

Don't get spooked this Halloween



A parent's guide to keeping children and teenagers safe

Trick-or-Treating Safety Tips:

-  **Supervision:** Accompany young children while trick-or-treating and set a return-home-time for older kids.
-  **Stranger Danger:** Talk to your child about staying with their friends and never going into a property they do not know.
-  **Safe Routes:** Plan a safe route in familiar neighbourhoods, use pelican and zebra crossings, and stick to well-lit streets
-  **Use Reflective Accessories:** Add reflective tape to costumes and carry flashlights or glow sticks.
-  **Visible and Well-Fitting Costumes:** Ensure your child's costume is easy to see in the dark and fits properly to prevent tripping.
-  **Mobile phones:** Make sure phones are charged, have location apps turned on, and keep it out of sight when they are not using it
-  **Pets:** Keep dogs on a lead and purchase a reflective collar if taking your dog with you
-  **Lights On:** Keep a light on in your home to help welcome your children home and prevent burglars

It is always best to check any sweets, gifts, or toys children have been given while trick-or-treating.

We ask that children and teenagers do not visit homes that display a 'no trick-or-treating' sign as this time of year can be unsettling for many. You can download a copy on our trick-or-treat posters on our website.

If you want to report something suspicious call **101** or **999** in an emergency.

For more information about West Midlands Police are helping keep you safe this Halloween, search '**WMP Darker Nights**'.

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Celebrating with fireworks safely

Keeping you and your family safe around firework displays and bonfire night

Fireworks and Bonfire Safety Tips:

It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess a firework, flare or smoke bomb.

-  **Professional Displays:** Attend a public firework display rather than handling fireworks at home. Never allow children to handle fireworks or sparklers without supervision.
-  **Anti-social Behaviour:** Talk to your children about the danger of pointing fireworks at people or buildings. Police can prosecute for dangerous use of fireworks.
-  **Stay Visible:** Wear high-vis jackets, glow sticks, or give a torch to your children.
-  **Safe Place:** Before visiting a bonfire or firework display talk to your child about a safe meeting place or a time to regroup after the event
-  **Bonfires:** It's never a good idea to make your bonfire. Attend a professional display or event where the fire can be properly contained and monitored.
-  **Dispose Properly:** After fireworks have cooled, dispose of them in a metal container filled with water.
-  **Ask Them:** What are your child's plans? How are they going to enjoy fireworks and bonfire night safely?

If you see anti-social use of fireworks, flares, or smoke bombs in your local area, please call **101** or **999** in an emergency.

If you would like to report a trader for selling to underage persons, contact Citizens Advice consumer helpline on **0808 223 1133**

Learn more about when and where you are allowed to let off fireworks by searching **'WMP darker nights'**

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