

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

**Editor: Karen Brock, MPH**  
Director, Safe Kids Connecticut

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

**Honorary Chairman:**  
**Senator Christopher J. Dodd**



For more information,  
please contact:  
**Safe Kids Connecticut**  
**860-545-9988**

or your local Safe Kids Chapter  
or Coalition

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## Toy Safety

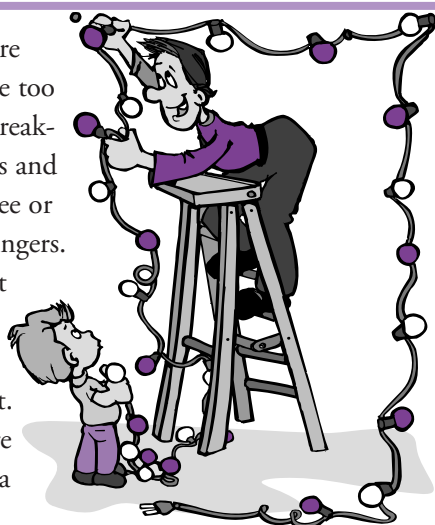
Every year, more than 3 billion toys are sold in the United States. The holiday season is a time when more of these toys are being chosen for kids. Parents and caregivers want to be aware that the toys they choose should be fun, but safe as well. In 2003, 11 children died and over 155,000 were injured by toys. To help keep kids safe, here are some tips that can be used year-round:

-  Consider the child's age, interests and skill level; look for quality design and construction; and follow age and safety recommendations on labels.
-  Only use toys in a safe environment. For example, riding toys should not be used near stairs, traffic or swimming pools.
-  Look over both old and new toys for damage and hazards. Make any necessary repairs immediately or discard damaged toys out of children's reach.
-  Electrical toys can burn. Kids under age 8 should not use toys with electrical plugs or batteries.
-  Be aware the toys can be recalled. Check [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) (U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission) regularly for information on recent toy recalls.
-  **ALWAYS** supervise kids at play.

*Information courtesy of Safe Kids Worldwide.*

# Safe Decorations

Holiday decorations are very festive, but can be too alluring to kids. Put breakable or tiny ornaments and tinsel higher on the tree or out of reach of little fingers. Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food, which a child may be tempted to eat. Make sure all lights are tested for safety, with a CSA or UL approved seal. Also, ensure that lights used outdoors are certified for outdoor use. Finally, turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. •



# Be in the Know about CO!

Winter is the prime season for carbon monoxide (CO) poisonings. Keep your family safe by installing a CO detector in your home, having your heating system serviced yearly and never using charcoal grills inside the home or in an attached garage. Symptoms of CO poisoning mimic the flu: headache, nausea, vomiting, weakness, fatigue and confusion. If several household members become ill at the same time, seek medical help as it may be CO poisoning, rather than the flu. •

## REPORTING ON CHILDHOOD INJURY

### Nonpowder guns

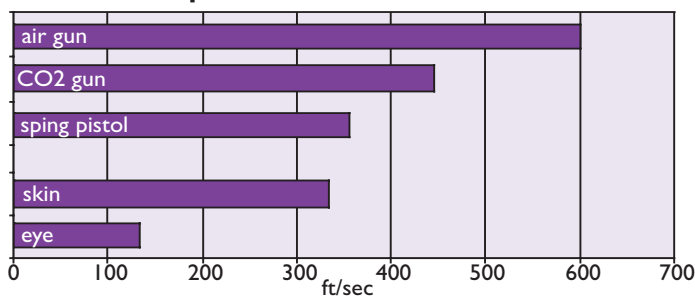
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine



Nonpowder guns such as BB guns, pellet guns, air rifles, and paintball guns are categorized as toy firearms. The muzzle velocity of these guns can range from 150 ft/sec to 1,200 ft/sec. Ocular penetration can occur at 130 ft/sec and skin at 331 ft/sec.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that there are approximately 3.2 million nonpowder guns sold yearly in many department and toy stores. Each year, there were an estimated 22,000 nonpowder gun-related injuries treated in U.S. emergency departments. Most occurred to boys, 5-14 years of age. Injuries to the eye (12%), head and neck (24%), and extremities (63%) are most common. •


**Comparison of nonpowder muzzle velocity and penetration of human tissue**



Source: Injury risk of nonpowder guns, Pediatrics, 2004;114:1357-1361.

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