

Scary Halloween hazards: How to keep your community safe

Many of us love Halloween; at least many children do. On the fearful night, your community can open up to a crowded mass of people walking and running with excitement and – believe it or not – they do not have property management nightmares on their mind!

Here are some scary risks to watch out for:

1. Piles of leaves covering up something dangerous or near something solid. Sometimes leaves can be piled near a tree or a lawn ornament or have rocks underneath. Educating residents and managers on this will help avoid the surprise in the leaves as kids inevitably run, jump, or kick their way through on their way to the next house.
2. Candles in jack-o-lanterns, ornamental bags, and other decorative uses. Candles are very dangerous indoors and that danger becomes even more difficult to manage outside with crowds of zombies on the prowl. Use LED flashlights instead. They are bright and small and you can hide them anywhere for your perfect decorative touch.
3. Pets: With loud groups of kids going on your dog's precious territory, they may just think the pack is under attack! Be sure to keep dogs locked up from where the door is opening and closing. When residents try to play the defensive and keep the dog away, it becomes a struggle to manage and accidents result. Also, be aware that decorations can be very interesting to animals to chew on and not all of them will be safe.
4. Other trip and fall obstacles: Lighted walkways are the best defense against judgment errors that cause trips and falls – but make sure extension cords don't create a hazard of their own. Also make sure there are no left over tools or other obstacles in the yard. Lawn decorations can be dangerous too and are easy to forget since we all become used to them and they blend in after a while.
5. If a resident is not home, these precautions coupled with good lighting will help ward off mischief too.

Do you have a Halloween safety tip for our readers? Please share it before they ghouls and goblins walk the earth in your community to claim their candy!

Posted by [Global Administrator](#) on 10/30/2012 7:52:41 AM