Tips for a Safe and Fun Halloween

Hertfordshire Fire and Rescue Service and Hertfordshire County Council's Trading Standards and Waste and Recycling teams have put together some tips and advice to ensure everyone has a safe and enjoyable Halloween this year.

Halloween Costume Safety

- When choosing Halloween costumes look for the CE or UKCA mark. These labels don't mean a costume won't catch fire, but it has been tested for fire safety so it should burn more slowly.
- Look for costumes that state they are tested to the Nightwear (Safety) Regulations or look for a label that says "This garment has undergone additional safety testing for flammability" as manufacturers are now choosing to apply this higher standard of protection to their costumes.
- Make sure to stay away from sparklers, tea lights, lanterns and candles when wearing costumes, or replace candles with LED equivalents where possible.
- Be sure to know how to stop, drop and roll in the event clothing catches fire.
    - Stop immediately
    - Drop to the ground
    - Cover your face with your hands and roll over and over to extinguish flames
- If you are creating a costume from scratch, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame. Avoid billowing or long trailing features. Plastic capes and bin liners, sometimes used as costumes, are also fire risks.

Decorating your home for Halloween

- Don't overload electrical sockets with extra lighting or special effects equipment. Decorative lights should always be switched off at the mains last thing at night or if the bulbs need to be changed.
- Be careful with lanterns and candles. Always keep lanterns and candles away from curtains, decorations, and flammable materials, or areas where people will be standing or walking.
- If you're lighting a candle inside a pumpkin, use long, fireplace-style matches to avoid getting burnt and make sure an adult is lighting it rather than a child.
- If you can, it's better to use LED lights or torches – children's costumes will be safer, and there's less chance of a fire or getting a burn.

Recycling Tips for Halloween

- Our Waster Aware tips page offers help on what to do with pumpkins, decorations, partyware and costumes, to help reduce waste and save money.

For more advice visit fire safety in your home or workplace