



**American
Red Cross**

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News Release
NEWS RELEASE

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Red Cross Offers Halloween Safety Tips

[SPOKANE], October 29, 2009 — With Halloween right around the corner, and H1N1 flu widespread across the country, the Inland Northwest Chapter wants everyone to be safe this holiday weekend. “We don’t want anyone to go out trick-or-treating and come home sick,” said Sharon Stanley, Chief Nurse of the American Red Cross. “You can follow these special tips to try to have a safe and flu-free Halloween.”

To reduce the spread of germs:

- If your child is sick, keep them at home. This will be disappointing to your young one, but your neighbors are counting on you to hold the line on transmission of this virus.
- Remind kids to keep their hands away from their eyes, nose and mouth to keep germs away. Carry hand sanitizer with you or have it near your candy dispensing area.
- If you are giving out candy, hand it out or scoop it. Instead of a bowl of candy, consider handing out small, individually wrapped bags of treats.

To be safe in the neighborhood:

- Everyone should remember to bring their flashlights.
- Only visit homes that have their porch light on. Accept treats at the door and don't go inside strangers' homes.
- Use face paint instead of masks which can reduce your ability to see.
- Wear light-colored clothing to be seen in the dark and remember to use reflective tape - even on bikes and brooms!
- Walk on sidewalks and not in the street.
- Be careful of candles and open flames, especially around wigs, capes and costumes that can be extremely flammable.
- Be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.

Also remember that hard candy can be a choking hazard to young princes and princesses, and little vampires can trip and fall on costumes. Parents can get prepared for Halloween by taking an American Red Cross First Aid/CPR class. Visit www.spokaneredcross.org to register for a class today.

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit www.redcross.org or join our blog at <http://blog.redcross.org>.

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