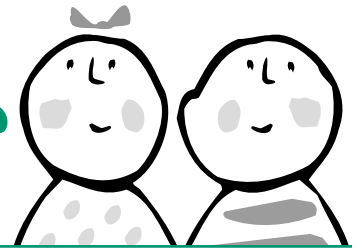




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

*Dedicated to
reducing
preventable
injuries and
deaths in
Connecticut
children*

WINTER 2005

Connecticut
SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
Medical Center
282 Washington Street
Hartford, CT 06106
TEL (860) 545-9988
FAX (860) 545-9975
www.ctsafekids.org

EDITOR
Karen Brock, MPH
Director
Connecticut SAFE KIDS

CONTRIBUTOR
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH
Director
Injury Prevention Center,
Connecticut Children's
Medical Center

Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Don't let this holiday season shock you



With the holidays approaching, there are many dangers for children from holiday lights and decorations. According to data from the CPSC, nearly 5,000 children under the age of 15 were treated in emergency departments for injuries from holiday and party supplies. Below are tips on how to keep your family safe from fire and injury during the holidays.

TREES

- For artificial trees, buy only those labeled "fire resistant."
- For live trees, purchase only fresh trees. Fresh trees are green, don't lose many needles when tapped on the ground, and have a trunk butt sticky with resin.
- When setting up the tree, keep away from radiators and fireplaces. Water live trees regularly so they don't dry out. Place the tree out of the way of traffic.

LIGHTS

- Use no more than three standard-sized sets of lights per extension cord.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy Holidays! Autumn has been very busy as always. Thank you to everyone who attended and presented at the Connecticut SAFE KIDS 5th Annual Injury Prevention Conference. I hope that having national speakers on grant-seeking and on CPS certification was helpful and gave everyone new ideas and energy for their injury prevention projects.



This winter, we are again attempting to pass a booster seat bill. We have high hopes that this will be our year. But, we need your help! Please contact your legislators, especially if they are newly elected, to speak with them about booster seats. Legislators always want to hear from their constituents, so please let them know how a booster seat law will keep Connecticut kids safe!

We are also working on a *Play Safe! Be Safe!* fire safety workshop. It will be held on Tuesday, June 14, 2005 at Norwalk Community College. This workshop is aimed at effectively teaching preschoolers about fire safety. The event will be free and more information will be available soon.

Finally, please keep in mind that our quarterly coalition meetings are being held off-site due to construction issues. The February meeting will be at the East Hartford Elks Lodge and the April meeting will be at the Connecticut Fire Academy. I hope to see you there!

Karen
Karen Brock

(continued on page 2)

Kudos!

Congratulations to Windham County Chapter's Jean Callaghan. She was named Police Officer of the Year by the Connecticut Association of Women Police Officers. She was chosen for her leadership, community service, and mentoring, and she was commended for always going above and beyond what she is required to do. Congratulations! •

We're Honored!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS won the Bell Sportsmanship Award at the National SAFE KIDS Leadership Conference in October. Thank you to everyone who worked and works on bike helmet safety. Great job everyone! •

Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grantees



Congratulations to the Fall 2004 Keep Kids Safe License Plate grantees!

In November, these groups received funds for their programs to keep kids safe from unintentional injuries:

Columbus Elementary School, Health Center: Multi-lingual Bike Helmet Awareness; **Plymouth Fire Marshal's Office:** Riskwatch; **New London County SAFE KIDS:** Reverse Citations for Bike Helmet Use; **St. Mary's Hospital:** Safety Street; **Glastonbury Police Department:** Bike Helmets from Home Assessment Visits; **New Milford Police Department:** Child Passenger Safety; **City of Norwalk Department of Health:** Buckle Bear Passenger Safety Kit; **Northend Elementary School:** Fire Safety Education and Smoke Detectors •

Don't let this holiday season shock you

(continued from page 1)

- Only use those lights outdoors that have labels certifying their outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoors lights securely to firm supports (house, trees, etc.). Use only insulated staples or hooks to hold light strands in place. Do not use nails or tacks.

DECORATIONS

- Choose only flame-resistant or non-combustible materials to trim a tree. Use tinsel or artificial icicles of nonleaded metals or plastic. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- For homes with small children, avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable. Keep decorations with small removable parts out of reach of children, so they don't swallow or inhale the small parts. Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food, which a child may be tempted to eat.

FIREPLACES

- Be careful of "fire salts" which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They have heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.

Information courtesy of the Consumer Product Safety Commission



Bravo!

Karen Buckley-Bates, Legislative Liaison for the Department of Public Health, accepts the Advocacy for Children Award from Karen Brock at the 5th Annual Connecticut SAFE KIDS Injury Prevention Conference. Karen Buckley-Bates has consistently worked hard to make children safe and is committed to making sure all kids ride safely in booster seats.



Congrats, grads!

In October, the South Windsor Police Department held a four-day child passenger safety class at the South Windsor Fire Headquarters. Congratulations to all new technicians!



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Great Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

GWSK had a busy fall. In early October, they helped Geoffrey celebrate his birthday and participated in a safety day at Toys R Us. On October 6th, GWSK, FedEx, CT SAFE KIDS, 125 students and teachers from the Woodrow Wilson Elementary School and special guest, Geoffrey from Toys R Us, participated in a successful "Walk To School Day." Finishing up October, GWSK taught Halloween and pedestrian safety to two area nursery schools. Halloween bags and tips were distributed to 300 children who participate in the after-school program.

Additionally, GWSK taught motor vehicle safety to the Litchfield Head Start program, bicycle safety to Waterbury elementary school children (each child was given a bicycle reflector) and is currently distributing 1,000 of their holiday safety tags to area nurseries and tree farms. For more information call Sheila Staib, GWSK, at (203) 709-3655.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

This fall, WCSK members attended the Region II (formerly Tri-State) Conference in Saratoga Springs, NY. The conference was a great place to brainstorm on new techniques to improve efforts in CPS and unintentional injury prevention.

The Blinky Light Fundraiser was a huge success. WCSK would like to give a huge thanks to all, especially Sandy Tullius, who sold blinky lights which helped purchase car seats. Additionally, WCSK participated in a safety event for Commerce Drive, an Early Childhood center where one highlight was a safety room- a room

set up as an example of what NOT to leave your house like. WCSK concluded the year with three more car seat clinics at Putnam Middle School, co-sponsored with Day Kimball Hospital; New Heights Day Care; and Champagne Chevrolet. WCSK would like to thank all its members, sponsors, community agencies and volunteers who have helped them in 2004. For more information contact Marisol Feliciano, WCSK, at (860) 423-4534.

Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSK)

For more information, please contact Kathy Shea, GNHSK at 203-562-3320.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

During the fall, NLCSK participated in dozens of events in which they promoted children's safety. These include but are not limited to: Waterford Family Day, Norwich Family Day, Groton Sub-base Fire Department Safety Day, Centro's Family Nite, Tip a Doc, Groton Elks Lodge bike rodeo, Community Baby Shower, Electric Boat Health/Safety Fair, and several car seat clinics. Additionally, NLCSK reached over 3,000 seats checked at their inspection stations located at L&M Hospital and Mohegan Tribe.

NLCSK has also made several changes to their website, which they encourage parents and caregivers to utilize: www.nlcsafekids.org. For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

This fall, FCSK members were busy with car seat clinics, helmet safety programs, safety presentations and a 32-hour CPS Technician Course at

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

February 3, 2005

Coalition Meeting*
Noon to 2pm
East Hartford Elks Lodge

February 13 – 19, 2005

National Child Passenger Safety Week

March 20 – 26, 2005

National Poison Prevention Week

April 7, 2005

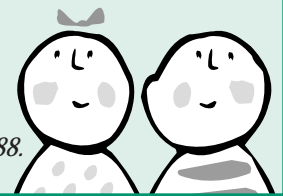
Coalition Meeting
Noon to 2pm, CT Fire Academy
Windsor Locks, CT

*Tours of the Academy will be given at 11am and 2pm. Please specify which tour you'd like when you RSVP**

April 30 – May 7, 2005

National SAFE KIDS Week

** To RSVP for this meeting, please call 860-545-9988.*



Brookfield Volunteer Fire Department. Bob Cordes was appointed to the Wellness Committee of Northern Fairfield County United Way; he will help develop new RFP's on health issues in Greater Danbury. FCSK has updated its fleet due to the generosity of long time partner Karl Chevrolet of New Canaan (2005 Trailblazer) and new partner Toyota of Westport (2005 Sienna van). FCSK is gearing up for the 2005 Legislative session; this is the year that our statewide grassroots movement will PASS booster seat legislation. The next Coalition meeting will be January 20, 2005 at the FCSK office from 12pm-2pm; all are welcome. For more information, call Bob Cordes, FCSK, at (203) 853-7115.

Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS (VASK)

For information, call Frank or June Marcucio, VASK, at (203) 888-8843.

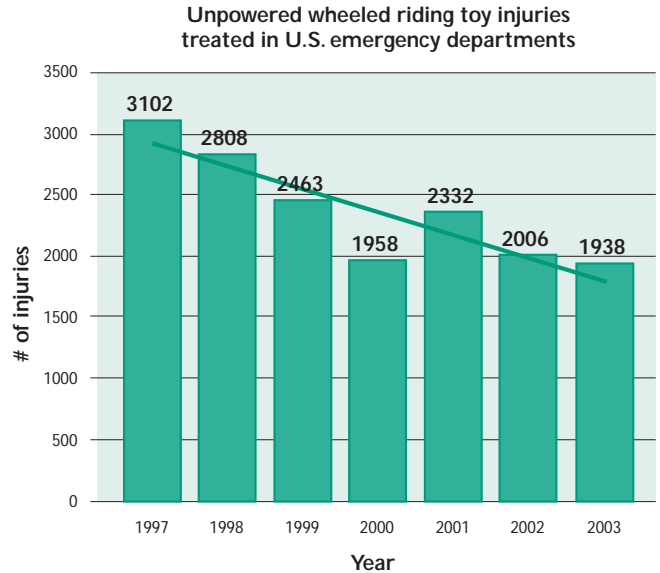


Toy injuries

Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimated that 152,191 children under the age of 15 in 2003 were treated for toy-related injuries. The majority of injuries were lacerations, contusions, and abrasions, which occurred when the children were hit by toys, or fell off, over, or into them. More injuries were associated with riding toys (including tricycles, low-slung three-wheeled toys, hocking horses, and wagons) than any other type of toy. Fortu-

nately, the frequency of injuries due to unpowered wheeled riding toys resulting in an emergency department visit has decreased by 37% from 1997 to 2003. Severe injuries or deaths involved children who rode into pools or were "run over" by motor vehicles backing out of driveways. •



Source: U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission -NEISS database, 1997-2003



Don't let this holiday season shock you

NOV. 29 WINTER 2005

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition
282 Washington Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ctsafekids.org
RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Non Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Hartford, CT
Permit No. 3745