

# Lights Out, Fright's Out

*Stay safe this  
Halloween night*

Halloween should be a night of fun for friends and family.

There may be areas that are still unsafe for trick-or-treaters. Fallen trees, cracked sidewalks and misplaced/damaged road signs and streetlights can create Halloween hazards.

We encourage parents to have their children follow these five safety tips:

- **Clothing.** Wear a well-fit costume with bright colors and comfortable shoes. Long costumes can pose a tripping hazard. If you do not wear bright colors, have reflective

tape on your costume and bags to be visible to drivers. Avoid masks, if possible, as they can limit your vision.

- **Buddy system.** When trick-or-treating, do not go alone and do not stray from your group. For younger trick-or-treaters, always have a trusted adult in your group. When walking from house to house, stay on sidewalks and watch for cars.

- **Stick with familiar areas.** Plan your route in advance and stay in familiar neighborhoods. If a home or place looks suspicious, avoid it.

- **Candy.** Avoid the temptation to eat candy before getting home. Check it when you do get home. Do not eat candy that looks like it has been tampered with, or not in factory wrapping. Do not eat anything homemade from someone you do not know.

- **Lights.** Stay in well-lit areas, as much as possible, and bring your own lights (flashlights, cellphones, etc.). Avoid candles, as they can pose a fire hazard.

From all of us at Klickitat PUD, Happy Halloween! ■

**Make sure costumes allow children to see clearly, do not pose a tripping hazard and are bright enough that youngsters will be seen by others.**

Photo by daynamore





# Hunting Energy Vampires

As Halloween approaches, look out for vampires—energy vampires, that is. Also known as standby power and phantom load, vampire energy is electricity used by appliances and electronic devices even when they are switched off.

The top four energy vampires in your home are:

- **Chargers.** Phones, rechargeable tools and wireless appliances need occasional charging, but their chargers use small amounts of energy even when not connected to a device.
- **Cable and satellite TV boxes.** If the lights are on, the boxes are using power. They use more when the television is on, but are always working—even when the TV is off. Digital video recorders also use power when off.
- **Instant-on TVs.** You never have to wait for your instant-on TV to warm up. Unfortunately, this means the TV stays at nearly full power all the time until switched on.
- **Gaming consoles.** Most gaming consoles use as much energy as a refrigerator even when not being used. Check console settings and disable automatic updates, which account for the most energy drain. ■

## Rid Yourself of Ghostly Energy Thieves

- ▶ Unplug chargers when not in use.
- ▶ Group energy vampires together on a power strip and switch them off when not in use.
- ▶ Turn off the instant-on function on your TV. Turn off set-top boxes that do not contain the DVR functionality or use a power strip.
- ▶ Disable automatic updates in gaming consoles and turn them off when done playing games.
- ▶ When replacing any device or appliance, look for an Energy Star-rated product.