

OHA provides tips for safe Halloween fun

The COVID-19 pandemic is reshaping how Oregonians celebrate holidays, and that includes Halloween.

But it doesn't mean Halloween this year can't still be spooky and fun.

People in Oregon are creative, they care about their community and they know it's important to celebrate safely.

This year, it's more important than ever to put safety first because COVID-19 cases have risen recently and holiday gatherings on Memorial Day, July Fourth and Labor Day led to increased case counts.

So, this Halloween, be extra mindful of your choices.

Choosing low-risk

Halloween plans can help to prevent the spread of COVID-19 illness, decrease the impact on Oregon's health care system and save lives.

This Halloween, the Oregon Health Authority is recommending that Oregonians avoid traditional door-to-door trick or treating and "Trunk or Treat" events because these are high risk activities for crowding among people outside your household.

This recommendation aligns with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), which also recommends families avoid traditional trick or treating.

Some ideas for safer, low-risk activities in-

clude holding an online costume contest, watching a scary movie online, carving pumpkins with people in your household, decorating your house or apartment, or touring the neighborhood to look at decorated houses with members of your household.

"If you dress up in a costume, be careful to plan a costume that al-

lows you to wear a face covering," said State Health Officer Dr. Dean Sidelinger. "Halloween masks will not protect you or others from coronavirus. Wearing a cloth or disposable face mask that fits snugly and covers your mouth and nose is still required while wearing a costume, no matter how scary or silly your costume is."



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Outdoor burning date pushed back to Oct. 15

The fall outdoor burning season has been delayed from Oct. 1 to Oct. 15 for many Lane County Residents.

The Lane County Fire Defense Board postponed the opening of the season due to drier weather conditions and heightened fire danger present in Lane County.

"Recent rainfall has been beneficial, but fire concerns still exist," said Lane Regional Air Protection Agency (LRA-PA) spokesperson, Travis Knudsen. "The Fire Defense Board will reassess the opening of the season in mid-October. It's not unusual for fall outdoor burning season to be delayed after dry and hot summers."

Outdoor burning, also known as open or backyard burning, allows some Lane County residents to burn dry woody yard debris that was generated on their own residential property. Burning is always prohibited on properties less than 2 acres inside the Eugene Urban Growth Boundary.

LRAPA encourages residents to explore alternative options to burning. Residents can dispose of woody yard debris for a minimal charge at one of Lane County's various collection depots. Chipping and composting are also alternative options to burning.

Daily home wood heating (HWH) advisories begin Tuesday, Oct. 1 for residents of Eugene, Springfield, and Oakridge until the end of May.

HWH advisories are for solid fuel devices such as wood stoves, pellet stoves and wood burning fireplaces in Eugene, Springfield, and Oakridge.

- Green day advisories indicate that the air quality is good and burning is allowed.

- Yellow day advisories indicate that the air quality is deteriorating and burning is discouraged; residents are urged to use alternative sources of heat if possible.
- Red day advisories indicate that the air quality is unhealthy, and any visible smoke is prohibited.

Failure to adhere to the daily advisories can result in hefty fines, including a

fine for residents' first citation.

Opacity limitations exist on Green and Yellow days that limit how thick your smoke can be.

HWH advisories are posted at 2 p.m. every day and go into effect at 4 p.m. that day for 24 hours. Lane County residents are required to check the daily advisory before starting a fire.

Visit www.lrapa.org or call the advisory line at 541-746-4328.

Residents may also sign up for text messages alerts to be notified of a red advisory day by texting: "LRAPAHWH" to 313131.



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