



# OREGON

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## **For Immediate Release**

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### **State Fire Marshal urges citizens to keep Halloween fire free**

Oregon State Fire Marshal Randy Simpson reminds residents that events and activities surrounding Halloween can increase the risk of fire-related injuries and property damage.

“An increase in candle use, combined with decorations, costumes, and children adds up to increased fire risk,” states Simpson. “Families must keep fire safety in mind when taking part in festivities.”

From 2004 through 2008, in the days leading up to Halloween, there were 125 structure fires in Oregon causing more than \$2 million in property damage and injuring a civilian and three firefighters.

With Halloween approaching, Simpson reminds Oregonians of a few simple steps to increase their fire safety:

- Purchase only costumes, wigs, and props labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant.
- Avoid flowing costumes or those that drag; these may easily contact an open flame and catch fire.
- Keep flammable material such as dried flowers, corn stalks, hay bales, crepe paper, and other decorations well away from open flames and heat sources including light bulbs, heaters, etc.
- Consider using flashlights or battery-operated candles when illuminating jack-o-lanterns.
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torchlights when decorating walkways and yards.
- If using candles, place them out of reach of children and pets.
- Always use a sturdy metal, glass, or ceramic candleholder.
- Blow out all candles before leaving the room or before going to sleep.
- Don't light candles with items embedded in them such as twigs, flowers, or leaves.

- Check decorative light sets for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Throw away damaged sets.
- Don't overload extension cords or electrical sockets.
- Be sure to have working smoke alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area.

More fire safety information is available at:

[http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Com\\_Ed\\_Section.shtml](http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/Com_Ed_Section.shtml).

If you are planning to host a haunted house, you can find state regulations at:

<http://www.oregon.gov/OSP/SFM/docs/Codes/AppendixK.pdf>.

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