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**St. Tammany Fire Protection District No. 1  
Fire Prevention Bureau**

554 Old Spanish Trail  
Slidell, LA 70458

**PRESS RELEASE:**

For release on:  
October 27, 2009

For more information call:  
Neil Ricca Fire Prevention Chief  
985-646-4387

**Take Safety to the Streets This Halloween**

**St. Tammany Fire District #1 would like to remind parents and children to take extra care this Halloween to ensure everyone's health and safety. Here are a few tips offered to make your trick or treating experience an enjoyable one.**

Visibility: When purchasing costumes, masks, beards or wigs look for flame resistant fabrics such as nylon or polyester or look for a "Flame resistant" label. Avoid costumes with flimsy materials and big, baggy sleeves or billowing skirts. Decorate costumes and bags with reflective tape and stickers. Use costumes that are light or bright enough to make children more visible at night.

**Smoke Detectors Save Lives**

Traffic: Halloween is the most dangerous night of the year for child pedestrians. Never let children under age 12 go trick-or-treating without adult supervision. Teach children to walk, not run, while trick-or-treating. Remind children to stop at all street corners before crossing. Tell them to cross streets only at intersections and crosswalks. Teach or remind them, to look left, right and left again before crossing the street and to continue to look both ways as they cross. Teach them never to dart out into a street or cross between parked cars.

Motorists: Slow down in residential neighborhoods. Expect children to be in the area. Obey all traffic signs, signals and speed limits.

Falls: If a mask is worn be certain that it fits securely, cut the eye holes large enough for full vision, or use face paint or cosmetics instead of masks. Give trick or treaters' flashlights. Secure hats so they will not slip over children's eyes. Make costumes short enough to avoid tripping. Allow children to carry only flexible knives, swords or other props. Anything they carry could injure them if they fall.

Burns: Please keep candles, pumpkins with candles, matches and lighters out of children's reach. Consider other methods of illuminating your carved pumpkins.

Treats: Warn children not to eat any treats before an adult has examined them carefully for evidence of tampering. Carefully examine any toys, novelty items or candy received by children under three. Make sure they don't have anything small enough to present a choking hazard.

Instruct children never to enter a home or an apartment building unless accompanied by an adult.

Following these safety tips will help ensure a safe and Happy Halloween!

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT ANY INDOOR HAUNTED HOUSES IN THE SLIDELL AREA ARE REQUIRED TO SUBMIT PLANS AND BE INSPECTED BY THE OFFICE OF FIRE PREVENTION. CALL (985) 646-4387 FOR DETAILS.