



**SAFE
K:DS**
CONNECTICUT

CTsafekids.org

Newsletter

Spring
2017



SAFE KIDS DAY

A note from Luis!

Thank you for your support of Safe Kids Connecticut! We are happy to share our first newsletter. Here we will keep you updated on what's going on in the Safe Kids world. You will receive a newsletter from Safe Kids every season. If you would like us to include something to publicize for our readers, send your inquiries to me at lriviera03@connecticutchildrens.org or Amneris Torres at atorres01@connecticutchildrens.org.



Our Sponsor

connecticutchildrens.org



Safe Kids Day 2017 *By: Luis A. Rivera*

Fire safety. Boating safety. Wearing seat belts. Protecting hearing. Hands-Only CPR.

Those are just some of the lessons elementary school students learn through our annual Safe Kids Day. At this year's event, about 100 third and fourth grade students from SAND Elementary School in Hartford gathered on the front lawn of Connecticut Children's Medical Center in Hartford and visited different stations to learn ways of preventing unintentional injuries.

The Connecticut State Police brought their Seat Belt Convincer and Rollover Demonstrator to teach the students about the dangers of distracted driving and the importance of buckling up.

The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection taught the students about the risks of being on the water in the summer and the importance of wearing life preservers.

The Hartford Fire Department brought their Fire Safety House which allowed students to practice escaping from a window after the unit filled with smoke.

Members of Osborne EMS taught students the American Heart Association's Hands-Only CPR technique.

Other stations included lessons on how students can protect themselves against sports injuries and a headphone-wearing mannequin demonstrated how quickly hearing can be damaged by listening to loud music.

For 22 years, Safe Kids Connecticut, a program of Connecticut Children's Injury Prevention Center, has hosted the event, which is generously sponsored by the Connecticut Elks Association. We are so thankful for their support. We hope the children who attended the event not only learn potentially life-saving skills, but that they also share the information with their families.

Safe Kids Connecticut is dedicated



to keeping children safe at home, at school and while they play.

In addition to Safe Kids Day, Safe Kids Connecticut also sponsors other educational events such as bike rodeos, car seat clinics and safety fairs. Events held by our members and volunteers

cover a variety of topics, such as fall safety, dog bite safety, poison safety, playground safety and cooking safety.

Preventable injuries remain the leading cause of death among children and teenagers in the United States, and rise sharply in the summer months.

Research shows as many as 90 percent of childhood injuries and deaths can be prevented.

While we want children to have fun this summer, we also want them to know they can do so in a safe and smart way to minimize their risk of getting hurt or even killed.

Driving Under the Influence with Children *By: Kevin Borrup*

Each year approximately 400 children in Connecticut are passengers in cars that crash with a driver who is under the influence of alcohol, marijuana, or a drug. These crashes result in injuries and, in some cases, death.

It is important that parents and other care givers understand that it is NEVER ok to drive after drinking, smoking marijuana, or using illegal drugs. Prescription medications may also impair your ability to drive and all people on medications should read the labeling and warnings on the medication bottle.

It is the responsibility of any adult who drives with children as passengers to ensure that they NEVER drive while under the influence.

FOR KIDS

While it is not a tween or teen's fault or responsibility that an adult is driving while impaired, if you find yourself in

a situation where you think a driver is acting strange, or you can see tell-tale signs such as an open container of alcohol, remember you can take action to refuse to be driven by that person:

- 1: Make up an excuse by letting them know that your plans just changed and you need to call your parents.
- 2: If it is your parent, find another trusted adult and let them know what is happening.
- 3: If you are already in the car and you need to get out, you can always pretend to be sick by pretending to throw up. Most drivers will pull over so that you do not dirty their vehicle. Then call your parents or another trusted adult.
- 4: If you feel comfortable and safe enough to confront the adult driver, refuse the ride, let the adult know your concerns, and ask them to explain their behavior. Finally, ask them to get out of the vehicle and

wait for someone who can drive you both safely.

FOR ADULTS

Whenever your social plans involve alcohol and/or drugs, make plans so that you don't have to drive while impaired.

Before drinking, designate a non-drinking driver when with a group.

Don't let your friends drive impaired.

If you have been drinking or using drugs, get a ride home or call a taxi.

If you're hosting a party where alcohol will be served, remind your guests to plan ahead and designate their sober driver, offer alcohol-free beverages, and make sure all guests leave with a sober driver.

Check out our new ad campaign at www.kohlsroadsafety.org.

Upcoming Events

Safe Kids Connecticut is a statewide network of organizations and individuals who work to prevent unintentional injuries in children ages 0-19. To that end, we will be hosting car seat clinics in order to help reduce injuries. For additional information on upcoming events please visit CTSafekids.org.

Community Health Center

76 New Britain Avenue
Hartford, Connecticut
Friday, June 30, 2017

3:30 - 5 pm

Thursday, August 24, 2017

5 - 7 pm

Middletown Jackson Chevrolet

660 South Main street
Middletown, Connecticut
Saturday, June 17, 2017

11 am - 2 pm

About Our Sponsor

All the wonderful work that Safe Kids Connecticut does would not be possible without the generous contribution of the Connecticut Elks Association. Since 1999, the Elks have donated \$1,200,000 to Safe Kids Connecticut and \$4,398,800 to Connecticut Children's Medical Center in the past 61 years. Money is raised through different fundraising events such as: golf tournaments, bowling tournaments and charity concerts. To learn more about the philanthropic work of the Elks please visit: ctelks.org

