



# **It's Autumn!**

**& time to review fall  
driving, home, sports, and  
Halloween safety tips**



## How do we love Autumn? Let us count the ways —

- *the break from summer's heat and humidity*
- *the brilliant reds, golds, and oranges of fall leaves*
- *the taste of hot pumpkin pie and apple cider*
- *the crisp bite of an autumn wind*
- *the sight of school buses picking up children*
- *the start of the football season*
- *the laughter of trick-or-treaters*



**Along with these simple pleasures associated with fall, we all should review –**

- **Safe fall driving procedures**
  - **Tips for preparing our homes for cooler weather**
  - **Prevention of fall sports injuries**
  - **Halloween safety rules**
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## During your morning and afternoon commutes:

- *Be on the look out for children who may stray into traffic while waiting for and when getting on and off of the school bus.*
- *Be aware of school zones and follow posted speed limits.*
- *Respect and obey school crossing guards.*
- *Watch for pedestrians when picking up and dropping children off at the school parking lot.*



## for **Follow basic rules for stopping a school bus:**

- *When a school bus stops and flashes red light(s), drivers approaching from either direction must stop at least 20 feet away from the bus.*
- *Drivers must stop for school buses even if they are on the opposite side of a divided highway.*
- *Once stopped for a school bus, drivers may not go again until the red lights stop flashing, or the bus driver or a traffic officer waves traffic on.*
- *After stopping for a school bus, drivers must watch for children along the side of the road and drive slowly until past them.*

## Prepare your home for winter:

- *Hire a professional to check your heating system, fireplace chimney, and/or wood-burning stove.*
- *Replace expired fire extinguishers in your kitchen, garage, and/or workshop.*
- *Test or replace smoke detector batteries and perform any manufacturer-recommended maintenance according to manufacturer directions.*
- *Check cords on all electrical equipment for cracks or damage.*

## Also:

- *Insulate water pipes running through unheated spaces.*
- *Check and repair caulking around doors and windows.*
- *Clean leaves and debris from gutters.*
- *Drain the gas and oil from your yard tools.*
- *Be sure to store gas cans safely away from sources of flames and sparks and out of the reach of children.*

## Basketball:

- *Wear safety gear such as knee and elbow pads, mouth guards, and eye protection.*
- *Warm up and stretch before playing.*
- *Before beginning play, inspect outdoor courts to make sure the court is free of holes and debris, goal posts are padded, and tripping hazards are removed from boundary lines.*
- *Play safe. Do not hold, block, push, trip, or charge opponents.*



## Football:

- *Wear safety gear such as a helmet; shoulder, hip, tailbone, and knee pads; thigh guards; and a mouth guard with a keeper strap.*
- *Warm up and stretch before playing.*
- *Play on a grassy area and make sure that the area is free of holes and debris.*
- *Play safe. Do not pull a player down by the knees or by grabbing the facemask, use the top of the helmet to tackle, or tackle from behind.*

# Halloween

## Decorating:

- *Clear all tripping hazards from porches, lawns, and sidewalks.*
- *Paint scary faces or designs on pumpkins instead of carving them.*
- *Use battery powered light sources to illuminate and show off your Jack-O-Lanterns.*

# Halloween

## Costumes:

- *Purchase costumes made of flame-retardant materials.*
- *Make sure costumes are bright enough to be seen at night, and attach reflector strips or light sticks to costumes to make children more visible.*
- *Prevent tripping by avoiding high-heeled or oversized shoes, hats that slide over the eyes, and baggy or dangling costumes.*
- *Choose props are made of flexible plastic that will bend if fallen on.*

# Halloween

## Also:

- *Use face paints instead of masks. If masks are worn, choose masks with eye holes big enough to see in front as well as peripherally.*
- *Choose unique costumes or attach names and addresses to costumes for easy identification.*



# Halloween

## Trick or Treating:

- *Have an adult accompany children under 12.*
- *Plan a safe route and set a curfew for older children.*
- *Instruct children to stop only at familiar, well-lit houses and to stay on porches rather than going inside.*
- *Instruct children not to eat any treats until you have inspected them.*
- *Remind children to use flashlights, stay on sidewalks, cross streets only at corners, use crosswalks, and look left, right, and left again before crossing the street.*

# Halloween

## **Pets:**

- Keep chocolate and candy wrappers out of your pets' reach.*
- Place your pets in a room with some food and water for the night to keep them from darting out through open doors and to protect them from exposure to lighted candles, loud noises, and lots of people. Be sure to check on them periodically.*
- Don't cause your pets unnecessary stress or discomfort by dressing them in costumes unless they are extremely receptive to this type of thing.*



**Have a spectacularly safe  
Autumn!**