



**FLORIDA/USVI POISON INFORMATION CENTER - JACKSONVILLE**  
655 West Eighth Street, Box C-23  
Jacksonville, Florida 32209  
floridapoisoncontrol.org 904-244-4465 (o) 904-244-4063 (f)

## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**Contact:** Brie Burge

Media Relations/Education Associate  
[burge@poison.ufl.edu](mailto:burge@poison.ufl.edu) 904-244-7978

# HALLOWEEN SAFETY AND TRICK-OR-TREATING TIPS FROM THE POISON CONTROL CENTER

JACKSONVILLE, FL — With Halloween right around the corner, the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville wants to remind you of a few trick-or-treating tips so your family stays safe during spooky season.

“Calls about glow sticks and glow-in-the-dark jewelry are very popular around Halloween,” said Dr. Dawn Sollee, Director of the Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville. “Children put them in their mouths, bite them, and break them open. While the main ingredient in the glow-in-the-dark products is mildly irritating to the mouth, we ask parents to call us at 1-800-222-1222 so we can provide you with proper treatment advice.”

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center - Jacksonville is offering advice to avoid potential “horrors” on Halloween:

### **Glow Stick Safety:**

*Poison centers receive the most calls regarding glow sticks/glow-in-the-dark jewelry in October.*

- Remind children not to chew or break open glow sticks or other glow products.
- Glow stick liquid is minimally toxic in small amounts.
  - o Can cause skin irritation
  - o Can cause mouth irritation and nausea if swallowed
  - o Eyes are especially sensitive to glow stick liquid

### **Costume Cosmetics and Face Paint:**

*The primary concern with cosmetics and face painting products is allergic reactions and skin irritation.*

- Only use products intended for use on the skin.
- Test makeup on a small area of skin first (like an arm or leg) to check for a potential allergic reaction prior to applying it to the face.
- When applying makeup to the face, avoid the eye area.
- If makeup has a bad smell, throw it out – it could be a sign of contamination.
- Remove makeup and colored hair sprays before bedtime, to prevent eye and/or skin irritation.

- more -

## **Trick-or-Treating Tips**

*A few reminders after the kids get home with their collection of candy.*

- Inspect candy and toys to avoid choking hazards.
- Remind children they should only eat treats that are in their original, unopened wrappers.
- Keep candy and chocolate up and away from pets. Candy with the artificial sweetener xylitol in it can be deadly for dogs.

## **Using Dry Ice Safely:**

*It's fun and adds to the spooky factor, but using dry ice incorrectly can lead to serious burns.*

- Handle dry ice properly. Wear gloves to prevent frostbite.
- Don't place dry ice directly in punch bowls or cups. It can burn the mouth and throat if consumed.
- Don't store dry ice in an unventilated room and don't close your car windows when transporting dry ice.
- Ingestion or skin exposure can cause significant damage.

The Florida/USVI Poison Information Center – Jacksonville is available 24 hours a day to provide free, confidential, non-judgmental information and treatment advice, including holidays. If you or someone you know has been exposed to a potentially harmful substance, call 1-800-222-1222.

For more information or to schedule an interview, the media may contact Brie Burge, Media Relations/Education Associate, at 904-244-7978 or [burge@poison.ufl.edu](mailto: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 1-800-222-1222 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 [floridapoisontcontrol.org](http://floridapoisontcontrol.org), like us on [Facebook](#), and follow us on Twitter ([@FloridaPoison](#)).*

### Counties Served:

Alachua · Baker · Bay · Bradford · Brevard · Calhoun · Citrus · Clay · Columbia · Dixie · Duval · Escambia · Flagler · Franklin  
Gadsden · Gilchrist · Gulf · Hamilton · Hernando · Holmes · Indian River · Jackson · Jefferson · Lafayette · Lake · Leon  
Levy · Liberty · Madison · Marion · Martin · Nassau · Okaloosa · Putnam · Santa Rosa · St. Lucie · St. Johns  
Sumter · Suwannee · Taylor · Union · Volusia · Wakulla · Walton · Washington · United States Virgin Islands

###