Twice as many kids are killed while walking on Halloween as on any other day of the year. Kids usually trick-or-treat when it is dark – making it more difficult for drivers to see them. Because they’re excited about getting candy, children may not be watching out for cars.
Parents and drivers all need to do their part to help kids stay out of the emergency department on Halloween.

Top tips to keep kids safe on Halloween

For parents and children:
• Emphasize safe pedestrian behaviors to kids before they go trick-or-treating.
• Cross the street safely at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks. Look left, right and left again when crossing and keep looking as you cross. Walk, don’t run, across the street.
• Walk on sidewalks or paths. If there are no sidewalks, walk facing traffic as far to the left as possible. Children should walk on direct routes with the fewest street crossings.
• Slow down and stay alert. Watch out for cars that are turning or backing up, and never dart out into the street or cross between parked cars.
• Costumes can be both creative and safe. Decorate your children’s costumes with reflective materials and, if possible, choose light colors that can be seen in the dark. Masks can obstruct a child’s vision, so choose nontoxic face paint, makeup and wigs instead.
• Carry flashlights or glow sticks. These will help trick-or-treaters see and be seen by drivers.

For drivers:
• Slow down in residential neighborhoods and school zones.
• Be sure to turn your full headlights on between 5:30 and 9:30 p.m., the most popular trick-or-treating hours.
• Be especially alert and take extra time to look for kids at intersections, on medians and on curbs. Children are excited on Halloween and may move in unpredictable ways.
• Slowly and carefully enter and exit driveways and alleys.
• Reduce any distractions inside your car, such as talking on the phone or eating, so you can concentrate on the road and your surroundings.

Treats
• While pedestrian safety is a main concern on Halloween, parents and kids should also be careful when dealing with candy. Remind children to only eat treats in original and unopened wrappers.