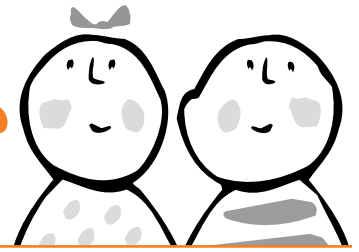




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

*Dedicated to
reducing
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Connecticut
children*

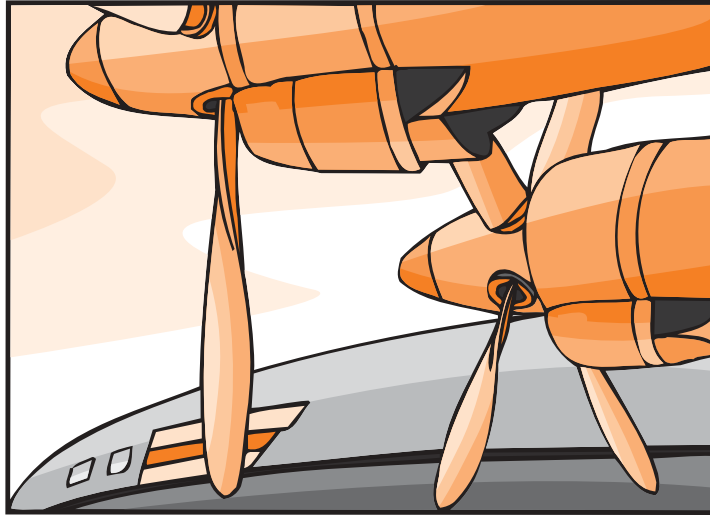
FALL 2003

Connecticut
SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
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Hartford, CT 06106
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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Travel safely on airplanes this fall

With families getting ready to travel for fall vacations and the holidays, it is important to remember some safety tips for traveling with children on an airplane. Many parents and caregivers choose to bring their child's car seat with them, rather than renting, borrowing or purchasing another car seat at their destination. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) strongly recommends that children under age 2 ride in a car seat on an airplane, while the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children up to 40 pounds use a car seat on an airplane. Please make sure that the car seat is certified for aircraft use, by reading the label.

Here are some safe airline travel tips:

- Aircraft-certified infant seats, convertibles, and forward facing car seats with harness, may be used on an airline, while booster seats and vests (even if certified) may not
- Car seats with tethers can be used without the tethers anchored in an airplane
- If bringing a rear-facing seat, ask for the bulkhead seats, which would have extra room
- Use the car seat correctly by following the manufacturer's instructions, tightening the seat belt, and keeping the harness straps snug and buckled during the flight.

INFORMATION COURTESY OF SAFE RIDE NEWS AND THE FAA.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Connecticut SAFE KIDS has had a busy summer. We have hosted and participated in many, many car seat clinics around the state, as well as having several programs on bike safety and 911 safety (with our lovely 911 Simulator!).



Connecticut SAFE KIDS is currently working on expanding our supply of injury prevention materials that can be borrowed by Connecticut SAFE KIDS members for community education. In addition to the mobile car seat clinic van, the 911 Simulator and the jello brain molds, this fall we will also be getting eight poison safety "buzz" boxes, to be located around the state, which will be available for borrowing by Connecticut SAFE KIDS members. (To reserve any of these materials, please phone with the date you need the materials, as well as when you are able to pick them up and drop them off. Reservations are done on a first-come, first-serve basis.) We hope that these materials will help our members better educate their communities about the importance of unintentional injury prevention. We appreciate everything you are already doing and hope that these materials will add to your already excellent programs!

I hope everyone has a busy and safe autumn!

Karen Brock

Poison safety boxes installed state-wide



Connecticut SAFE KIDS has purchased eight poison boxes that will be located around the state. These poison safety boxes, similar to the ones at the Connecticut Poison Control Center, show children that candies and poisons look alike, often having the same size, shape and color. These interactive boxes engage the children (and adults) into recognizing that candies and medication are often confused and that it is critical for poisons and medications to be locked up. These boxes will come with an explanation of use, poison prevention materials, and identification of the candies and may be borrowed by CT SAFE KIDS members. Please call CT SAFE KIDS for more information. •

License Plate Funding Available

The Keep Kids Safe License Plate grant applications are now available online at www.ctsafekids.org or by calling 860-545-9988. There will be only one round of applications this year, but the grant amounts have increased. You may apply for one of three levels of grants: \$4,000, \$2,500 or \$2,000. Applications should be **postmarked** by October 17th.

CT SAFE KIDS Welcomes Its Newest Chapter: Greater New Haven

Connecticut SAFE KIDS would like to welcome its newest chapter, the Greater New Haven Chapter of Connecticut SAFE KIDS! This chapter is led by New Haven Sponsor Hospital Program and includes the towns of New Haven, West Haven, East Haven, North Haven, Hamden, Branford, North Branford, Guilford and Madison. Greater New Haven is planning a kick-off bicycle rodeo and fire safety event in early October. Please contact Kathy Shea, New Haven Sponsor Hospital Program, at 203-562-3320 or kshea@sponsorhospital.org for more information. Congratulations to them! •



WINDHAM BOOSTER SEATS ON PARADE – Congratulations to the Windham County chapter on its participation in the 4th of July Boom Box Parade in Willimantic. They proudly showed the importance of a booster seat, while taking a dial-a-belt on the road!

CPS Update/ Refresher Class

Connecticut SAFE KIDS will be hosting the 2003 National SAFE KIDS version of the CPS Update/ Refresher Class on October 21st at the Middletown Police Department. Sign-in starts at 8:30 and class starts at 9:00 and should end around 4:00. Lunch will be served and the class is free of charge. Please call CT SAFE KIDS at 860-545-9977 to register. •

Change the time, change your batteries.

Daylight Saving Time will end on October 26th and at that time, we will set our clocks back one hour. This is an ideal time to check the batteries on your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, and change the batteries! •



Keep informed of Connecticut SAFE KIDS happenings!
Sign up for our listserve at
groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsafekids



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSK)

The Greater New Haven Chapter is the newest CT SAFE KIDS chapter. Greater New Haven is planning their kick-off event as a chapter, a bicycle rodeo and fire safety event, for October 4th in New Haven. Please contact Kathy Shea, Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, at 203-562-3320 or kshea@sponsorhospital.org for more information.

Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

GWSK had a busy summer. For child passenger safety (CPS), they conducted an Update/Refresher class in June, hosted car seat clinics, made several presentations on CPS to community groups and schools and are running active fitting stations at the Waterbury Police Department and AMR Ambulance. They also did several bike safety presentations to schools, summer camps, a boy scout troop, and a grocery store. Finally, GWSK participated in many safety fairs, including Waterbury Hospital's Annual Kid Care Club Safety Day and the NAACP Health Fair, as well as creating a Summertime Safety table at the Waterbury Health Department with handouts on CPS and sports, bicycle, and heat-related safety. For more information call Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 597-3655.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

WCSK has been busy this summer, hosting six car seat clinics and helping out at others. WCSK walked in Willimantic's 4th of July Boom Box Parade and participated in safety fairs, evening festivals, and conferences. Additionally, WCSK conducted a pedestrian survey for a national study.

Finally, their Willimantic Fire Department proudly unveiled its new educational trailer and interactive robot. For more information call Karin Davis, Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (860) 423-4534.

Valley Amity SAFE KIDS (VASK)

This summer, the Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS / Safe Communities Program of the Lower Naugatuck Valley was recognized by PureVisual as the runner up for their inaugural New England *Spotlight on Service Award*, winning consultation and assistance to outline web design on their new website. Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS is the only EMS-based organizations of its kind in the nation to provide the scope of informational programs through an EMS focus. Frank Marcucio stated, "This award will give us a great opportunity to directly impact our mission statement and potentially expand our educational and public service marketing through the internet. It will also hopefully open a new revenue stream through internet sponsorship of our web-site. It will give all age groups access to our programs and keep them up to date on various injury prevention initiatives, programs and topics in an interactive and friendly environment." For more information, call Frank or June Marcucio, VASK, at (203) 888-8843.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

New London County SAFE KIDS heated up this summer by working on several areas of injury prevention for kids. Our efforts included educating hundreds of families on the importance of water safety by using the new water safety kits, holding several car seat/booster seat clinics, sharing the 911 simulator with local summer camps, and attending the various health and

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

October

Children's Health Month

October 19 – 25, 2003

National School Bus Safety Week

October 26, 2003

Time change

Change the time,

Change your batteries!

November 5, 2003

(Wednesday)

Coalition Meeting

Noon – 2pm

CCMC, Level G, Room C&D

February 5, 2003

Coalition Meeting

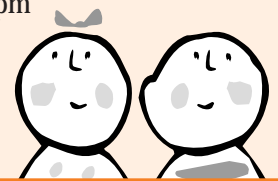
Noon – 2pm

CCMC,

Level G,

Room

C&D



safety fairs. The child safety seat inspection station has been so successful through Lawrence and Memorial Hospital that it has now been expanded to include an additional day through the Mohegan Tribe and Casino. This sister program will initially service casino employees (over 11,000) only and then may branch out to the community at large. During September NLCSK will reach the 1,500 child seat inspected! For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

This summer, FCSK moved and is no longer at Stamford Hospital. Their new location is with Greenwich Hospital. Both their postal address and phone number have changed, but their web address remains the same. For more information, call Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway, FCSK, at (203) 863-4744.



CO detectors critical to child safety

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

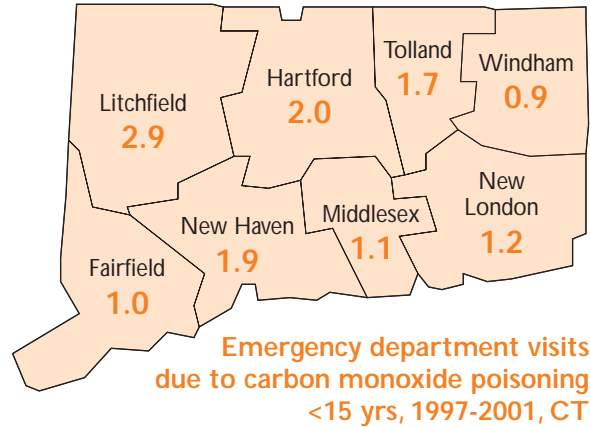
When people hear “change the time, change your batteries,” many people associate that only with smoke detectors. While smoke detectors are important, carbon monoxide detectors are critical as well. In Connecticut, during the five year period from 1997 to 2001, there were 580 emergency department (ED) visits for treatment of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning among Connecticut children under 15 years of age. The statewide rate was 1.6 ED visits per

10,000 population. Rates were highest in Litchfield County (2.9) and lowest in Windham County (0.9).

CO is produced whenever fuel such as gas, oil, kerosene, wood or charcoal is burned. The amount of CO produced while using fuel-burning appliances is usually not harmful. It becomes hazardous when appliances are used improperly or are not functioning adequately. At the beginning of every heating season, home owners should have their fuel burning appliances checked

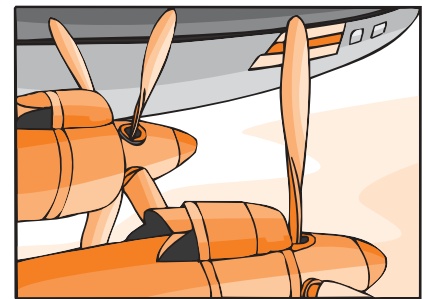
by a qualified technician. Appliances deteriorate with time and can be a health risk to those who live in the home. Besides having your

appliances inspected, those using fuel-burning appliances should have their homes equipped with CO detectors. •



Source: Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

Travel safely
this fall



NO. 24
FALL 2003

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition
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Hartford, Connecticut 06106
www.ctsafekids.org



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