



What's Inside

Page One

Trick-or-Treat
Safety First

Page Two

Lab Fire Safety
Restricted Items:
Tool Purchasing
Check Your Batteries

Trick-or-Treat

Halloween is a fun night for kids and adults alike. With elaborate costumes, scenery and large crowds of young ones making their way down the street, safety needs to be a priority to ensure everyone has a great time. The following are some tips from the National Safety Council and the American Academy of Pediatrics for trick-or-treaters and others on Halloween night:



The Costumes

- All costumes, wigs and accessories should be fire-resistant.
- Avoid masks, which can obstruct vision.
- If children are allowed out after dark, fasten reflective tape to their costumes and bags, or give them glow sticks.
- When buying Halloween makeup, make sure it is non-toxic and always test it in a small area first.
- Remove all makeup before children go to bed to prevent skin and eye irritation.

While Trick-or-Treating

- A responsible adult should accompany young children.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review a route.
- Agree on a specific time children should return home.
- Teach your children never to enter a stranger's home or car.
- Instruct children to travel only in familiar, well-lit areas and stick with their friends.
- Tell your children not to eat any treats until they return home.
- Children and adults are reminded to keep heads up and walk, don't run, across the street.

For Motorists

- Watch for children walking on roadways, medians and curbs.
- Enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.
- At twilight and later in the evening, watch for children in dark clothing.
- Discourage new, inexperienced drivers from driving on Halloween.

Food Allergies

- Always read the ingredient label on treats.
- Be aware that even if they are not listed on the ingredient label, candy is at high risk of containing trace amounts of common allergy triggers, because factories often produce many different products. Also, "fun size" or miniature candies may have different ingredients or may be made on different equipment than the regular size candies, meaning that brands your child previously ate without problems could cause a reaction.

For more information visit aap.org or nsc.org.

Safety First



President Peter Salovey performed an eye-catching science experiment (with proper personal protective equipment, of course) at the Yale's Founders Day celebration on October 9th at Cross Campus. The day also celebrated the 10th anniversary of West Campus. Salovey was joined by Chris Incarvito (left), West Campus Director of Research Operations & Technology; Scott Strobel, Deputy Provost for Teaching & Learning and Vice President for West Campus Planning & Program Development; Kim Heard, EHS Safety Advisor; Kimberly M. Goff-Crews, Secretary & Vice President for Student Life; Ann Kurth, Dean and Linda Koch Lorimer Professor at the Yale School of Nursing.



Lessons Learned: Fire Safety in the Laboratory

In recent months, EHS and the Office of the Yale Fire Marshal have responded to several fires which took place in laboratories during the flame drying of glassware. This commonly performed process, along with the flame sterilization of bacterial loops, has also been one of the most common causes of laboratory fires in academic research laboratories across the country. During flame drying and flame sterilization, it is important to protect yourself from burns while also minimizing the risk of fire. Both can be achieved by following the guidelines below.

Drying of Glassware

Whenever possible, use oven drying or a heat gun to remove moisture from glassware. If flame drying is necessary:

- Perform this process inside a fume hood.
- Do not hold the reaction flask or glassware with your hand. Use a clamp or beaker tongs to hold the reaction flask or glassware in place.
- Cap, or tightly cover, all flammable liquids inside the fume hood to prevent vapors from migrating.
- Keep all combustible and flammable materials at least 24 inches from the work area.
- Allow glassware to cool before adding chemicals.

Inoculation Loops

Whenever possible, use flame-free alternatives to ensure inoculation loops are sterilized, such as sterile, disposable isolator loops, micro-incinerators or glass bead sterilizers. If flame sterilization must be used:

- Keep all combustible and flammable materials covered or protected and at least 24 inches from the work area.
- Keep the container of flammable solvent used in the sterilization process as far away from the Bunsen burner as possible.
- Avoid using continuous burning devices such as the Bunsen burner. Instead, use a burner with a foot operated pedal that introduces the gas to a source of ignition only when needed or consider a burner with a pilot light, which is also activated to produce a hot flame plume only when needed.
- Use a two-loop system so that you always have one clean and cool loop ready for use.
- Allow loops to cool before soaking in disinfectant. Never allow hot objects to contact flammable liquids.
- Use the smallest quantity of flammable solvent possible.
- Cap or cover the container of flammable solvent in between use.
- Use a low center of gravity glass container to prevent containers being knocked over.

Always ensure that there is an appropriate fire extinguisher nearby when working with open flames. Contact the Office of the Yale Fire Marshal if there is no fire extinguisher available in your work area. Do not use a fire extinguisher unless you are trained to do so. Fire extinguisher training is available at firemarshal.yale.edu/. Report all fires to Yale EHS and Yale Fire.

If you have any questions regarding fire safety at the bench or in your laboratory, please contact the Yale Fire Marshal's Office.

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"Precaution is better than cure." - Edward Coke

Restricted Items: Tool Purchasing

All tools greater than ½ horsepower (Class 3+) require pre-order review and approval by Environmental Health and Safety to verify the tool is appropriate and includes the required safety guards and features prior to purchase.



Orders for tools placed through Workday/SciQuest are automatically sent to EHS for approval. This is the preferred method for placing orders.

If you must purchase a tool outside of Workday/SciQuest, please contact EHS at ehs@yale.edu for approval prior to placing the order. Please include any product information you have, a link to the item online and a quote, if available. This includes purchases of small benchtop tools greater than ½ horsepower and all industrial tools. See the [Tools Classification Matrix](#) for common examples.

Purchasing these tools without prior approval from EHS could lead to serious injury as they may not have the required safety features. Prior approval is critical as once a tool is purchased, it is often difficult and expensive to modify the tool to meet the required safety features, if necessary.

Please note that these tools are included in the list of safety-critical equipment in [Yale University's Policy 3320 Purchase of Restricted Items](#).

If you have any questions or concerns, please let us know.

Daylight Savings Means It's Time to Check Your Batteries

This weekend marks Daylight Saving Time on Sunday, November 4th at 2:00 am. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants to remind everyone of the simple life-saving habit of changing the batteries in your smoke and carbon monoxide alarms. Change the batteries when you change your clock.

