

HOLIDAY CLOSURES:

Thanksgiving
November 26 and 27

Visit bryantx.gov/coronavirus
for the latest closures and cancellations.

BILL PAYMENT

**Kiosk locations accepting
credit cards, cash and checks:**

HEB
1609 N. Texas Ave.

HEB
725 E. Villa Maria

BTU Drive-Through
205 E. 28th St.
Open 24 hours

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill,
keycard or reminder letter.

Payments can be made 24 hours a day
via the "e-payment" option by calling
979.821.5700. Account number and
credit card required.

www.btutilities.com

979.821.5700

Primary Address:
205 E. 28th St.,
Bryan, TX 77803

Mailing Address:
PO Box 8000, Bryan, TX 77805



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Halloween safety takes on a whole new meaning in 2020. While we are not quite sure what our Halloween celebrations will look like this year, we can offer some updated health and safety tips for young trick-or-treaters and adults who look forward to distributing treats.

- **Keep groups and parties small in size.**

Halloween falls on a Saturday this year, which would normally mean plenty of time to organize large groups of kids and adults for a spooky celebration. However, as group sizes increase, so does the risk of spreading COVID-19. Keep group sizes - both adults and children - small, and limit direct interaction between guests.

- **Wear masks under Halloween masks, or create a spooky mask decoration.**

Some Halloween costumes have masks as an accessory, but this type of mask won't help prevent the spread of viruses. Therefore, a good cloth or medical mask should be worn underneath the costume mask. Costumes without decorative masks offer an opportunity for a person to decorate his or her mask to any custom spooky design. Let the kiddos design their own masks, and be sure to use non-toxic paints and markers suitable for fabric.

- **Limit contact with treats and tricksters.**

Many people, especially older adults, enjoy handing out Halloween treats and interacting with excited young children. However, distributing treats by hand is not advised, as it is possible for an infected person to spread the virus via handouts. Instead, use tongs or a spooky scoop to pick up and distribute treats. Also, position a table or other object to separate the tricksters from the treaters, and sanitize between each guest if possible.

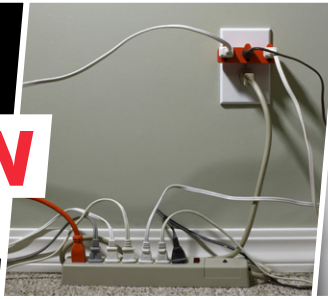
- **Maintain spacing at all times.**

Whether at a Halloween party or trick-or-treating in the neighborhood, strive to maintain at least six feet of spacing between all people. For excited children, this can be difficult. Have at least one adult in the group constantly monitor distances, and slow down the groups to maintain proper distancing.

- **Set up separate paths for trick-or-treaters to enter and exit.**

If possible, create an entry and an exit path to your Halloween handouts to keep kids separated. After handing out treats, guide the kids to the exit pathway and keep these paths well-lit for safety.

FIRE PREVENTION WEEK



In 1922, the National Fire Prevention Association sponsored the first observance of Fire Prevention Week. It has been observed annually during the week of October 9 in order to commemorate the Great Chicago Fire that began on October 8, 1871. President Coolidge made Fire Prevention Week a national observance in 1925, making it the longest running public health observance in the country.

According to legend, the Great Chicago Fire was started when a cow kicked over a lantern, but there is a more common cause of modern fires. Electrical fires are responsible for approximately 45,000 home fires every year according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). They are often caused by faulty outlets, frayed or overloaded electrical cords, light fixtures, space heaters, and dated wiring. Follow these tips to help keep your home and loved ones safe.

EXTENSION CORDS

For temporary use only. Have a certified electrician install additional outlets if you need a more permanent source of power.

Never overload an extension cord. Make sure the cord you are using is rated to support the appliance it will be powering.

Use the proper cords for specific conditions. There are both indoor and outdoor extension cords. Never use an indoor cord for outside purposes, but outdoor cords can be used for both.

Use approved cords. Only use cords that have been approved by a Nationally Recognized Testing Laboratory (NRTL) such as Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Electrical Testing Laboratories (ETL).

Only use cords that are in good condition. Never use frayed or damaged cords. Never cut off the third prong to make a plug fit into an outlet. If the cord feels hot to the touch, stop use immediately.

WIRING

Outdated wiring. If your home is over 20 years old, it may not have the capacity to handle modern appliances. Seek an opinion from a professional electrician if you find your breakers tripping often.

SPACE HEATERS

Give space heaters their space. People often place portable heaters too close to combustible items. Never place space heaters near beds, couches, clothing, curtains, or rugs and always have someone monitoring the heater. Many home electrical fires occur during the night while most people are sleeping.

PREVENTION

Follow these tips and others from reliable resources such as the U.S. Fire Administration or National Fire Protection Agency.

Always have an operable Class ABC fire extinguisher in your home; it is the most versatile and best extinguisher for home use. Class A is for combustibles such as wood or paper, Class B is for flammable liquids such as oils and paints, and Class C is for energized electrical equipment such as wiring or appliances.

Have working smoke detectors in each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, and on every level of the home.

Sunday, November 1, 2020 is when we set our clocks ahead one hour. When you change your clocks, change the batteries in your smoke detectors too.

CONSERVATION TIPS

Energy Conservation Tip:

Reduce your water heating bills by lowering your water heater's temperature to 120°F or the "warm" setting.



Water Conservation Tip:

When preparing a meal, wash and peel vegetables in a bowl of water instead of under running water. When done, use the water to hydrate your outdoor and potted plants.

