

An Garda Síochána

Advice to Parents and Guardians for a
Safe Halloween



The Law

- It is an offence for any person to possess a firework with intent to sell or supply, without a licence.
- It is an offence to throw an ignited firework at any person or property.
- It is an offence to light unlicensed fireworks.
- The penalty for these offences is a fine of up to €10,000 or 5 years imprisonment or both.
- The simple possession of fireworks without a licence is also an offence - liable to a fine of up to €10,000.



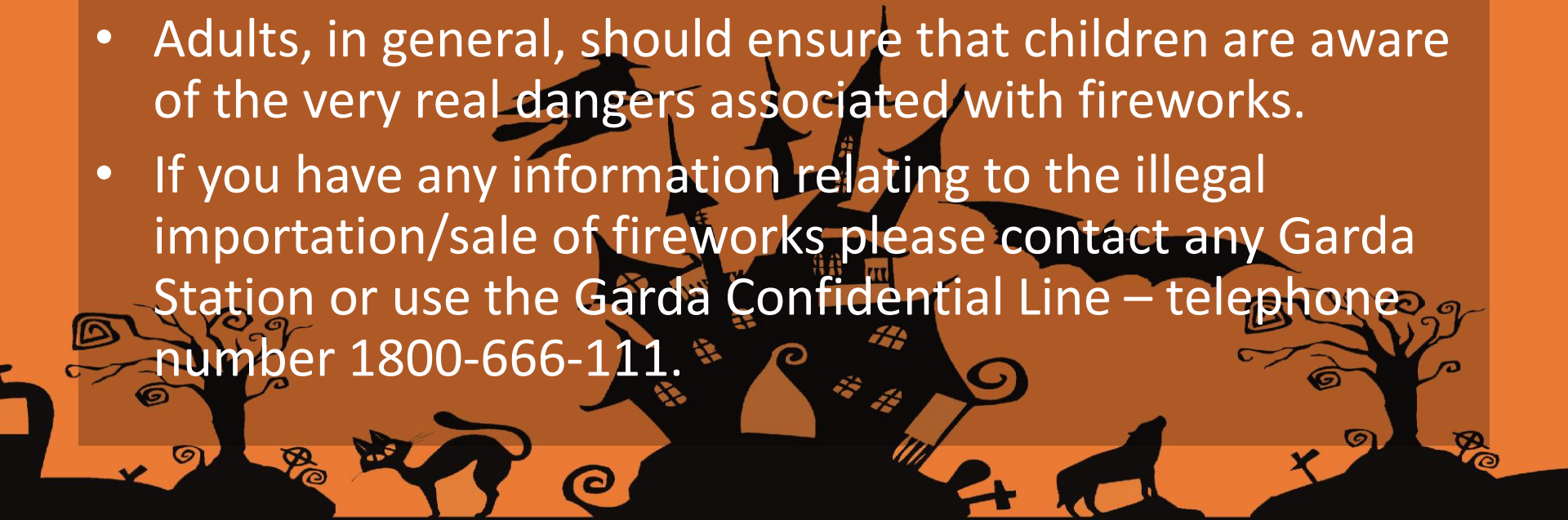
Use of Fireworks can Cause:

- Great injury and distress.
- Great distress to animals.
- Annoyance to older persons.
- Intruder alarms to be set off.
- Damage to property with fire, if fireworks continue to burn after landing.



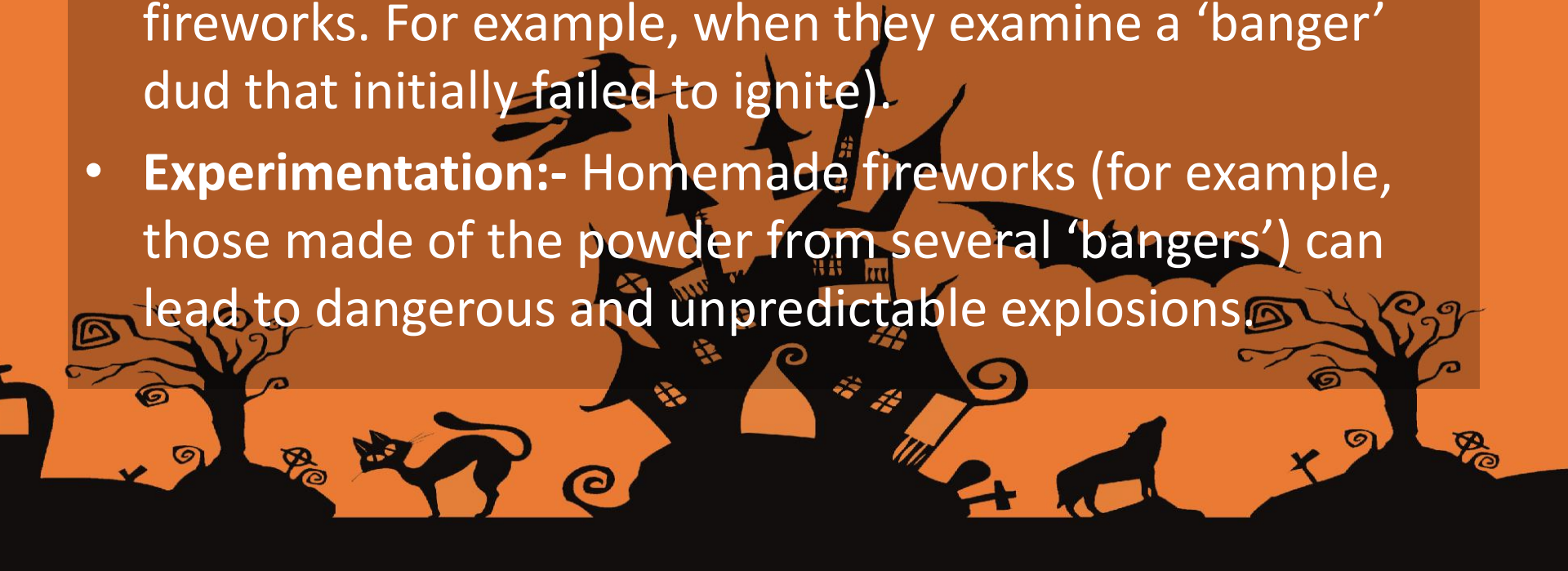
Advice to Parents

- If you discover that your children have bangers/fireworks please remove them and hand them into your local Garda Station.
- Parents should be extra vigilant during this period and know where their children are at all times.
- Adults, in general, should ensure that children are aware of the very real dangers associated with fireworks.
- If you have any information relating to the illegal importation/sale of fireworks please contact any Garda Station or use the Garda Confidential Line – telephone number 1800-666-111.



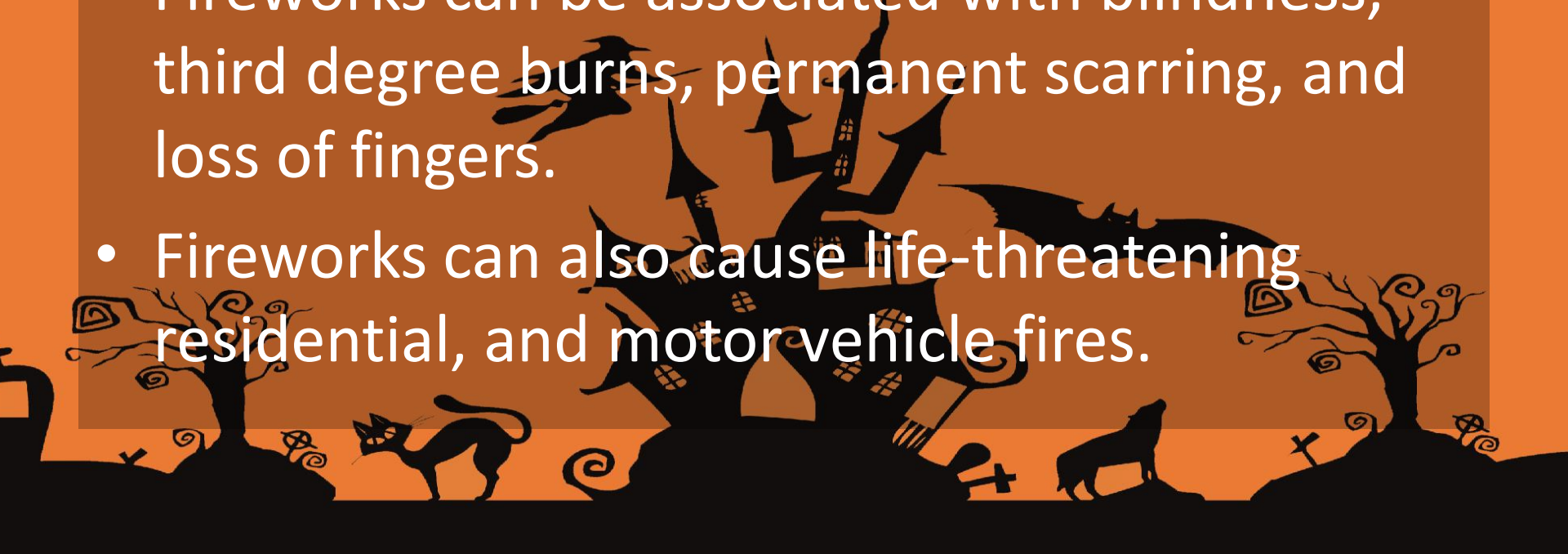
How do injuries occur?

- **Fireworks type:-** All fireworks can cause injury (even sparklers burn at more than 700° C).
- **Being too close:-** Injuries may result from being too close to fireworks when they explode.
- **Curiosity:-** Children are often excited and curious around fireworks. For example, when they examine a 'banger' dud that initially failed to ignite).
- **Experimentation:-** Homemade fireworks (for example, those made of the powder from several 'bangers') can lead to dangerous and unpredictable explosions.



What kind of injuries can occur?

- The body parts most often injured are the hands and the head.
- More than half of injuries are burns.
- Fireworks can be associated with blindness, third degree burns, permanent scarring, and loss of fingers.
- Fireworks can also cause life-threatening residential, and motor vehicle fires.



WARNING

The following slides contain graphic
images of injuries sustained from
fireworks









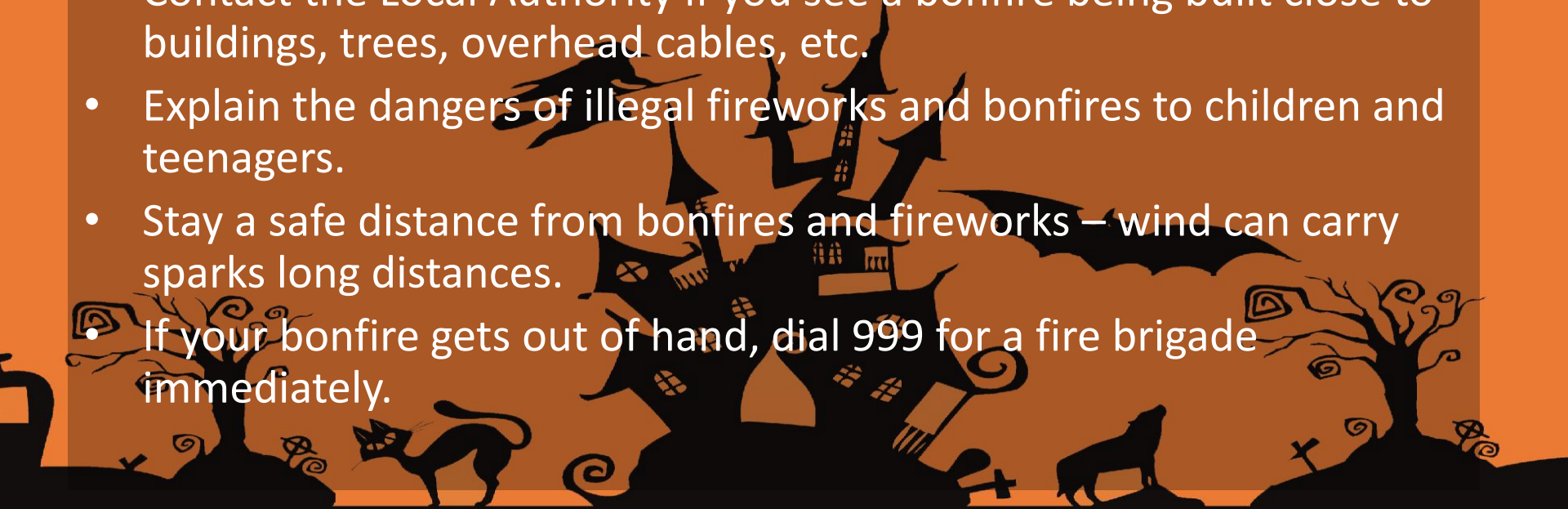
Did you know?

- The Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services responded to over 1000 callouts nationwide during Halloween 2019.
- People often build bonfires too close to houses and to electric cables, and they also make them too big.
- Dozens of children are left with serious burns and hand injuries each year
- Injuries also occur from explosions within bonfires from gas cylinders.
- More than €1 million was spent by local authorities cleaning up Halloween bonfires and fireworks last year.



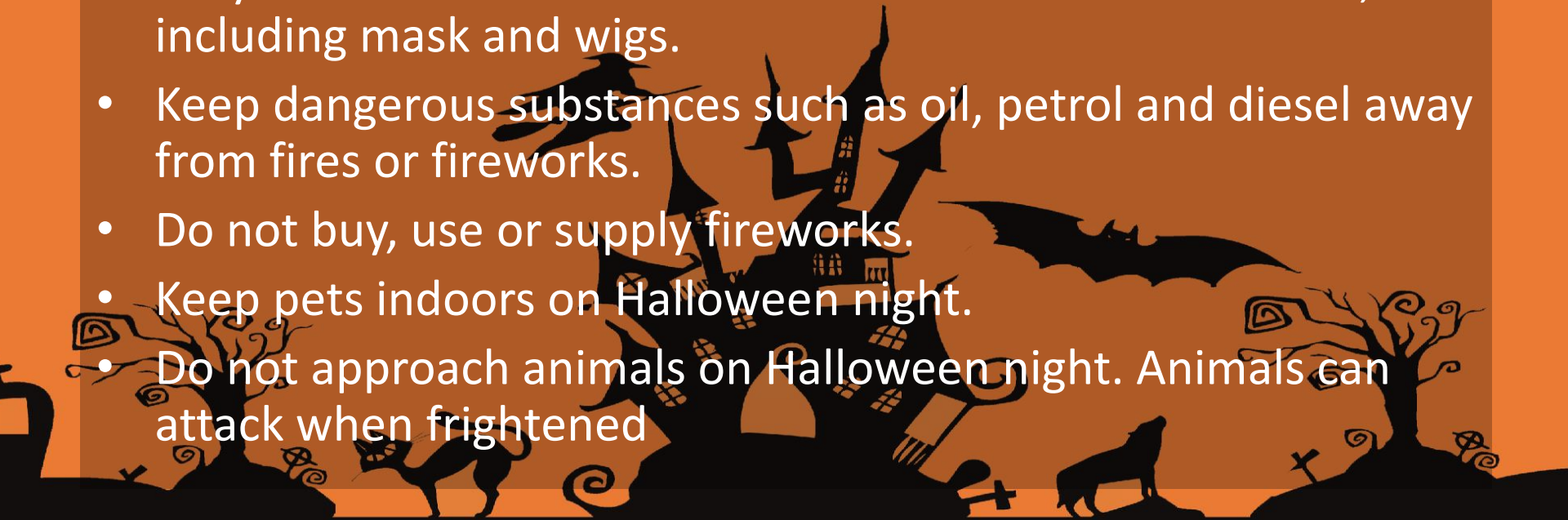
Tips for a Safe Halloween

- If you see material such as pallets or tyres being hoarded in advance contact your Local Authority.
- Do not facilitate illegal bonfires or firework displays on or near your home or property.
- Parents, businesses and householders – Do not provide any materials for bonfires.
- Contact the Local Authority if you see a bonfire being built close to buildings, trees, overhead cables, etc.
- Explain the dangers of illegal fireworks and bonfires to children and teenagers.
- Stay a safe distance from bonfires and fireworks – wind can carry sparks long distances.
- If your bonfire gets out of hand, dial 999 for a fire brigade immediately.



Tips for a Safe Halloween

- Stay with your children and escort them on “trick or treat” visits, parties and events.
- Skip houses that have no lights on.
- If children dress up in dark clothes, add reflective material so that they can be clearly seen by motorists and cyclists.
- Only fire resistant materials should be used for costumes, including mask and wigs.
- Keep dangerous substances such as oil, petrol and diesel away from fires or fireworks.
- Do not buy, use or supply fireworks.
- Keep pets indoors on Halloween night.
- Do not approach animals on Halloween night. Animals can attack when frightened





Happy
Halloween



**Be a good role model for your children:
Act safely and responsibly this Halloween**