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NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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HALLOWEEN SAFETY TIPS FROM FLORIDA POISON CONTROL CENTERS

JACKSONVILLE, FL — As tens of thousands of North Florida children head out to enjoy Halloween festivities, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville reminds parents and guardians to keep kids safe from poison perils.

“Halloween is always an exciting experience for children. We would like to remind parents and caregivers that simple precautions will help to avoid potentially harmful accidents to keep their families safe,” said Dr. Jay L. Schauben, Director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville. “Every year we see an increased number of calls involving Halloween-related problems, such as potentially adulterated candy, ingestion of glow sticks, and reactions to cosmetics used for costuming.”

The Poison Center offers the following Halloween safety tips to help prevent exposures and injuries:

Candy and Treats:

- Inspect all candy for any signs of tampering (tears, pinholes, discoloration, rewrapping) before eating or allowing children to eat. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out!
- Check all candy and toys to avoid choking hazards.
- Children should avoid eating homemade treats obtained from strangers.
- Take snacks from your home when “trick or treating” so that your children have safe snacks to eat if they get hungry.

Cosmetics:

- Only use products that are intended for use on the skin.
- Test face makeup on a small area of skin first to check for an allergic reaction before applying it to the face.
- Avoid the eye area when applying costume makeup to the face.
- Throw out any makeup that has a bad smell; this could be a sign of contamination.
- Remove makeup before bedtime to prevent eye and/or skin irritation.

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Other Halloween Hazards:

- Remind children not to chew on or break open glow sticks or other glow-in-the-dark products.
 - While the liquid is considered minimally toxic in small amounts, it can cause skin irritation.
 - Swallowing glow stick liquid can cause nausea and burning.
 - Eyes are especially sensitive to glow stick liquid.
 - Never put these products in the microwave.

- Handle dry ice properly and carefully.
 - Oral/skin exposure or ingestion of dry ice can cause significant damage.
 - Do not store dry ice in the freezer or an unventilated area.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville is available 24 hours a day to provide free, confidential information and treatment advice. Specially trained health professionals are available for questions, or to assess someone who has been exposed to a potentially harmful substance, by calling the Poison Help line immediately at 800.222.1222.

For more information, the media may contact Brie Burge, Media Relations/Education Associate, at 904.244.7978 or burge@poison.ufl.edu.

The mission of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is to provide exceptional care for individual patients and for supporting public health through information, surveillance, education, and research. Experts staff the Poison Help Hotline at 800.222.1222 that provides free, confidential, expert medical advice 24 hours a day, seven days a week, 365 days a year from toxicology specialists, including nurses, pharmacists, physicians, and poison information providers.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is a cooperative effort between the University of Florida College of Medicine, UF Health Jacksonville, the University of Florida Health Science Center - Jacksonville, and the State of Florida, Department of Health, Children's Medical Services. The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is designated as an accredited regional poison control center by the American Association of Poison Control Centers.

To learn more, visit floridapoisoncontrol.org, like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@FloridaPoison](#)).

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