



Safety Sentinel



Fond du Lac County Safety Committee Mission Statement

It is the Fond du Lac County Safety Committee's mission to provide safety awareness, education, and advocacy to all Fond du Lac County employees, while recognizing it is both the employer and employee's responsibility to maintain a safe work environment.

Health Department Offering Flu Vaccines

Fond du Lac County Employees,

Thanks to all of you for patiently waiting for updates regarding employee flu vaccine clinics. Our flu vaccine shipments are not arriving as early as we would like this year. Shipment of some products have been delayed by about four weeks this year, but there is still ample time to get your vaccine. Our employee clinics will be held in early November this year, and open to all county employees.



We will be giving flu vaccine FREE of cost to all county employees but please bring your insurance card with you so we can

potentially bill the appropriate insurance carrier. For those of you who carry our county insurance plan, you will also receive 200 points towards your 2020-year points for Go365 if you receive the vaccine on or after November 1st. We will have a form available at the time you receive your vaccine; it is your responsibility to submit it to Go365!

Clinics listed below will be held in the Health Department's meeting room:

- Friday, Nov. 1: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm
- Monday, Nov. 4: 11:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Tuesday, Nov. 12: 9:30 am – 11:30 am

We will also coordinate clinics at the Sherriff's department, Highway department, ADRC, DSS/DCP, and Jail; those clinics details are pending.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

Fond du Lac County
Health Department

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SafeBee's Top 10 Fall Safety Tips



Here are ten smart moves to make now according to the safety experts at UL.

Check around the furnace before turning on the heat for the first time. Make sure there's nothing near it that's flammable. It's also a good idea to have your **furnace** inspected before winter sets in. (If for some reason you can't, take a look at it yourself. Make sure the flame is blue, not yellow or orange. Check the pipe from the furnace to the chimney to be sure it doesn't have rust spots and isn't disconnected at either end.) If you have radiators, remove anything that's sitting on top of them before the heat comes on.

Dress kids in light-colored clothing to help drivers see them on their way home from after-school activities. On Halloween, make sure your kids can be seen. Give them a flashlight and glowstick, and if their costume is dark, add some reflective stickers or tape.

Change batteries when you "fall back." Smoke alarms most often fail to sound an alarm because of missing, dead or disconnected batteries. Replace the batteries twice a year

when you change the clocks (or whenever the alarm "chirps," indicating the battery is getting low). Also change the batteries in your CO detectors.

Practice your family fire escape plan before the weather gets too cold. Every family should have one, but just one in three American households do, according to the National Fire Protection Association. Having the plan is important, but it's just as critical to practice it by conducting a home fire drill at least twice a year. Frightened kids may be tempted to hide under the bed or in a closet during a fire unless you teach them exactly how to escape.

Use space heaters safely. Remember to keep combustibles "three feet from the heat" or "a meter from the heater." If you're using a fuel-powered heater, open a door or window slightly to allow fresh air to circulate. Remember to turn off your heater if you leave the house and before you go to bed.

Buy your winter storm supplies now. The Old Farmer's Almanac **predicts above-normal amounts of snow** and below-normal temps across much of the United States this winter. Buy a good supply of ice melting compound now. If you'll need your driveway plowed, book a snow plow contractor now. Don't wait until the snow starts.

Add outdoor lighting to dark places. These lights serve a dual purpose: discouraging intruders and protecting against falls. Motion sensor lights are most important around doors and near steps.

Clean leaves out of your gutters every week in the fall. When you do, make sure you're **using the right ladder for the job and using it properly**. More than 90,000 people get emergency room treatment for ladder-related injuries every year. If the gutters are hard to



reach, install a leaf guard to keep most of the leaves out.

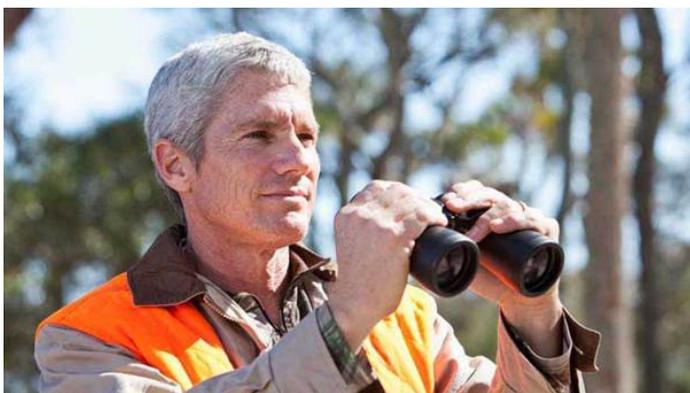
Have your chimney inspected before the weather tempts you to use your **fireplace**. If you use your fireplace every year, you should have the chimney cleaned every year to prevent a chimney fire. If your chimney needs repair, don't try to do it yourself; this is a job for a professional.

Get your car ready winter. Stock the trunk with a blanket, hat and gloves, a bag of salt, sand or non-clumping kitty litter for traction, plus extra windshield fluid and of course, an ice scraper and shovel. Throw in a brightly colored cloth to tie to your antenna in case you get stuck. Also toss in a few snacks, like granola bars and unsalted canned nuts, as well as bottled water (dump some of the water so the bottles are only two-thirds full in case they freeze). Have all fluid levels checked. Finally, **make sure your tires are ready for bad weather.**

Source: <http://www.safebee.com/home/safebees-top-10-fall-safety-tips>

7 Hunting Safety Tips

If you're out for game, keep these precautions in mind.



Brisk weather and falling leaves signal lots of autumn arrivals, including the start of hunting season. Whether you're a seasoned pro, an enthusiast, a beginner or someone who just wants to safely enjoy the outdoors, these hunting safety tips will help.

Hunting Safety Tips for Hunters

- **Follow firearm safety practices** with [these four rules](#):
 - Treat every firearm as if it were loaded.
 - Only point at what you plan to shoot.
 - Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.
 - Before shooting, clearly identify your target and what is beyond.
- **Plan for the weather.** Hunters can be at risk for hypothermia in cold, wet conditions, but also in temperatures as high as [50 degrees](#). Dress in warm layers, avoiding moisture-retaining cotton and remembering a water-repelling outer layer. Before setting out, check the weather report to make sure you won't be caught off guard by other inclement weather.

Alert someone of your plans. Never head out on a hunting trip without letting a friend or relative know where you'll be and when you expect to return.

Safety Tips for Non-Hunters Near a Hunting Area

- **Wear the right clothing.** Avoid colors and patterns that [blend into your surroundings](#), including whites, blacks, browns, earth tones, animal patterns and camouflage. Bright orange, red or green clothing is best-especially for vests and hats.



- **Make some noise.** This includes talking loudly (to yourself or a companion), whistling or singing-especially if you hear a shot nearby. Once hunters have acknowledged your location, show courtesy by reducing excessive noise that might scare away animals.
- **Keep pets safe, too.** [Don't let dogs off-leash](#) in an area that allows hunting-especially if they like to chase deer.

Source: <https://www.statefarm.com/simple-insights/safety/7-hunting-safety-tips>

Avoiding Vehicle-Deer Collisions: Fall Driving Tips



You may not pay much attention to those deer crossing warning signs on the side of the road, but statistics say that you probably should. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) and the Insurance Information Institute (III), auto deer collisions are responsible for around 150

occupant deaths each year. Not only that, they also cause more than 10,000 injuries and over \$3.6 billion dollars in vehicle damage as well. With adult deer weighing in at over 250 pounds, the potential for disaster to drivers should come as no surprise.

In Wisconsin, deer are the third most commonly struck objects according to the Wisconsin DOT.

This is behind striking another vehicle and striking a fixed object. In 2009, investigating officers reported 16,338 motor vehicle-deer crashes state-wide. Vehicle-deer crashes peak in October-November with a secondary peak in May-June in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, there were seven fatalities in vehicle-deer collisions during 2009. And surprisingly, Dane County had the highest number of reported deer crashes with 873 and Waukesha County came in second with 680.

Here are some tips for avoiding deer and auto collisions from the Insurance Information Institute:

- Deer are not just found on rural roads near wooded areas, many deer crashes occur on busy highways near cities and within city limits.
- Deer are unpredictable, especially when faced with glaring headlights, blowing horns and fast-moving vehicles. They often dart into traffic.
- Deer often more in groups. If you see one, there are likely more in the vicinity.
- Drive with caution when moving through deer-crossing zones, in areas know to have a large deer population and in areas where roads divide agricultural fields from forestland.
- Always wear your seat belt/harness and stay alert! In most cases you'll only have a split second or two for reaction time.



- When driving at night, use high beam headlights where there is no oncoming traffic. The high beams will better illuminate the eyes of deer on or near the roadway.
- Be especially attentive from sunset to midnight and during the hours shortly before and after sunrise. These are the highest risk times for deer-vehicle collisions.
- Brake firmly when you notice a deer in or near your path, but stay in your lane. Many serious crashes occur when drivers swerve to avoid a deer and hit another vehicle or lose control of their cars.
- Do not rely on devices such as deer whistles, deer fences and reflectors to deter deer. These devices have not proven effective.

Source:

<https://www.cityofelkhorn.org/police/page/avoiding-vehicle-deer-collisions-fall-driving-tips>



Halloween Safety Tips

Halloween is an exciting time of year for kids, and to help them have a safe holiday, here are some tips from the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP). Feel free to excerpt these tips or use them in their entirety for any print or broadcast story, with acknowledgment of source.

ALL DRESSED UP:

- Plan costumes that are bright and reflective. Make sure that shoes fit well and that costumes are short enough to prevent tripping, entanglement or contact with flame.
- Consider adding reflective tape or striping to costumes and trick-or-treat bags for greater visibility.
- Because masks can limit or block eyesight, consider non-toxic makeup and decorative hats as safer alternatives. Hats should fit properly so they don't slide over eyes. Makeup should be tested ahead of time on a small patch of skin to make sure there are no unpleasant surprises on the big day.
- When shopping for costumes, wigs and accessories look for and purchase those with a label clearly indicating they are flame resistant.
- If a sword, cane, or stick is a part of your child's costume, make sure it is not sharp or long. A child may be easily hurt by these accessories if he stumbles or trips.
- Do not use decorative contact lenses. While the packaging on decorative lenses will often make claims such as "one size fits all," or "no need to see an eye specialist," using decorative contact lenses without a prescription is both dangerous and illegal. This can cause pain, inflammation, and serious eye disorders



and infections, which may lead to permanent vision loss.

- Review with children how to call 9-1-1 (or their local emergency number) if they ever have an emergency or become lost.

CARVING A NICHE:

- Small children should never carve pumpkins. Children can draw a face with markers. Then parents can do the cutting.
- Consider using a flashlight or glow stick instead of a candle to light your pumpkin. If you do use a candle, a votive candle is safest.
- Candlelit pumpkins should be placed on a sturdy table, away from curtains and other flammable objects, and not on a porch or any path where visitors may pass close by. They should never be left unattended.

HOME SAFE HOME:

- To keep homes safe for visiting trick-or-treaters, parents should remove from the porch and front yard anything a child could trip over such as garden hoses, toys, bikes and lawn decorations.
- Parents should check outdoor lights and replace burned-out bulbs.
- Wet leaves or snow should be swept from sidewalks and steps.
- Restrain pets so they do not inadvertently jump on or bite a trick-or-treater or run away.

ON THE TRICK-OR-TREAT TRAIL:

- A parent or responsible adult should always accompany young children on their neighborhood rounds.
- Have flashlights with fresh batteries for all children and their escorts.
- If your older children are going alone, plan and review the route that is

acceptable to you. Agree on a specific time when they should return home.

- Only go to homes with a porch light on and never enter a home or car for a treat.
- Because pedestrian injuries are the most common injuries to children on Halloween, remind Trick-or-Treaters:
 - Stay in a group and communicate where they will be going.
 - Remember reflective tape for costumes and trick-or-treat bags.
 - Carry a cellphone for quick communication.
 - Remain on well-lit streets and always use the sidewalk.
 - If no sidewalk is available, walk at the far edge of the roadway facing traffic.
 - Never cut across yards or use alleys.
 - Only cross the street as a group in established crosswalks (as recognized by local custom). Never cross between parked cars or out of driveways.
 - Don't assume the right of way. Motorists may have trouble seeing Trick-or-Treaters. Just because one car stops, doesn't mean others will!
- Law enforcement authorities should be notified immediately of any suspicious or unlawful activity.

HEALTHY HALLOWEEN:

- A good meal prior to parties and trick-or-treating will discourage youngsters from filling up on Halloween treats.
- Consider purchasing non-food treats for those who visit your home, such as coloring books or pens and pencils.
- Wait until children are home to sort and check treats. Though tampering is rare, a responsible adult should closely examine



all treats and throw away any spoiled, unwrapped or suspicious items.

- Try to ration treats for the days and weeks following Halloween.

Source: American Academy of Pediatrics

HALLOWEEN AND FOOD ALLERGIES:

- Halloween can be tricky for children with food allergies. It's important that parents closely examine Halloween candy to avoid a potentially life-threatening reaction:
 - Always read the ingredient label on treats. Many popular Halloween candies contain some of the most common allergens, such as peanuts or tree nuts, milk, egg, soy or wheat.
 - If the ingredients aren't listed, arrange for a treat "exchange" with classmates or friends. Or, bag up the goodies your child can't eat because of an allergy and leave them with a note asking the "Treat Fairy" to swap them for a prize.
 - 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 be made on different equipment than the regular size candies, meaning that brands your child previously ate without problems could cause a reaction.
 - Teach your child to politely turn down home-baked items such as cupcakes and brownies, and never to taste or share another child's food.



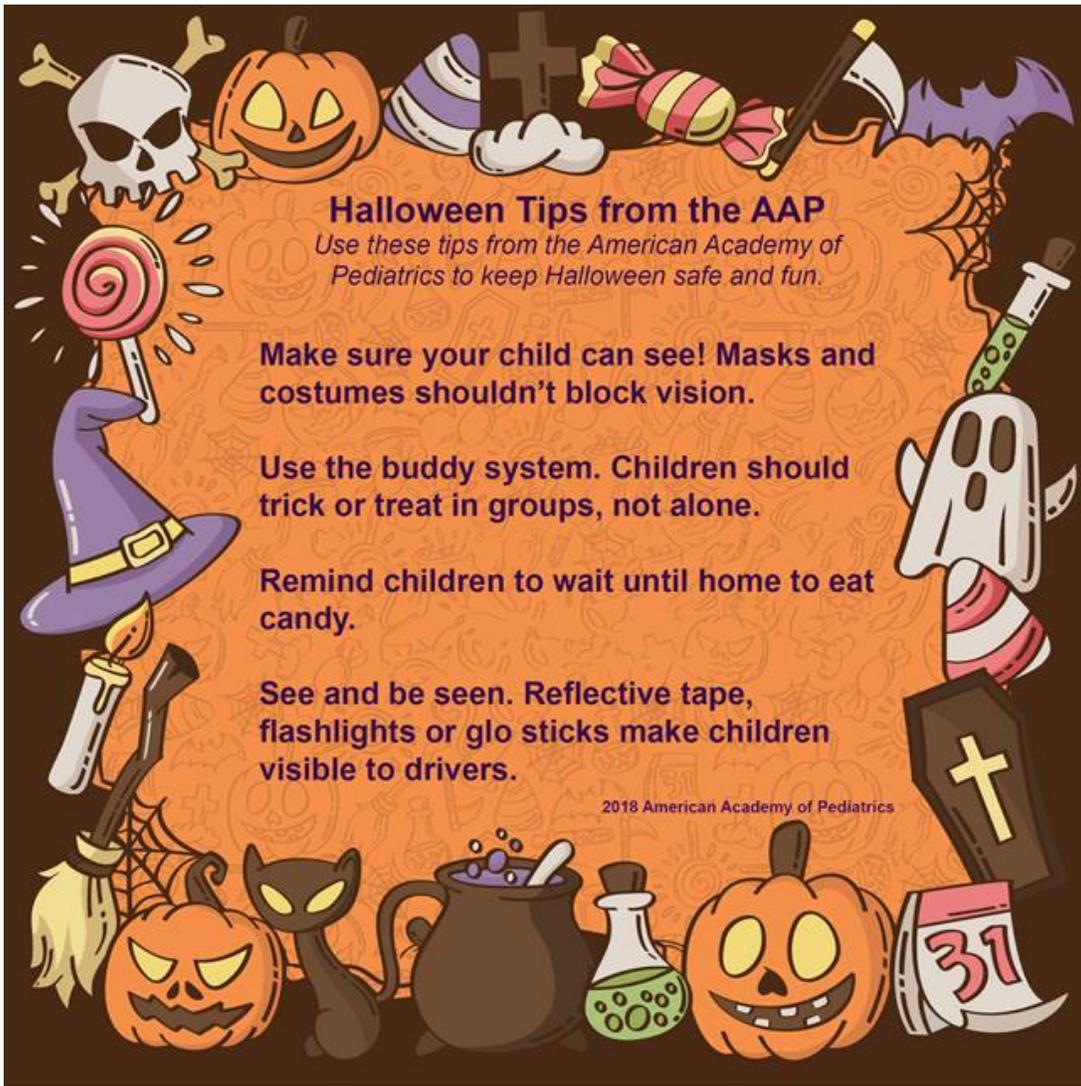
Nov 3, 2019 - Daylight Saving Time Ends

When local daylight time is about to reach Sunday, November 3, 2019, 2:00:00 am clocks are turned **backward** 1 hour to Sunday, November 3, 2019, 1:00:00 am local standard time instead.

Sunrise and sunset will be about 1 hour earlier on Nov 3, 2019 than the day before. There will be more light in the morning.

Also called [Fall Back](#) and Winter Time.





American Academy of Pediatrics
DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®

 **healthychildren.org**
Powered by pediatricians. Trusted by parents.
from the American Academy of Pediatrics

Return via inter-office mail marked "Safety Suggestion Box," give to a Safety Committee member, or put in Safety Suggestion Box at the City/County Govt. Center, 4th floor lobby.

Safety Suggestion

Date: _____

Please share any safety concern or suggestion:

MM:pb

Name (optional) _____