**Simple Tips for a Safer Halloween**

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OKLAHOMA CITY – With Halloween right around the corner, everyone seems to be getting their kids, costumes and homes ready for the spooky holiday. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information staff remind everyone to keep the following safety tips in mind while preparing for and celebrating the holiday:

* Ensure medications are still taken on time.
* Make sure medicine is not left out and within a child’s reach, as children may confuse them for candy.
* If enough “fake blood” capsules are swallowed, an upset stomach can occur.
* Dry ice should be used with appropriate protective clothing, as skin exposure can cause burns.
* The chemical dibutyl phthalate, found inside glow sticks, can be harmful if it comes in direct contact with the eyes.
* Use caution when applying Halloween makeup, as most contain dyes, oils and fragrances that potentially could irritate the skin. Test makeup on a small area of skin first.
* Do not use super glue as eyelash glue.
* Be aware of small batteries in flashlights and in noisemakers; if swallowed, they could pose a choking hazard.

Call the Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information with any questions or concerns regarding potential hazards that arise during Halloween festivities, and do not forget to save the poison center’s phone number in your cell. This can easily be done by texting the word “POISON” to 797979.

Pharmacists and registered nurses at the poison center are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week at (800) 222-1222. Please do not email the poison center or a member of the poison center staff, as poisoning emergencies are not handled through email. The Oklahoma Center for Poison and Drug Information is a program of the University of Oklahoma College of Pharmacy at the OU Health Sciences Center. For more information, visit OklahomaPoison.org.

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