



SAFETY MATTERS:

The Halloween and Bonfire Night edition



Welcome to our seasonal safety newsletter which is designed to help keep families safe across Northamptonshire as they celebrate Halloween and Bonfire Night. We want you all to have lots of fun, but please don't forget about safety as you get swept along with the excitement of the season. Here are our top tips...



Don't let fire creep up on you this Halloween



Candles and flames

They look so pretty in pumpkins and homes at Halloween, but unfortunately candles also cause many fires and can be a hazard around children. Opt for artificial candles instead. They are safer and also emit the same glow for those creepy decorations.



Careful with costumes!

Are you going to a party dressed as a vampire or a witch this year? Remember, whether shop-bought or homemade, costumes can catch fire and cause burns. The two most important things to remember are:

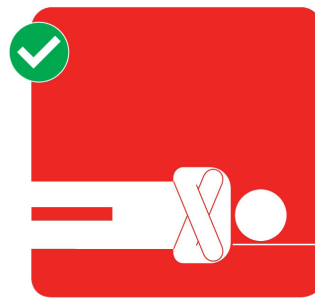
- Children should be kept well away from any candles or matches. Again, think about using those artificial candles.
- If the worst does happen and the clothing of either you or a friend catches fire, remember the phrase 'STOP, DROP and ROLL'.



STOP!



DROP!



ROLL!

Stay safe trick or treating

Going out trick or treating? Remember to go in groups, with an adult, and plan your route beforehand. Only go where you know the residents. Never enter a stranger's home. Always be respectful, don't try to deliberately frighten people and make sure flour and eggs are left at home — they are best used for home baking! Taking sweets home? Ask an adult before you eat anything you are given.

One last point, keep in mind road safety. Some masks could restrict your vision so don't have these on when crossing roads and stay in well-lit areas where you can be seen.





Help your Bonfire Night go with a bang! (but a safe one)

At Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Service (NFRS), we would always say it's best to go to an organised fireworks display, but for those who are planning to use them at home, there are tips to remember to avoid accident or injury.

Using fireworks... some tips

Firstly, it sounds simple, but read the instructions on your fireworks. Light them at arm's length using a safety firework lighter or fuse wick. Everyone should stand well clear and never return to a lit firework. It's best to keep a bucket of water handy too.

Sparklers are not suitable for children under five. Light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves.

Last tip - It can be a frightening time for pets, so keep furry and non furry companions safe indoors.

Fireworks: knowing the law

Unfortunately, people sometimes use this time of year to misuse fireworks. Fireworks may be beautiful to look at but they can cause devastating injuries if used in the wrong way. Never throw them or store them unsafely, such as in a pocket.

The laws include:

- You can't buy fireworks if you're under 18.
- It's against the law for fireworks to be set off between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. On New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, the cut off is 1am.
- The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places.
- You can be fined up to £5,000 and imprisoned for up to 6 months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

For more about fireworks and the law, see: www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law

Bonfires - the safe way

Fireworks may often be the main feature of a seasonal display, but bonfires are also a major attraction.

- Before lighting a bonfire, always check the structure is sound and there are no small children or animals hiding inside it.
- Position a bonfire away from sheds, fences and trees to avoid flames spreading.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light a fire. A safer way is to use paper and solid firelighters in two or three places to ensure an even burn.
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as foam-filled furniture, rubber, aerosols, tins of paint, pressurised gas cylinders, tyres and bottles.
- Have one person responsible for lighting the fire. That person, and any helpers, should wear suitable clothing such as a substantial outer garment made of wool or other low flammable material and strong boots or shoes.

We hope you found our safety tips interesting and that you remember them when you have your celebrations. From everyone at NFRS and Northamptonshire Police, have a happy and safe Halloween and Bonfire Night.

