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MEDIA ALERT

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Last Minute Halloween Safety Advice

RICHMOND, VIRGINIA: – Tomorrow evening households throughout Virginia will celebrate Halloween with traditional activities, such as trick-or-treating or costume parties. To keep these activities a safe and fun time for all, the Virginia Department of Fire Programs recommends the following tips:

Be Costume Wise

- If you have not already purchased your costume, remember to look for costumes and wigs labeled flame-resistant or flame-retardant. If you are more on the creative side and plan to develop your costume from items already in the home, please select material that will not easily ignite if it comes in contact with heat or flame.
- Provide children with lightweight flashlights to carry for lighting or as part of their costume.
- Use flashlights or battery-operated candles rather than lit candles when illuminating Jack-o-lanterns. The use of flashlights or battery-operated candles is much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- Instruct children to stay away from open flames while trick-or-treating.

Remember your Escape Plan

- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations and avoid blocking escape routes.
- By now everyone should have a fire escape plan, which means that you know at least two ways out of each room in your home. Expand this plan to the houses you visit or the parties you attend during Halloween activities by locating the exits and planning how you would get out in an emergency.

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Protect your Pets

- Trick-or-treat candies are not for pets. Chocolate is poisonous to dogs.
- Keep dogs and cats away from lit pumpkins and other flames that can be knocked over easily.
- Consider keeping your pets in a separate room during trick-or-treat visiting hours and parties.
- Make certain your pet is wearing a pet license in case it escapes through an open door.

Have fun and keep safe!

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