



# The Halloween & Bonfire Night edition

## CREEP SAFE THIS HALLOWEEN!

This Halloween and Bonfire Night will be a little different this year for families across Northamptonshire as we come to terms with celebrating the season alongside Covid-19 restrictions.

We want to discourage people from having bonfires and fireworks at home, but we know that some may still do this, so this edition shares some of the main tips for trying to keep as safe as possible.

## GIVE CANDLES A BREAK & MAKE THEM FAKE!

Candle use results in quite a few call-outs for Northants firefighters. Last year we were called to 13 incidents and six of these involved people suffering burns and/or smoke inhalation.

Please consider using artificial candles instead, to help create that cosy glow.





# HOW TO HAVE FUN... WITHOUT TRICK OR TREATING:

Covid-19 may mean trick or  
treating is not advised,  
but having fun isn't  
cancelled.

If you visit the Halloween page on our website  
([www.northantsfire.gov.uk](http://www.northantsfire.gov.uk)) you will find a pumpkin image that can be  
printed for colouring in. We are encouraging people to stick these in  
windows, or place pumpkins (with artificial candles) so they can be  
seen. Families can take on a pumpkin spotting challenge in which  
parents/carers award treats to their own children when they find a  
house with a pumpkin or pumpkin picture in the window.





# CAREFUL WITH COSTUMES!

Dressing up in spooky costumes is something that won't be cancelled this year. But, whether you are dressing as a vicious vampire or a wicked witch, remember that costumes can catch fire and cause burns

The two most important things to remember are:

1.



Children should be kept well away from any candles or matches. Use artificial candles.

2.



**STOP!**



**DROP!**



**ROLL!**

If the worst does happen and the clothing of either you or a friend catches fire, remember the phrase '**STOP, DROP and ROLL**'.





# Bang, crackle...BURN!

We would advise against using fireworks at home but, for those planning displays, there are safety tips to remember

## Tips for firework use

- Always follow the instructions that come with fireworks.
- Keep children a safe distance from fireworks.
- Children aged 5 and under should NOT be allowed to handle sparklers.
- Older children should wear gloves if handling a sparkler & be closely supervised.
- Only buy fireworks from reputable dealers.
- Fireworks should carry a CE mark.
- Light at arm's length, with a taper.
- Never go near a firework that has been lit.
- Keep pets indoors – it can be a frightening time for them.
- Keep a bucket of water/hose handy!

## Respect your fireworks

Fireworks are fun, but they are definitely not toys. Never throw or play with them.

- You can't buy fireworks if you're under 18.
- It's against the law for fireworks to be set off between 11pm and 7am, except for Bonfire Night, when the cut off is midnight. On New Year's Eve, Diwali and Chinese New Year, the cut off is 1am
- The law says you must not set off or throw fireworks (including sparklers) in the street or other public places
- You can be fined up to £5,000 and imprisoned for up to 6 months for selling or using fireworks illegally. You could also get an on-the-spot fine of £90.

For more about the law, see: [www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law](http://www.gov.uk/fireworks-the-law)



# Keeping control of your bonfire

Our firefighters regularly get called out to homes when things go wrong with bonfires, so we advise families NOT to have them.

For those who do build a bonfire, here is some guidance:

- Before lighting a bonfire, check the structure is stable and there are no small children or animals hiding inside.
- Bonfires should be away from sheds, fences and trees to avoid flames spreading.
- Never use petrol or paraffin to light a fire.
- Never burn dangerous rubbish such as foam-filled furniture, rubber, aerosols, tins of paint, pressurised gas cylinders, tyres and bottles.
- Have one person responsible for lighting the fire. Wearing wool is a good idea as it doesn't catch fire as easily.
- Have a water or a hose handy to quench flames.

We know 2020 has been a difficult year and hopefully Halloween and Bonfire Night will inject a bit of fun. But please pay attention to our safety tips and have a happy, safe Halloween and Bonfire Night.

