



NO. 17

WINTER 2002

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

## New Britain "walks this way."



FedEx employees delivered a reminder to students from Northend Elementary School to walk safely during New Britain's "Walk This Way" program in October.

On October 2, 2001, nearly 75 children and their families joined local FedEx Employees and members of the Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition for the annual "Walk This Way" program.

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

## Pleased and proud



Eileen A. Henzy

As we wrap up another year of numerous injury prevention programs throughout the state, I would like to share with you an excerpt from a letter the Coalition received recently from Senator Christopher Dodd, Honorary Chair of Connecticut SAFE KIDS since 1995.

*We have worked together for several years now, and each year I am thrilled to see the progress you have made in keeping kids safe. Preventable injury is the biggest killer of children ages 14 and younger, and I am very proud that Connecticut has such an innovative and caring SAFE KIDS program. Working to ensure the safety and well-being of our children is a policy that we all can agree on, and, further, is a goal that we can all do more to achieve. Educational initiatives that focus on public awareness and safety, such as the numerous activities you offer, are our best tools in reducing the number of children killed or injured due to preventable injury. We owe a debt of gratitude to the Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition for your tireless work and for continuing to be an ideal model and teacher for our parents, children and communities.*

As we enter the year 2002, the Coalition will be evolving to encompass more regional chapters and programs. If you or your organization are interested in coordinating a local chapter or coalition, please contact me. More information regarding this opportunity will be provided at the February Coalition meeting and at the April SAFE KIDS Conference.

As always, please feel free to contact Connecticut SAFE KIDS for guidance and support. I wish each and every one of you a happy, healthy and SAFE 2002.

**Sergeant Marty Lane**, of Connecticut State Police Troop F in Westbrook, submitted the winning entry for the "Name the Connecticut SAFE KIDS Van License Plate" contest. Sergeant Lane's clever abbreviation, "RUSAFE," will appear on the license plate of the SAFE KIDS van, which brings life-saving information to Car Seat Check-Up events around Connecticut.

**June Marcucio**, of Valley Amity SAFE KIDS Coalition, was honored by Griffin Hospital as one of the "Women Making a Difference in Health Care" in the Naugatuck Valley.

Best wishes to **Molly Temple**, who served Connecticut SAFE KIDS first as a student intern and, most recently, as our Child Passenger Safety coordinator. Molly is now program manager for the Coalition to Stop Underage Drinking, and we wish her the best of luck in this new position. ■

## New Britain "walks this way."

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FedEx employees, Mayor Lucian Pawlack, Principal Nicholas Campagna and the students of the Northend Elementary School walked to school safely. Also supporting the event were the New Britain Police Department, New Britain EMS and the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition.

Following the walk, Mayor Pawlack proclaimed October 2 "New Britain Walk Your Child to School Day." FedEx Employees and Principal Campagna were presented with Child Safety Leadership awards from Connecticut SAFE KIDS. Many of the children stayed outside after the program to learn pedestrian safety skills and to tour the FedEx trucks.

The Northend Elementary School will participate in ongoing efforts with Connecticut SAFE KIDS and the Connecticut Bicycle Coalition to improve the walkability of their neighborhood. We applaud the school, FedEx employees, and New Britain Police and EMS for their efforts to keep kids safe. ■

## Congratulations!

In October, innovative programs from around the state were awarded funds from the fall round of Keep Kids Safe license plate grants.



**AMERICAN SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**  
Bike Safety Video for Students

**ANSONIA RESCUE MEDICAL SERVICES**  
Bike Safety Rodeo

**BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF CONNECTICUT**  
Bicycle Safety Education

**COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLNESS INC.**  
Scooter/Skateboard Safety Program

**COVENANT TO CARE**  
Home Safety Program

**EAST HARTFORD SCHOOL SYSTEM**  
Elementary School Injury Prevention Program

**EAST HAVEN FIRE DEPARTMENT**  
Fire Safety Program

**MONTVILLE NONPROFIT GATEWAY INC.**  
Elementary School Injury Prevention Program

**PROSPECT OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL**  
Carbon Monoxide Detector and  
Smoke Alarm Distribution

Look for the application for spring grants in late December 2001. The application will be mailed to all Coalition members and available on our web site at [www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org) ■

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*Honorary Chairman*

**Senator Christopher J. Dodd**



## Reporting on childhood injury: Residential fires in Connecticut

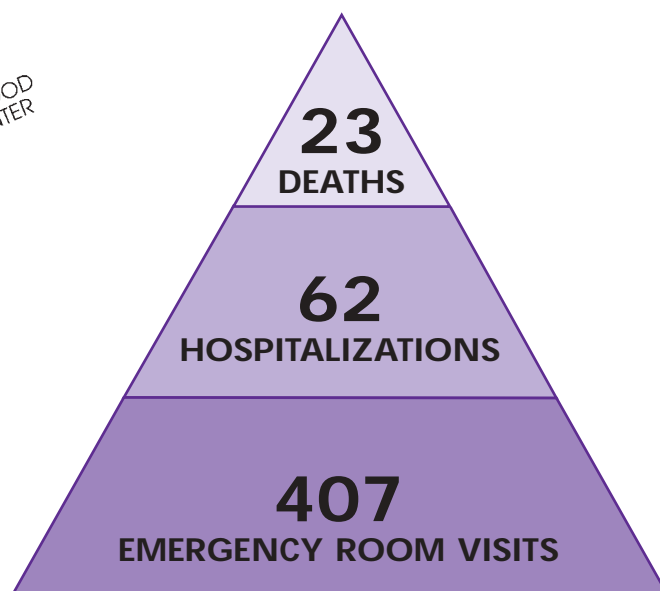


Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH  
Director, Connecticut Childhood Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Assistant Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Nearly 79% of all deaths from fire occur in the home. Children under age 4 are at greatest risk for death and injury in a fire. They also have a fire death rate of more than twice the national average.

Fires caused by matches or lighters have steadily declined since 1980, but candle-related fires have increased 750% in the same period. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the Consumer Product Safety Commission, children playing with or near a candle was one of the biggest contributors to candle fires.

Sadly, deaths from fires are just the tip of the iceberg. Even more numerous are hospitalizations and emergency room visits, as shown at right. ■



**Related to house fires for children 14 and under from 1995-1998 in Connecticut.**

SOURCE: CONNECTICUT CHILDHOOD INJURY PREVENTION CENTER

**House fire prevention is so simple:**

**For \$20, a working smoke alarm cuts in half the risk of death in a fire.**

## A cool video

**"Be Cool About Fire Safety."**

A new video, provided by the United States Fire Administration and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign, tells a serious story about fire safety for children between 8 and 11 years old. Rap music on "Be Cool About Fire Safety" keeps the video fast-paced and

fun to watch.

Borrow the video from Connecticut SAFE KIDS, or order your own copy for \$20 payable to the "American Trauma Society" and mailed to 8903 Presidential Parkway, Suite 512, Upper Marlboro, MD 20772. ■

## New nationwide poison control center number

One toll-free phone number now automatically connects callers to the nearest poison control center in all 50 states. Free safety kits, including telephone stickers (as pictured here), are available from the Connecticut Poison Control Center (860) 679-3531 ext. 2. ■

**NATIONWIDE NUMBER**



Cut out and tape this number to your phone. Also write down and carry it with you at all times.

## Why become a SAFE KIDS member?

- You will receive the latest research and program information.
  - You will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost safety supplies and materials for your program.
  - You will be participating in an active, growing movement to reduce childhood injury.
- Please send me a SAFE KIDS brochure and membership application.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Daytime Telephone: ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_

or call (860) 545-9988

## Mark your calendar!

**February 7, 2002**  
Noon – 2 p.m.

**Coalition Meeting\***  
CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D

**February 10-16, 2002** **Child Passenger Safety Week**

**March 17-23, 2002** **Poison Prevention Week**

**April 2002** **Youth Sports Safety Month**

**April 4, 2002**

**Connecticut SAFE KIDS Annual Workshop**  
Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill.  
Keynote Address: Dr. Nadine Levick on "Safe Transport of Children in Ambulances." Registration materials will be mailed in late February.

**For more information**  
**[www.ctsafekids.org](http://www.ctsafekids.org)**

\* Please RSVP attendance at (860) 545-9988.

**New Britain**  
**"walks this way."**



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