



**American  
Red Cross**  
of Greater Grand Rapids

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## Press Release PRESS RELEASE

*For Immediate Release*

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### Lucky 13 Halloween Safety Tips from Your American Red Cross

**GRAND RAPIDS, Mich.**, [October 22, 2009] – Ghouls and goblins will take over the night. But even scary creatures need to be safe and celebrate Halloween right. Halloween's greatest hazards aren't vampires and villains, but falls, costume mishaps and automobile collisions.

The **American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids** wants your family to have a safe Halloween so we're providing these tips, the lucky 13:

- Map out the route that you plan to roam, so adults are assured you will find your way home!
- From the bravest of superheroes to the noblest of knights, everyone should remember to bring their flashlights!
- If you visit a house where a stranger resides, accept treats at the door and, please, don't go inside.
- When you get ready to put on your disguise, use face paint instead of masks, which will cover your eyes.
- Always remember, before you embark, to wear light-colored clothing to be seen in the dark! (And remember to use reflective tape, even on bikes, skateboards and brooms!)
- Whether you walk, slither or sneak, do it on the sidewalks and not in the street.
- As you roam through the neighborhood collecting your treats, please look both ways before crossing the street! (And cross from the corner!)
- Wigs, capes and costumes are flammable attire, so avoid open flames to prevent a fire!
- Use a glow stick instead of a candle so your jack-o-lantern isn't a safety gamble!
- You may fly on a broom or a space ship from Mars, but please be on the lookout for drivers in cars! (And don't hide between parked vehicles).
- Monsters and zombies should stay off the lawn, and only visit homes with their porch lights turned on!
- You may be dressed as a werewolf, a cat or a frog, but be cautious around strange animals, especially dogs.
- Have a grown-up inspect your candy when you're done trick-or-treating to remove open packages and choking hazards before eating.

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**About the American Red Cross of Greater Grand Rapids:**

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies nearly half of the nation's blood; teaches lifesaving skills; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a charitable organization — not a government agency — and depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit [www.greatergrandrapids.redcross.org](http://www.greatergrandrapids.redcross.org) , follow us on Twitter at <http://twitter.com/redcrossggr>, or join our blog at <http://redcrossggr.wordpress.com>.