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Illinois Department of Labor Issues Safety Tips for Haunted House Enthusiasts

Department Encouraging Residents to Wear Bright Clothing, Follow Safety Rules

CHICAGO—October 27, 2011. As thousands of families and trick-or-treaters celebrate Halloween, the Illinois Department of Labor (IDOL) recommends safety tips for those venturing into local haunted houses.

“We want to make sure that individuals, who bravely enjoy a good scare at haunted houses, do so safely,” said IDOL Director Joe Costigan. “We urge parents and kids to read safety signs to ensure a safe and enjoyable Halloween.”

The Department suggests the following tips to stay safe and have a memorable Halloween:

- Check for an Illinois Department of Labor 2011 permit sticker
- Read all signage before entering a haunted house and listen to your guide for directions
- Pay attention to the location of exits in the haunted house
- Stay on the approved path of travel and be cautious on or near stairs
- Do not smoke, use lighters or matches
- Wear bright-colored clothing and avoid loose-fitting clothing that could snag on props
- Be aware that strobe lights may be in use
- Remember – being safety conscious can ensure a Happy Halloween

IDOL conducts nearly 4,500 routine inspections at least once a year of all amusement rides and attractions that are open to the public, including haunted houses. The Department’s amusement-ride safety inspectors check that rides or attractions are in compliance with state laws and meet manufacturer requirements. The Department will issue permits to operate only after an inspection determines the ride or attraction meets required safety standards. For more information, log on to www.state.il.us/agency/idol.

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