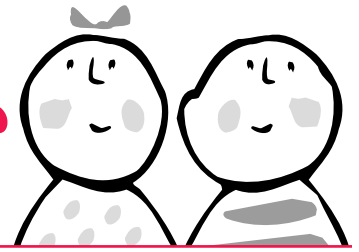




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

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

SUMMER 2004

Connecticut
SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Splash into Safety!



Drowning remains the second leading injury-related killer of children ages 1-14, claiming more than 900 children's lives each year nationwide. No single safety device will work in all cases of drowning prevention. Effective water safety means the use of four factors – *supervision, environment, gear and education.*

In keeping with the SAFE KIDS Week theme of "Splash into Safety!," National SAFE KIDS released the study, *Clear Danger: A National Study of Childhood Drowning and Related Attitudes and Behaviors* which revealed that 88 percent of children who drowned were under the supervision of another person, usually a family member. While better **quality** supervision is critical, the study also found that many adults were not practicing other safe water behaviors such as properly fencing pools, requiring the use of personal flotation devices (PFDs), or teaching their children how to swim. Additionally, SAFE KIDS found that the majority (55 percent) of parents say they are "not at all worried" or "not very worried" about their child drowning.

Here is what parents can do to keep their kids safe!

- ⊕ **Supervision:** Adults should take turns serving as the "water watcher" – a person whose sole responsibility it is to constantly observe children in or near the water.
- ⊕ **Environment:** Installation and proper use of four-sided isolation fencing could prevent 50-90 percent of residential pool drownings.
- ⊕ **Gear:** It is estimated that 85 percent of boat-related drownings could be prevented if all passengers were wearing properly fitting life vests.
- ⊕ **Education:** Children should be enrolled in swimming lessons with a certified instructor by the age of eight. •

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Summer is finally here and much has happened during our busy spring!



One of our biggest spring projects was working on the booster seat bill, SB 410. We successfully passed through the Transportation and Judiciary Committees and passed unanimously in the Senate. We were even called for a vote in the House the second to last day of the legislative session, but after voting on only 2 amendments, we were set aside in the interest of time. In the end, our bill died in the House again. We are very frustrated, especially since the Connecticut law is not the best practice for the child and 26 other states have booster seat laws!

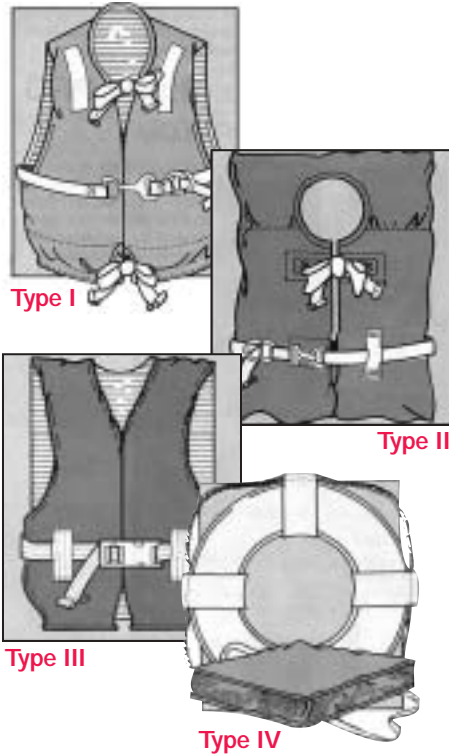
On a more positive note, we had a very successful CT SAFE KIDS Day on the front lawn of CCMC. The sun was shining, the presenters were interesting and informative, and the third and fourth graders from Burns Elementary School had a great time and learned a lot. Thank you to all the great volunteers who came out to help!

Besides the many car seat clinics and other safety programs for this summer, CT SAFE KIDS is also working on our 5th Annual Injury Prevention Workshop (September 16th). Look for more information and registration packets to be mailed out soon.

I hope everyone was a safe and sunny summer!

Karen
Karen Brock

Do You Know Your PFDs? (Personal Floatation Devices)



One of the important points of water safety is to wear a PFD when you are on or near the water. However, it is also important to know the different types!

Type I PFDs/ Off-Shore Life Jackets are the most buoyant. Best for all waters, open ocean, rough seas or remote water where rescue may be slow in coming. Provides best chance of survival for unconscious wearer or non-swimmer if worn. May be uncomfortable if worn for long periods of time.

Type II PFDs/ Near Shore Buoyant Vests are best for general boating; calm, inland waters; or where there is a good chance for fast rescue. Best compromise between Type I buoyancy and wearer comfort.

Type III PFDs/ Flotation Aids are best for general boating or other uses specified on device. Designed to provide a stable, face-up position in calm water for wearer floating with head tilted back. Comfortable enough to be worn for extended periods of time, but will not keep unconscious wearer's face clear of the water. Not intended for extended survival in rough water.

Type IV PFDs/ Throwable Devices are designed to be grasped and held by user until help arrives. Provides enough buoyancy for wearer to hold head out of water. For use in calm, inland water with heavy boat traffic, where help is always nearby.

Information courtesy of the U.S. Coast Guard



SAFE KIDS Day is a sunny success with the Elks mascot signing autographs, assisted by Elks Major Projects Chair Jim Carroll and Burns Elementary School Principal Irvin Guidicelli (above). Mark Blake helps the kids climb the down the ladder to safety from the Hartford Fire Department Smoke House (right).



Water Safety Tips

Splashing into water safety? The United States Army Corps of Engineers has a website



where you can order or download water safety materials geared toward kids. Just go to <http://watersafety.usace.army.mil> to find all sorts of fun and free information! •

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 Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

This spring was focused on CPS and safety fairs. In March, Greater Waterbury hosted a car seat clinic at AMR. While in April, they hosted a four-day car seat technician training class at the Waterbury Police Department, with the student clinic again at AMR, and also assisted in the training class in South Windsor. GWSK attended a safety fair at Naugatuck Valley Community College, a Kids Safety Day at the Barnard Elementary School, a safety day at the Rotelli Elementary School, and a Mother's Day fair at the Brass City Mall. They also donated reflectors and helmets and participated in a bicycle rodeo at the Silas Bronson Library in Waterbury. For more information call Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 597-3655.

Congratulations to Pat Zainc, who won the Kids Are Great Award! The Kids Are Great Awards honor individuals in the areas of health-care, education and community service who have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to the welfare of Connecticut's children. The awards program is presented by Waterbury Hospital and Connecticut Children's Medical Center, and sponsored by Dunkin' Donuts. Pat won the Health/Medical Award for her volunteer work with car seat safety.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

In April, WCSK hosted a car clinic with Champagne Chevrolet in Willimantic. In addition, three community

awareness workshops were held at Windham Heights Day Care Center, Even Start Program and New Heights Childhood Development Center. A chapter meeting was held at Windham Hospital. In May, the chapter participated in the first annual Windham Community Family Fun Day at Windham Middle School. A community awareness workshop was held at Windham Hospital for the nurses on the Obstetrics floor and another was held along with hands-on exercises for 75 EASTCONN drivers (see picture). A car clinic was held at the Putnam Police Department in Putnam and partnered with the Putnam Elks.



Goodie Johnson works with an EASTCONN student transportation vehicle driver at a CPS workshop held by WWSK.

For more information call Karin Davis, Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (860) 423-4534.

Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSK)

Please contact Kathy Shea, Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, at 203-562-3320 or kshea@sponsorhospital.org for more information.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

New London County SAFE KIDS had a dynamic spring season. Some of their work has included 2 bike rodeos, con-

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

September 2004

Baby Safety Month

September 16, 2004

CT SAFE KIDS Annual Workshop
Rocky Hill Marriott
Rocky Hill, CT

October 3- 9, 2004

National Fire Prevention Week

October 6, 2004

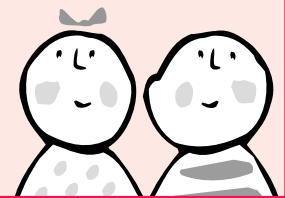
International Walk to School Day

October 17- 23, 2004

National School Bus Safety Week

November 4, 2004

Coalition Meeting
Noon - 2pm
TBA



ducting activities for 3 recently received grants, participating in the legislative season, celebrating both CPS week and SAFE KIDS week with a clinic at the capital and their annual SAFE KIDS fair, and taking part in the many community events. In addition, their membership is in the process of organizing their summer months' activities to ensure that they participate in all of the activities where they are reaching those who need them most. For more information call Esther Schuman, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

For more information, call Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway, FCSK, at (203) 853-7115.

Valley Amity SAFE KIDS (VASK)

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



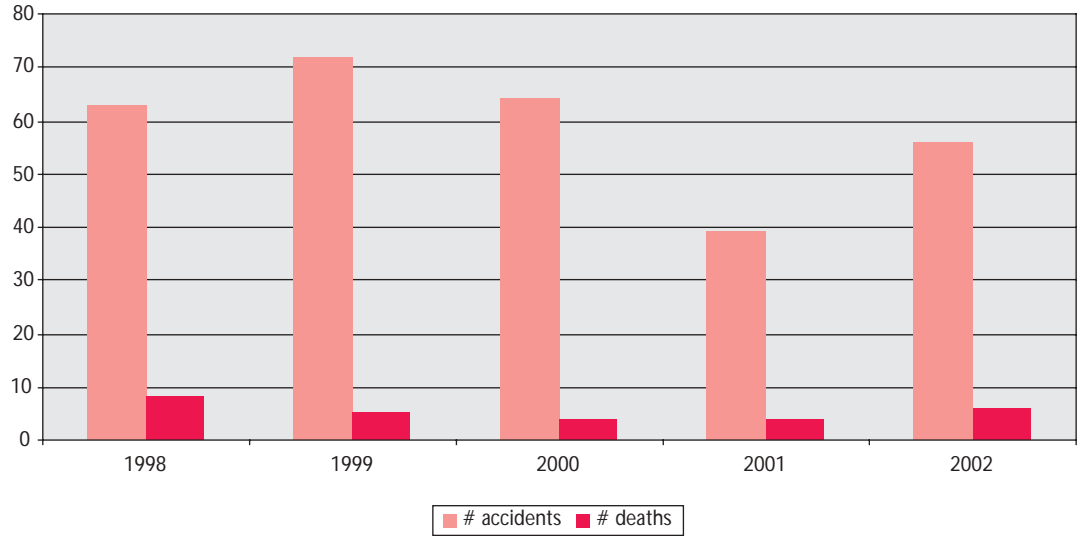
Boating Injuries

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

In 2002, there were 107,641 registered recreational boats in Connecticut. According to the U. S. Coast Guard, in the five year period (1998-2002), there were 294 boating accidents resulting in 27 deaths. Nationwide, alcohol was involved in 39 percent of all boating fatalities and 40 percent of the children who died were not wearing a personal floatation devices.

Source: U. S. Coast Guard, Boating Statistics - 2002, COMDTPUB P16754.16

Recreational boating incidents, 1998-2002, CT



Splash into Safety!



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