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Concern for their children's safety is heightened as children look forward Halloween. The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children (NCMEC) has released a list of safety tips designed to help parents better protect their children during Halloween. The list includes well-known tips for child safety, such as wearing bright clothing while trick or treating, but also focuses on the threat of victimization on an evening when millions of children may be out in unfamiliar settings. "Safety tips are a guide for parents to follow while their children are trick or treating," said Ernie Allen, NCMEC's president. "However, we would also like to take this time to remind parents that they need to be vigilant in protecting their children and teaching them how to avoid potentially dangerous situations throughout the year. An estimated one in five girls, and one in ten boys, will be sexually victimized before reaching adulthood. We urge parents to learn more about prevention and detection of victimization by visiting our [Website](#)" he continued. Get the safety tips [HERE](#).

More workers are killed every year in motor vehicle crashes than any other cause. Distracted driving dramatically increases the risk of such crashes. The Occupational Health and Safety Administration ([OSHA](#)) has joined with the U.S. Department of Transportation, other Labor Department agencies and key associations and organizations to enlist the help and cooperation off businesses – large and small – in a nationwide effort to stop the dangerous practice of texting while driving. OSHA's [revised brochure](#) explains the dangers of texting while driving on the job, and makes recommendations about what employers can do to keep workers safe. To order the brochure or any of OSHA's outreach materials, call OSHA's Office of Communications at 202-693-1999 or visit OSHA's [Publications page](#). Visit the Department of Transportation's [distracted driving page](#) for more information.

There are great resources for teaching Online Safety. [NSTeens](#) was created by the safety experts at [NetSmartz® Workshop](#), a program of the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children ([NCMEC](#)). NSTeens resources empower tweens (children ages 8 - 12) to make safer online choices through lessons taught in a series of animated videos highlighting the Internet-related adventures of a diverse cast of teenagers. Educators may reinforce the videos' safety lessons through the use of accompanying activity cards. The site also houses NetSmartz's Real-Life Stories videos---a series of narratives from teens about real experiences of online victimization. Each of the videos is accompanied by an activity card to facilitate student discussion and understanding. These materials are suggested for youths ages 11-17. All resources on [NSTeens](#) are free and offered in both English and Spanish.

A webinar on the revised Hazard Communication Standard was hosted by the Society of Chemical Hazard Communication ([SCHC](#)) this past August to help employers understand the new requirements. Developed as part of OSHA's alliance with SCHC, the webinar explained changes to the Hazard Communication Standard to align with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling of Chemicals ([GHS](#)). During the webinar, OSHA staff provided information that answered questions from chemical manufacturers, downstream users, and other interested parties. Topics included changes expected in training, labeling, and safety data sheets and compliance assistance opportunities. To access the webinar, go [HERE](#). To learn more about the revised Hazard Communication Standard and GHS, see OSHA's [Hazard Communication page](#) and read the *QuickTakes* [special issue on GHS](#).

Childcare centers must comply with crib safety standards by December 28, 2012. All cribs manufactured and sold were to comply with new and improved federal safety standards beginning June 28, 2011. The new rules, which apply to full-size and non full-size cribs, prohibit the manufacture or sale of traditional drop-side rail cribs, strengthen crib slats and mattress supports, improve the quality of hardware and require more rigorous testing. The details of the [new rules](#) are available from the Consumer Product Safety Commission ([CPSC](#)). The rules also apply to cribs currently in use at child care centers and places of public accommodation. These facilities must use only compliant cribs that meet the new federal safety standards by December 28, 2012.

The leading cause of death during winter storms is transportation accidents. Preparing your vehicle for the winter season and knowing how to react if stranded or lost on the road are the keys to safe winter driving. Safety techniques such as reduced speeds, increased following distances and leaving extra time for trips can help staff prepare for inclement weather. Vehicles should be thoroughly inspected and items such as brakes, batteries, defrosters, wipers and cooling systems should be maintained. Make sure that tires have adequate tread, All-weather radials are usually adequate for most winter conditions. However, some jurisdictions require that to drive on their roads, vehicles must be equipped with chains or snow tires with studs. Vehicles should be equipped with a windshield scraper, a small broom for ice and snow removal and a winter emergency kit. Maintain at least a half tank of gas during the winter season. More information about planning for weather and transportation can be found in the [Online Library](#).

This Month's Topics:

Halloween Safety
Distracted driving
Online Safety
Hazard Communication
Crib Safety
Winter Driving