



**American
Red Cross**

of Greater Columbus

SAFETY ADVISORY

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For Immediate Release

Help Your Children Have a Fun and Safe Trick-or-Treat Holiday This Year

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As ghosts, pirates and princesses prepare to descend on neighborhoods across our community on Halloween night, the American Red Cross offers parents some safety tips to help prepare their children for a safe and enjoyable trick-or-treat holiday. Most Halloween-related injuries are preventable, if parents and children take some simple precautions. The following are the “lucky 13” safety tips for parents to share with their trick-or-treaters this Halloween.

- Plan your route and share it with your family. If possible, have an adult accompany the children.
- Wear light-colored or reflective-type clothing so you are more visible. (And remember to put reflective tape on bikes and skateboards too!)
- Use non-toxic face paint rather than masks or things that will cover your eyes.
- Only cross the street at corners.
- Look both ways before crossing the street to check for vehicles.
- Don't hide or cross the street between parked cars.
- Walk on sidewalks, not in the street.
- Carry a flashlight to light your way.
- Visit homes that have the porch light on.
- Keep away from open flames and candles. (Remember costumes can be extremely flammable.)
- Accept your treats at the door and never go into a stranger's home.
- Have a grown-up inspect your treats before eating. And don't eat candy if the package is already opened. Small, hard pieces of candy are a choking hazard for young children.

The American Red Cross of Greater Columbus is dedicated to helping make families and communities safer at home and around the world. Sustained by over 600 volunteers, the Red Cross provides assistance to more than 500 families each year after home fires and other disasters strike. Last year the organization trained and educated more than 97,000 area residents in vital lifesaving skills like first aid, CPR and how to prepare for emergencies. The Red Cross also sent more than 800 emergency messages between members of the military and their families. The community transportation program provides rides to medical appointments for seniors and individuals with disabilities, logging more than 19,600 trips last year. All these programs and more are made possible by the donations of time and money from the greater Columbus community.

Michael Carroll is the CEO of the American Red Cross of Greater Columbus and Michael Schoedinger serves as the board chair.

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