

# Be Prepared this Halloween and Bonfire Night



Halloween and Bonfire Night are only four days apart, so it's no surprise that it's one of the busiest times of year for communities and emergency services across the UK.

Anti-social use of fireworks can pose the threat of damage to all types of buildings, from commercial to residential properties.

Here are our tips to help you stay safe while still having fun.



## Did you know?

**Children's fancy dress costumes are treated as toys under current safety standards.**

Under EN71-2, costumes are set alight in controlled conditions. The flame must not spread faster than 3cm per second. Anything with a burning rate between 1cm and 3cm per second must carry a label saying: 'Warning! Keep away from fire'.

Those that pass can carry a CE safety marking, but there is growing concern that these can be easily faked.

## Our top 3 Halloween tips

3

- If you want to enjoy a quiet evening, we'd suggest leaving a friendly note on your front door letting trick-or-treaters know
- Watch out... Halloween is a prime time for intruders to try to enter your home. If you're going to be away we suggest leaving your lights on a timer and ensuring all windows and doors are locked. For extra security consider installing a burglar alarm
- To avoid a fire risk but still look 'Halloween ready' why not swap your pumpkin candle for a flameless LED tea light.



# 8 dos and don'ts of Bonfire Night

## Do...

- Store fireworks away from any sources of heat or ignition such as naked flames, heaters and people smoking - also, make sure that fireworks are kept dry
- Light fireworks at arm's length, wearing safety gloves and always use a taper or a long-tipped lighter
- Only buy fireworks that comply with British Standard 7114 or its European equivalent. Instructions should always be available in English
- Look after your pets by keeping them indoors.

## Don't...

- Attach fireworks to sheds or outbuildings
- Light fireworks inside the home, including sparklers
- Light fireworks on windy days
- Go near a firework that has been lit. If it hasn't gone off yet, it could still explode
- Throw fireworks or put them in your pocket.

## Remember, remember to stay safe and have fun when using fireworks...

It's always a good idea to wear cotton clothing when lighting fireworks. Synthetic fibres tend to melt into the skin, whereas cotton doesn't burn easily.



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