

The Moreno Valley Fire Department Offers the Following Halloween Safety Tips:



- When choosing a costume, stay away from billowing or long trailing fabric. If you are making your own costume, choose material that won't easily ignite if it comes into contact with heat or flame. If your child is wearing a mask, make sure the eye holes are large enough so they can see out. Monitor your child's hydration level when wearing thick material costumes.
- Provide children with flashlights to carry for lighting or glow sticks as part of their costume.
- Dried flowers, cornstalks and crepe paper are highly flammable. Keep these and other decorations well away from all open flames and heat sources, including light bulbs and heaters.
- It is safest to use a flashlight or battery-operated candles in a jack-o-lantern. If you use a real candle, use extreme caution. Make sure children are watched at all times when candles are lit. When lighting candles inside jack-o-lanterns, use long fireplace-style matches or a utility lighter. Be sure to place lit pumpkins well away from anything that can burn and far enough out of way of trick-or-treaters, doorsteps, walkways and yards.
- Remember to keep exits clear of decorations, so nothing blocks escape routes.
- Tell children to stay away from open flames. Be sure they know how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire. (Have them practice stopping immediately, dropping to the ground, covering their face with hands, and rolling over and over to put the flames out.)
- Use flashlights as alternatives to candles or torch lights when decorating walkways and yards. They are much safer for trick-or-treaters, whose costumes may brush against the lighting.
- If your children are going to Halloween parties at others' homes, have them look for ways out of the home and plan how they would get out in an emergency.
- Children should always be accompanied by an adult when trick-or-treating.



The Office Of Emergency Management Offers The Following Information:

During this time of year, cases of West Nile Virus (WNV) are especially active due to high humidity, high temperatures and overall climate changes. It is important for the City of Moreno Valley to be aware of this increased risk and take preventative measures in reducing the exposure of this disease.



West Nile Virus is transmitted to humans and animals through a mosquito bite. Mosquitoes become infected when they feed on infected birds. Health officials emphasized that the risk of serious illness to humans is low. Most individuals who are infected with WNV will not experience any illness. Elderly individuals and those with compromised immune systems are at greatest risk for serious illness.

Individuals can reduce their risk of mosquito-borne diseases by taking these precautions:

- Avoid spending time outside when mosquitoes are most active, especially at dawn and dusk.
- When outdoors, wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and other protective clothing.
- Apply insect repellent according to label instructions.
- Make sure that doors and windows have tight fitting screens. Repair or replace screens that have tears or holes.
- Eliminate all sources of standing water on your property that can support mosquito breeding.
- Contact your local mosquito and vector control agency if there is a significant mosquito problem where you live or work.

A comprehensive surveillance program to monitor for WNV in Riverside County has been established by the Department of Environmental Health Vector Control, local mosquito and vector control districts and other state and local agencies. The program includes testing suspected cases in humans and horses, capturing and testing mosquitoes, testing sentinel chickens and evaluating dead birds.

Anyone who becomes ill after exposure to mosquitoes should contact his or her health care provider. The Riverside County Department of Public Health Disease Control Office can be reached at (951) 358-5107, for more information about West Nile Virus. Problems related to mosquito control should be directed to the appropriate Mosquito control office:

Riverside City Mosquito Control 951-351-6127
Riverside County Mosquito Control 951-766-9454
Northwest Mosquito and Vector Control 951-340-9792
Coachella Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District 760-342-8287

If you are unsure of which agency services your area you may go to:
<http://westnile.ca.gov/ziplocator.php> and enter your zip code.

Information about WNV is available on the website established for surveillance in California:
<http://www.westnile.ca.gov>