

Halloween precautions

By Sallie Ross-Filgo

I would like to encourage everyone buying costumes for Halloween to check the labels and make sure they are made of flame retardant materials.

Materials made of 100 percent polyester are best suited for Halloween costumes. These costume materials may be purchased at most local fabric stores.

The use of commercial flame retardant sprays is not recommended.

Avoid Halloween costumes that are loose or baggy to prevent fabric from coming in contact with any open flames.

Children should carry flashlights or use battery operated lights. Jack-O-Lanterns that have an open flame device should be placed up off the ground so that long or full costumes and young Trick-or-Treaters hands cannot come in contact with the flames. The use of masks that obstruct vision should be avoided. Costumes should incorporate reflective tape in their design so children can be easily seen at night.

Trick or Treat while it's still light outside, and stay in your neighborhood, visiting only the homes you know.

Finally, always check your children's candy before allowing them to eat any of it.

Have a fun and safe Halloween.

Sallie Ross-Filgo works at the South Lake Tahoe Fire Department.