



NEWS RELEASE

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(Is Your Haunted House a REAL Killer?)

The ingredients often used in a haunted house can be highly flammable, toxic when ignited, and hinder your escape in an emergency. TVF&R encourages you to be aware of these potential life safety hazards and use caution.

Unlike commercially-operated haunted houses, a haunted house in a single family dwelling does not require a permit or fire department inspection before opening. In a commercial operation, fire inspectors are able to look for compliance with the Fire Code on such issues as: adequate exiting in case of emergency, combustibile materials being flame retardant, an emergency plan, overcrowding, and prohibition of open flames and smoking.

TVF&R encourages individuals thinking of creating a “backyard” haunted house this Halloween to take the following precautions:

- **No candles, flames, or smoking.**
- **No dead ends** that may accidently trap someone.
- Have **more than one exit** and provide **adequate lighting** so participants can find their way out in an emergency. Keep doors unlocked at all times.
- Ensure youngsters under 12 are supervised.
- **Check electrical installations** to ensure they are in good working condition; replace old or damaged devices, and do not overload system capacity. Use power strips with circuit breakers.
- **Decorations** should be flame resistant - no untreated hay or cornstalks indoors.
- **Props** need to be adequately supported.
- Remove **trip hazards** – use caution near stairs.
- **Fire extinguishers** (rated 2 A 10 BC) every 50 feet of travel.
- Install working **smoke alarms** for early warning.
- Have an **emergency plan** - if a smoke alarm activates, turn the **lights on** and **evacuate** the house immediately – **call 9-1-1.**

To download a checklist of these safety tips, visit Tualatin Valley Fire & Rescue’s website at

www.tvfr.com.

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