Halloween Safety

Every month I team up with [U.S. Cellular](#)and share a little about my [Samsung Galaxy S7 Smart Phone](#). This is one of those posts. If you have a kid or grand kid with a smart phone you might want to check out this parent child agreement on cell phone use. I think it would be very useful when opening a discussion on phone safety with your children. [You can find that here](#).

Every month U.S. Cellular gives me a topic to write about…this month they asked that I address Halloween and the safety features of a smart phone. A recent survey from U.S. Cellular found 62 percent of parents actually cite safety as a reason for getting their child their first phone. I know for us, that's why we got them for our kids. Back then the safety we were concerned with is when they first started driving.

Now kids are getting phones much younger. It's great to know that devices can double as Halloween hubs to help trick-or-treaters stay safe and give parents peace-of-mind.

As Halloween rolls around there will be plenty of pictures are taken of kids in their costumes so they can be shared with loved ones and on social media channels, but it's important to have current photos stored and readily available should a problem arise. In addition to having a current photo of each child in regular clothing, before heading out on Halloween night, also take and store individual shots of children in their costumes. If they are wearing masks or anything else that covers all or a portion of their faces, make sure to get photos of them with and without the masks on.

 iPhones include a built-in emergency feature located in the lower left hand corner of locked password screens, which allows users to make emergency calls, even when the phone remains locked. iPhones also give users the opportunity to

set up "Medical ID" information allowing friends, first-responders or even concerned bystanders to gain access to potentially life-saving information if needed, right from the emergency screen. To set up this built-in "Medical ID" feature:

Select the pre-installed Health application

Click on Medical ID in the lower right corner

Make sure the "Show When Locked" option is turned on

Add name, date of birth and information as it relates to medical conditions, allergies and reactions, and medications

Add emergency contacts and personal information that would be useful in case of an emergency.

While this built-in feature isn't currently available for Androids, there is a helpful alternative. Android users can include their name and emergency contact information on their locked screens by going into their settings, selecting security and then updating owner information.

I love this..it's like a medical bracelet for your phone. I am going to be sure to tell Hubby, Craig and Kalissa who are all first responders that this is something they might need to start looking for on phones.

Amid the excitement of trick-or-treating or Halloween parties, it's easy for kids to lose track of time. Using the clock feature you can pre-set a series of different alarms on a child's phone to remind them to periodically check-in and to ensure they don't cut it too close when it comes to curfew.

 Be aware that certain applications can drain batteries quickly. If users suspect they will be using their phones more than usual, they should consider bringing along a portable charger, like the [PureGear® PureJuice Portable Charger](#).

External batteries are lightweight and easy to plug into multiple devices via USB microcharging cables, allowing users to recharge a phone's battery in their pocket, purse or bag. There are also cell phone cases on the market that automatically charge smartphones without any extra cables, like the [Mophie Juice Pack](#).

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Strolling streets and walkways in the dark can be dangerous, and since superpowers such as night vision are not included with the purchase of superhero costumes, flashlights are needed. Fortunately today's smartphones come with built-in flashlights.

Those are just a few things about smart phones that might make your Halloween experience a bit more safe.