

Safe Kids NEWZ



Spring 2007

Safe Kids Week: April 28 - May 6

Summer is a favorite time of year for many children, although it is also the deadliest time of year for children. Nearly half (41%) of unintentional injuries to children occur from May to August. Several risk areas show an increase in deaths during the summer. For example, drowning occurs 89% above average compared to the average month and biking deaths occur 45% above average. (Source: Centers for Disease Control, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control).

Make it a
**Safe Kids
Summer**

Safe Kids Week 2007 will focus on the following five risk areas: Biking/Wheeled Sports, Pedestrian, Motor Vehicle, Water, and Falls.

Wheel Safe – Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes. Make sure your child wears a helmet and other protective gear every time he or she bikes, skates, or scooters.

Walk Safe – Pedestrian injury is the second leading cause of accidental death among children ages five to 14. Children under ten should not cross the street alone. Instruct children to look left, right, and left again when crossing the street and to continue looking as they cross.

Ride Safe – Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of accidental death among children ages one to 14 in the United States. All children ages 12 and under should be properly restrained in the back seat on every ride.

Swim Safe – Drowning is the leading cause of death among children ages one to four, and the second leading cause of accidental death among children ages one to 14 in the United States. Actively supervise your children in and around water. Empty all containers (buckets, wading pools, etc.) immediately after use and store out of reach.

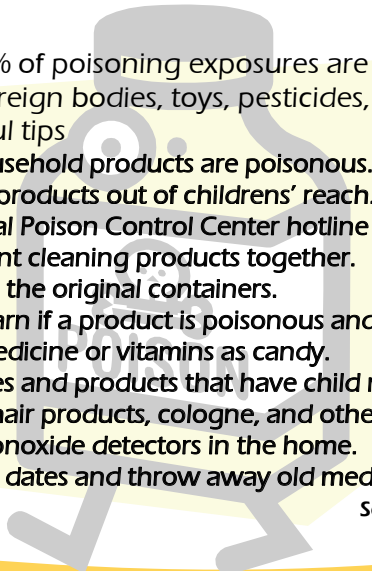
Play Safe – Falls are the leading cause of accidental injury among children. Nearly 40% of all nonfatal injuries to children are associated with falls. Keep chairs, cribs, and other furniture away from windows and install window guards on all windows above the first floor. Actively supervise children when they play on a playground and make sure they use age-appropriate equipment.

Poison Safety Checklist

Among children ages five and under, 60% of poisoning exposures are by non-pharmaceutical products, such as cosmetics, cleaning substances, plants, foreign bodies, toys, pesticides, art supplies, and alcohol; 40% are by pharmaceuticals. Remember these helpful tips

- Know which household products are poisonous.
- Keep poisonous products out of childrens' reach.
- Keep the National Poison Control Center hotline number by each phone: 1-800-222-1222.
- Don't mix different cleaning products together.
- Keep products in the original containers.
- Read labels to learn if a product is poisonous and for first aid information.
- Never refer to medicine or vitamins as candy.
- Choose medicines and products that have child resistant caps.
- Keep make-up, hair products, cologne, and other personal products away from children.
- Install carbon monoxide detectors in the home.
- Check expiration dates and throw away old medicines and cleaning products that are expired.

Source: www.safekids.org





CHILD PASSENGER SAFETY WEEK REVIEW

During Child Passenger Safety Week 2007, Safe Kids Affiliates were asked to address young tweens (children eight to ten years of age) with their parents at an educational event to be held at Chevrolet Dealerships. Safe Kids Affiliates also partnered with community organizations that reach high risk populations or underserved communities with young tweens at this event. The focus of the event was a 90-minute educational event that consisted of four Safety Stations: Safety Belt Fit Test, Trunk Entrapment, Never Leave Your Child Alone, and Spot the Tot. Each station included handouts and a brief presentation to the parents and children.

Twenty-Six Safe Kids Affiliates held car seat checks and safety station events throughout the Commonwealth.

Safe Kids Pennsylvania held a Press Conference at Silver Spring Elementary School in Mechanicsburg for Child Passenger Safety Week. Featured speakers included Anne Franchak, Director of Safe Kids PA; Trooper Ed Asbury, PA State Police; Susan Rzucidlo, Pediatric Trauma Program Manager at Penn State Hershey Medical Center; and Representative William Gabig, PA House of Representatives. The press conference also featured the Goodheart family whose daughter was backed over by a vehicle at eighteen months old. Their testimony enforced the educational safety station entitled "Spot the Tot," that focused on parents walking around their vehicle to ensure a path clear of children, toys, etc.

PRODUCT RECALLS

Visit U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission for current product recalls:

www.cpsc.gov
1-800-638-2772



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

CONFERENCES & TRAINING

- **Child Passenger Safety Certification Classes**
May 2, 3, 9, 10, and 19, 2007; Chambersburg, PA
May 22, 23, 24, and 25, 2007; Lewistown, PA
- **DOH Public Health Institute**
May 21 - 25, 2007; State College, PA
- **Child Passenger Safety Renewal Class**
May 23, 2007; Harrisburg, PA
- **Safe Kids Pennsylvania Statewide Meeting**
June 7, 2007; Camp Hill, PA
- **Johns Hopkins Institute - Principles & Practice of Injury Prevention**
June 10 - 14, 2007; Baltimore, MD

FARM SHOW THANK YOU

Attendance at Farm Show 2007 was at an all-time high this year. More than 300,000 people attended. A very heartfelt thank you goes out to all of the willing volunteers who participated in Farm Show 2007 at the Safe Kids Pennsylvania Booth.

Volunteers who assisted at the booth included members from local chapters and coalitions: Allentown, Bedford, Berks, Blair, Clarion, Dauphin, Lancaster, Susquehanna Valley, and York provided technicians to answer the many car seat questions from parents and grandparents. Community organizations, such as the Center for Schools and Communities, Hershey Medical Center, Baby Love, AmeriCorps, Burn Prevention Foundation, and the Pennsylvania Department of Health assisted in fitting helmets and playing the safety game with children. Family members of staff also served as volunteers when needed.

Thank you, volunteers. We appreciate your assistance and willingness to help keep kids safe in Pennsylvania.





COORDINATORS' CORNER

NEW FACES / NEW CHAPTERS

2007 has seen several changes take place at the local chapter/coalition level across the state.

It is with great regret that we say farewell to Delana Niggel who has been the coordinator of Safe Kids Erie Area for five years. Del will be missed for her creativity and enthusiasm. Del initiated many programs in the Erie Area. One of the most successful was the winter sports helmet program. In addition to school and Parent Teacher Organization programs about the importance of wearing helmets, Del provided school ski clubs and families with reduced-cost helmets for their winter activities. A wonderful T-shirt design printed with the correct hand signals for biking and the "Protect the Place You Call Home" program were two more examples of Del's creativity. She will be missed by all who worked with her. Thank you, Del for inspiring us and making us laugh. We wish you the best in your new position working with children with special needs.

Two new coalition coordinators have joined the local organizations. Patty Puline is the new coordinator at Safe Kids Erie Area. Patty has 20 years of experience in public health and has worked with Safe Kids Erie on various projects. Tiffany Pascoe is now sharing coordinator duties with Chris DeJohn in Washington County. Tiffany serves as an assistant with the Washington County Comprehensive Highway Safety Program. Chris is an Emergency Medical Technician with Southbridge Ambulance Company.

Welcome to two new chapters of Safe Kids Pennsylvania. Perry County held its first meeting in February under coordinator Barbara Dougherty, PA Department Of Health. Perry County is planning its first event for Safe Kids Week, 2007. Barbara can be reached at 717-567-2011.

Safe Kids McKean County is working to organize its first event under the guidance of coordinator Tina Martin of Care for Children, an organization that provides services for children of all abilities. Safe Kids McKean County is headquartered in Bradford and may be contacted at 814-362-4621.

Welcome to all. Together we can save the lives of children in Pennsylvania.

Online Learning Opportunity



On May 9, 2007 Safe Kids PA will host an Elluminate session on Animal Bites. This Elluminate session will focus on the education component behind Animal Bite Safety as well as highlights from Safe Kids Affiliate programs.

To learn more about this session and to view previous recordings, please visit www.pasafekids.org. If you have trouble viewing a session, please contact our staff at pasafekids@csc.csiu.org or 1-800-683-5100.

We are planning to host additional Elluminate sessions and would like your help in the planning. If there are any topics that you think would make for an interesting session, please let us know.

2007 - 2008 Mini-Grants

2007 - 2008 Mini-Grant guidelines and applications are now available on www.pasafekids.org.

Safe Kids PA Mini-Grant applications are due June 6, 2007, from interested Safe Kids Affiliates and include the following:

- New Prevention
- Start Up
- Smoke Alarms or Bike Helmets

Please email Kristen at kurso@csc.csiu.org with any questions on the Mini-Grants above.

Safe Kids PA Bicycle Safety Mini-Grant applications are open to non-profit organizations across the state and are due June 22, 2007.

Please email Allyson at afulton@csc.csiu.org with any questions on the Bicycle Safety Mini-Grants.





Gear Up and Warm Up for Spring Sports Safety

(Source: www.safekids.org)

Safe Kids recommends these precautions for all children playing or practicing any individual or team sport:

Before signing up for a sport, get a general physical exam.

Always wear appropriate protective gear for the activity and make sure it's the right size and properly adjusted.

Do your warmups. Again, if it's important before a game, it's important before practice too.

Have adult supervision.

Never "play through" an injury. Get immediate help from a coach or trainer and be sure to mention everything that hurts or aches.

Follow the rules. In most sports, the rules are based not only on sportsmanship, but safety.

Stay hydrated. Drink plenty of water before and during the activity, and rest frequently during hot weather.

SAFETY OBSERVANCES

National Youth Sports Safety Month - April 2007

Playground Safety Week - April 23-27, 2007

Safe Kids Week - April 28-May 6, 2007

National Bike Month - May 2007

National Alcohol and Drug Related Birth Defects Week - May 13-19, 2007

Recreational Water Illness Prevention Week - May 21-27, 2007

Buckle Up America Week - May 21-27, 2007



Edward G. Rendell, Governor

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