

Halloween / Fireworks Comms Outline

18.10.21 – 7.11.21

Halloween

Messages from 18.10.21 – 31.10.21

Trading Standards / Costumes - The key messages are as follows:

- Keep children in fancy dress away from naked flames
- Always buy from legitimate sellers and check labelling for safety markings, such as CE markings

Costume Message –

Dressing up in garish, ghostly or gory costumes is a key part of many Halloween events. While this can be great fun, it should be remembered that Halloween costumes can be more flammable than normal clothing. This is particularly a problem if your celebrations involve candles or an open fire.

To avoid causing a scare for the wrong reasons with your costume, RoSPA recommends the following:

- Buy all costumes from reputable retailers, and check that any you buy carry a CE mark on the label
- As with all clothing, Halloween and fancy dress outfits should always be kept away from fire, lit candles and all other naked flames
- Use flameless candles where possible. If lit candles are part of your celebrations always follow their safety guidelines, and remember:
 1. Always supervise children and pets if using lit candles
 2. Do not allow children to carry, play, reach over, light or be near lit candles
 3. Never leave a burning candle unattended
 4. Remember always to extinguish a candle completely after use
 5. Take care when using candles at Halloween. Do not carry pumpkins with lit candles inside, consider using battery-operated candles instead
- Children should always be supervised by a suitable adult
- Be aware that homemade fancy dress costumes or those not tested to the same flammability standards may ignite easily and burn quicker.

RoSPA Halloween Pack - <https://www.rospace.com/home-safety/advice/product/halloween-costumes>

See Trading Standards link here for more resources - <https://www.tradingstandards.uk/news-policy/campaigns/halloween-safety-campaign>

Poster

<https://www.tradingstandards.uk/media/documents/news--policy/campaigns/halloween/cea-halloween-costume-safety-leaflet.pdf>

Halloween Road Safety

RoSPA top tips for road safety during Halloween are:

- Ensure children can be seen in the dark; ideally they should wear something reflective such as a reflective strip, and carry a torch
- Remind older children how to cross the road safely and supervise if they are younger.
- Children should always be supervised by a suitable adult

Key message for drivers:

“Remember this Halloween they’ll be lots of excited ghouls and goblins out and about trick and treating. Please take extra care whilst out driving as they’ll be an increase of young pedestrians on residential roads.”

Bonfire Night –

Messages - 1st – 7th November

Note - West Berkshire Fireworks Motion – July 2021 –

- to require all public firework displays within the local authority boundaries to be advertised in advance of the event, allowing residents to take precautions for their animals and vulnerable people
- to actively promote a public awareness campaign about the impact of fireworks on animal welfare and vulnerable people – including the precautions that can be taken to mitigate risks
- to encourage local suppliers of fireworks to stock ‘quieter’ fireworks for public display

Support RSPCA’s ‘Bang out of order’ campaign (collateral available 11th October)

Trading Standards

Resources –

RoSPA Fireworks Pack & Fireworks Code - <https://www.rospace.com/home-safety/advice/fireworks-safety>

Chartered Trading Standards Fireworks Resources - <https://www.tradingstandards.uk/news-policy/campaigns/fireworks-safety-awareness-campaign>

Trading Standards Poster - https://www.tradingstandards.uk/media/documents/news--policy/campaigns/fireworks/2020/6.6888_beis_opss_fireworks-campaign-2020_a5-leaflet_v5_web.pdf

Retailers Resources -

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31873/10-1043-fireworks-retailers-guide.pdf

Messages / consumers:

“Fireworks, the best and safest way to enjoy firework is to go to a professional display.

If you do wish to have them in your own garden, it is possible to buy reduced sound fireworks so disturbance to animals and neighbours is kept to a minimum – just ask your retailer. And please always remember the Fireworks Code.”

“Trading Standards Officers will be out and about during fireworks season conducting underage sales spot checks on retailers selling fireworks, as fireworks must only be sold to over 18’s. If you have any concerns regarding fireworks sales safety or sales to underage persons, please let us know here (add link).”

“Did you know it’s a criminal offence to use fireworks in a public area such as a park or the street? Fines and prosecutions occur every year for breaches of the law.”

“It is an offence to let fireworks off during night hours (11pm to 7am), except on Bonfire Night (midnight), Diwali, New Year’s Eve, and Chinese New Year (1am).”

Messages / retailers:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/31873/10-1043-fireworks-retailers-guide.pdf

Animal Warden

Resources:

PPP Fireworks / Animal Page reissue as article – <https://publicprotectionpartnership.org.uk/news-articles/top-ten-tips-on-how-to-reduce-stress-in-pets-during-firework-season/>

RSPCA - <https://www.rspca.org.uk/adviceandwelfare/pets/general/fireworks>

RSPCA – Bang out of order campaign – launches 11th October

Messages:

“Around 62% of dogs show signs of distress during fireworks. This alone means thousands of animals are affected by unplanned and random fireworks each year.

Results also saw other animals showing distress during fireworks:

- 54% of cats
- 55% of horses

If you’re planning fireworks in your garden consider using reduced sound fireworks to help reduce the number of animals distressed by your fireworks. And always talk to your neighbours and let them know of your plans so they can make take some precautions with their pets.”

“How to calm dogs during fireworks:

- Walk them during daylight hours to avoid times when fireworks are likely to be set off
- Close windows and curtains to muffle the sound of fireworks
- Put on some music or tv to mask the firework sounds
- Create a quiet space where your dog can feel in control
- Create some hiding places around your home”