

Fire & Electrical Safety Ltd



Supporting Notes For A Domestic Halloween Fire Risk Assessment

**To Be Used In Conjunction With Our
Domestic Halloween Fire Risk Assessment Form**

**How to protect yourself and your family from the things that
go **Wooooomph!** in the night**



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Fire Risk Assessment

The point of this domestic fire risk assessment is to remove or reduce the risk of a fire in your home and remove or reduce the chance of people being hurt if there is a fire.

What is fire?

At Halloween there are often decorations up and the vast majority of those decorations fit into one of two categories:

1. Fuel
2. An Ignition Source

Often in our enthusiasm to fill our houses with a sense of doom for the Halloween festivities, we can forget the basics of fire safety and end up mixing potential fuel with the potential ignition sources all too closely which can vastly increase the risk of a fire which can turn you, all too quickly, into a real ghost!

If you can inject the spooky atmosphere by keeping the flammable decorations (fuel) separate from any sources of heat or electricity (ignition), the chance of fires rising from the mouth of Hell to consume you and your home can be avoided. Fire needs both fuel and ignition to exist and cannot ignite if you keep the two away from each other. Thus keeping Hell where it belongs and ensuring the ghosts and ghouls are just a bit of let's pretend.

Halloween can also increase the amount of activity and clutter – witches and zombies coming over to feed on 'hand sandwiches' or 'slug hors d'oeuvres', decorations such as candle-lit pumpkins, extra lighting for a spine tingling atmosphere and flowing or discarded costumes. So you need to be sure that exit routes are not compromised by extra body parts or gravestone debris.

What extra potential ignition sources might be around at Halloween?

Stand back and look at each room in the house individually. Ask yourself the question "What ignition sources are there in this room that I need to consider?"

The most common around Halloween are:

- Extra eerie lighting.
- Candles inside and outside of the glowing pumpkin skulls.
- Halloween themed electrical appliances – running from battery or mains



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What extra potential fuel sources might be around at Halloween?

The most common around Halloween are:

- Blood curdling costumes.
- Soul chilling decorations dangling from above such as spider's webs or vampire bats.
- Battery operated Frankensteins or lanterns

With the decorations up, where might a fire start?

Look at how the decorations are arranged.

- Has anything been hung from light fittings?
- Are there fairy lights hanging amidst dangling flammables?
- Are there any dangling bats above candles or open candles spluttering near the trailing bandages of Mummies?
- Are there any battery operated bone jangling skeletons or plastic pumpkins with flashing eyes sitting anywhere near spiders webs or sheets arranged as ghosts?

With the decorations up, how are people most likely to get hurt if a fire starts?

If a fire does start, people will be safe if they know about the fire and if they can get out. They will get hurt if they get trapped or don't find out about the fire in time.

- Are there any activities where accidents are more likely due to distractions such as games or dancing?
- Are there any decorations or dismembered body parts that are blocking escape routes?
- Does everyone in the house, including guests, know what to do if a fire does occur?



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What changes might remove or reduce the chance of a fire happening?

By separating possible fuel sources and ignition sources a fire is much less likely to happen.

- Visually inspect lights and battery-operated decorations before putting in place.
- Keep glowing sinister eyes and other battery operated or electrical decorations separate in your arrangement from direct contact with anything flammable such as webbing or hanging decorations.
- Set up an area for any games or dancing away from candles and electrics?
- Read any flammability warnings on materials such as sheets used to make ghosts or cotton to make spider webs and any other heart stopping decorations that adorn your haunted houses.
- Ensure pumpkins with candles in are wet inside and not too dry and therefore in danger of catching fire.
- If candles are in use, do not use anywhere where they are not supervised, keep them protected and stable so they cannot fall over or be knocked or catch a passing wig. Keep them away from anything that might catch light if the flame catches a breeze or does get knocked over.
- Before bed, ensure all unnecessary electrics and battery operated ghouls are switched off and candles extinguished to protect yourself from the things that go wooomph! in the night.
- Careful when cooking – do not leave things unsupervised in the kitchen.

What changes might remove or reduce the chance of people getting hurt?

By planning and making sure everyone knows what to do if there is a fire, the need for communication in an emergency is reduced and chance of escape is greatly increased.

- Is it worth getting additional smoke alarms for this time period depending on your layout?
- Is it worth getting extra extinguishers, fire blankets or buckets of sand particularly in rooms where you may be using candles?
- Arrange and monitor all undead paraphernalia and body parts so that exit routes are clear at all times.
- Inform guests of any family plan you have for evacuation in case of fire.
- Ensure all socialising takes place on the ground floor where there are always at least two exits through the front or the back of the house.



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This fire risk assessment is for use at home only. It is not sufficient for use on commercial premises. For our assessment and fire safety services for your business please contact us today and we will be happy to help.

