick-or-Treating Hours

Gurnee	October 26	2:00-5:00
Mundelein	October 31	4:00-8:00
Grayslake	October 31	4:00-7:00
Libertyville	October 31	4:00-8:00
Vernon Hills	October 31	4:00-8:00

Thanks to all of your help, Poko Loko collected 1300 diapers in our Diaper Drive for Keeping Families Covered!!

How to Have a Safe & Happy Halloween

By Kourtney Eidam:

Protect your little ghosts and goblins from common Halloween dangers this fright night.

Be Cautious with Costumes

Whether you're making or buying your child's outfit this Halloween, beware of these risky design flaws.

Problem: The costume makes your child hard to see in the dark.
Solution: Pick out or create a light-colored or bright costume that will be visible to drivers. If your child wants to be dark and spooky, decorate the outside of his costume with strips of reflective tape (which you can find in most hardware stores). Make sure the candy bag he carries is also brightly colored or trimmed in reflective tape.

Problem: It's a tripping hazard.
Solution: Falls are a major cause of injuries on Halloween, so it's important to make sure your child's costume fits. To prevent her from tripping on curbs, steps, or the hem itself, keep pants, dresses, and capes above her ankles. She should be able to wear warmer clothes underneath the costume if it's cold out, but the outfit shouldn't be so loose that it catches on doorknobs. Don't let her wear shoes or hats that are too big.

Problem: It's flammable.
Solution: If you're buying a costume, make sure it's labeled "flame resistant." This doesn't mean that the outfit is burnproof, but that the material won't catch on fire as easily or burn as quickly. Keep your child away from jack-o'-lanterns and other open flames.

Problem: Your child's wearing a mask.
Solution: An ill-fitting mask makes it difficult for your child to see potential dangers when he's near a busy street or negotiating steps. The mask can also scrape his face and eyes. Consider using nontoxic makeup instead (see "Face-Painting Pointers"). If he wants to wear a mask, make sure it's the right size -- the eye and mouth holes should be large enough for him to see and breathe through properly.

Problem: The accessories are dangerous.
Solution: Carefully choose the props to go with her outfit, and remove choking hazards -- such as buttons and beads -- from younger children's costumes. Swords, wands, and other props can cause eye, face, and head injuries, so use a flexible material, such as cardboard. Avoid hats with cords, which can get caught on objects and strangle your child.

Careful Pumpkin Carving Tips

Before you get out the carving knife, make sure you follow these jack-o'-lantern safety tips.

- Do dispose of pumpkin seeds and pulp -- potential choking hazards -- after you scoop them out.
- Don't let children under 5 handle knives. Instead, let them draw the pumpkin's face with a marker.
- Do pick out a flat, sturdy, well-lit surface for carving, and keep an eye on older children as they carve their pumpkins -- you may want to buy a pair of special pumpkin cutters that have safety bars to prevent accidents.
- Don't let your child light the candle or place it in the pumpkin by himself.
- Do move jack-o'-lanterns away from curtains and other flammable material.
- Don't leave a lit pumpkin unattended or let your child play near it.

Trade Face-Painting for Masks

A makeup disguise is a safer -- and more creative -- alternative to wearing a restrictive mask. Follow these simple steps before you decorate your child's face.

- **Shop Smart.** When you choose Halloween makeup or face paint, be sure that it's nontoxic.
- **Try It Out.** A couple of days before Halloween, do a patch test on a small section of your child's arm to make sure that she's not allergic to the product. If she breaks out in a rash or her skin swells up, call your pediatrician.
- **Keep an Eye on Safety.** Be extra careful when you apply makeup near the eyes, because even safe cosmetics can be irritating.
- **Rinse Thoroughly.** Remove all the makeup from her face before bedtime. Sleeping with the paint on can irritate her skin and eyes. There should be directions on the label for taking off the makeup correctly; if not, gently wash it off with warm water and soap, cold cream, or makeup remover.

Inspect Candy for Safety

While Halloween-candy tampering is uncommon, it's a good idea for you to take a close look at all your child's treats.

- Make sure your child understands that he isn't allowed to sample any treats until you inspect them at home.
- Eat dinner or a healthy snack with your child before he goes out. If he's hungry, he'll be more tempted to sneak treats from his candy bag.
- Closely examine each piece of candy, and throw away the ones that are unwrapped, have tears or tiny pinholes in the cover, or look suspicious in any way.
- Toss treats that aren't commercially wrapped, such as homemade cookies and fruit (unless you trust the giver).
- If your child is younger than 4, remove any choking hazards from his bag, including hard candies, small toys, gum, and nuts.

Keep Kids Safe on the Street

The number of children hit and killed by cars is four times higher on Halloween than on any other night. Here's how to stay safe.

- Children under 12 should be accompanied by a parent or adult.
- Consider bringing another parent along if you have a group of more than three children. This way, one adult will be able to get help in an emergency while the other stays with the kids.
- Hold your child's hand, and stay on the sidewalks.
- If your child is wearing a mask, have him remove it before crossing the street.
- Keep an eye out for cars coming down the road and backing out of driveways, and be extra cautious when you're driving.
- Both you and your child should carry a flashlight so you can see where you're going -- and drivers can see you.

Prevent Hazards at Home

Your little spooks aren't the only kids you'll have to worry about this Halloween. Check out these steps for making your home safe and inviting for visiting trick-or-treaters.

- Turn your lights on. Your porch and driveway should be well-lit so children won't fall.
- Keep your dog away from the front door so he won't jump on or bite children. If he's an outside dog, make sure he can't get out of the backyard.
- Remove lawn furniture, water hoses, and toys from the front yard so children won't trip over them in the dark. Keep your porch and stairs clear of clutter as well.
- Place lit jack-o'-lanterns out of the reach of children. Kids can get burned or can accidentally set their costumes on fire if pumpkins re low to the ground.

Fall Fun at Poko Loko

Unfortunately, the cold weather is on its way, and now is the time to break out the warmer clothes. Please bring a change of clothes that is weather appropriate to keep your child warm and cozy. Remember, that unless the weather is rainy or bitterly cold, we will try to go outside everyday to get some fresh air and exercise our little legs.