

# CARVE YOUR PUMPKIN NOT YOUR HANDS

## PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY TIPS:

- CARVE IN A CLEAN, DRY, WELL-LIT AREA.
- USE THE RIGHT TOOLS FOR THE JOB.
- LEAVE THE CARVING TO ADULTS.



**BC Forest Safety**

Safety is **good** business

# **CARVE YOUR PUMPKIN** **NOT YOUR HANDS**



**WHEN CARVING YOUR PUMPKIN THIS HALLOWEEN, PLAN PROPERLY AND USE CAUTION TAKING THE NECESSARY STEPS TO PREVENT HAND INJURIES. BY DOING IT SAFELY, YOU WILL ENJOY DESIGNING AND CARVING YOUR PUMPKIN CREATION, INSTEAD OF RECOVERING FROM A NASTY INJURY.**

**CARVING PUMPKINS IS RISKY BUSINESS BECAUSE PUMPKIN SKIN IS BOTH SLIPPERY AND TOUGH. THE MOST COMMON ACCIDENTS FROM PUMPKIN CARVING ARE STAB WOUNDS TO THE FINGERS AND PALMS WHICH COULD ALSO RESULT IN DAMAGE TO TENDONS, NERVES OR ARTERIES.**

**FOLLOW THESE PUMPKIN CARVING SAFETY TIPS:**

- 1) WASH AND THOROUGHLY DRY ALL TOOLS YOU PLAN ON USING INCLUDING PUMPKIN CARVING TOOLS, CUTTING SURFACE AND YOUR HANDS. ANY MOISTURE ON YOUR TOOLS, HANDS OR TABLE CAN CAUSE SLIPPING THAT CAN LEAD TO INJURIES.**
- 2) PUT SOMETHING ON THE CARVING SURFACE TO STOP THE PUMPKIN FROM SLIPPING (DISHTOWEL OR NON-SLIP MAT).**
- 3) INSTEAD OF A KNIFE FROM THE KITCHEN, USE THE RIGHT TOOLS. SPECIALTY TOOLS ARE AVAILABLE EVERYWHERE (ONLINE, DOLLAR STORES, ETC.) AND ARE SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED FOR THE TASKS AT HAND. THESE TOOLS CAN SAW THROUGH PUMPKIN RIND, POKE HOLES AND SCOOP OUT THE PUMPKIN WITHOUT THE RAZOR SHARPNESS OF A KNIFE. THEY ARE TYPICALLY SMALLER WHICH MAKES THEM EASIER TO CONTROL AND SAFER TO USE WHEN MAKING SMALLER, INTRICATE CUTS.**
- 4) CARVE YOUR PUMPKIN WITH THE TOP ON. THIS WILL PREVENT YOU FROM PUTTING YOUR HANDS INSIDE AND CUTTING TOWARDS YOUR HAND. SUPPORT THE PUMPKIN BY HOLDING THE PUMPKIN FROM THE TOP AND ALWAYS CUT WITH THE CARVING INSTRUMENT BLADE POINTING DOWN.**
- 5) LET YOUR KIDS DESIGN THE PUMPKIN. THEY GET TO PARTICIPATE BY DRAWING THEIR OWN DESIGNS ON THE PUMPKIN SKIN WITH A MAGIC MARKER AND CAN EMPTY THE PULP AND SEEDS WITH THEIR HANDS OR A SPOON BEFORE THE CARVING BEGINS. BUT LEAVE THE ACTUAL CARVING TO ADULTS. SUPERVISION OF OLDER TEENS IS ALSO RECOMMENDED.**
- 6) KNOW FIRST AID AND IF A CUT DOES OCCURS DURING CARVING, APPLY DIRECT PRESSURE TO THE INJURY USING A CLEAN, DRY CLOTH. IF THE BLEEDING DOESN'T STOP WITHIN 15 MINUTES, GO DIRECTLY TO AN EMERGENCY ROOM OR URGENT-CARE CLINIC FOR TREATMENT.**

## **RESOURCE LINK**

[www.assh.org/handcareprod/safety/pumpkin-carving](http://www.assh.org/handcareprod/safety/pumpkin-carving)

