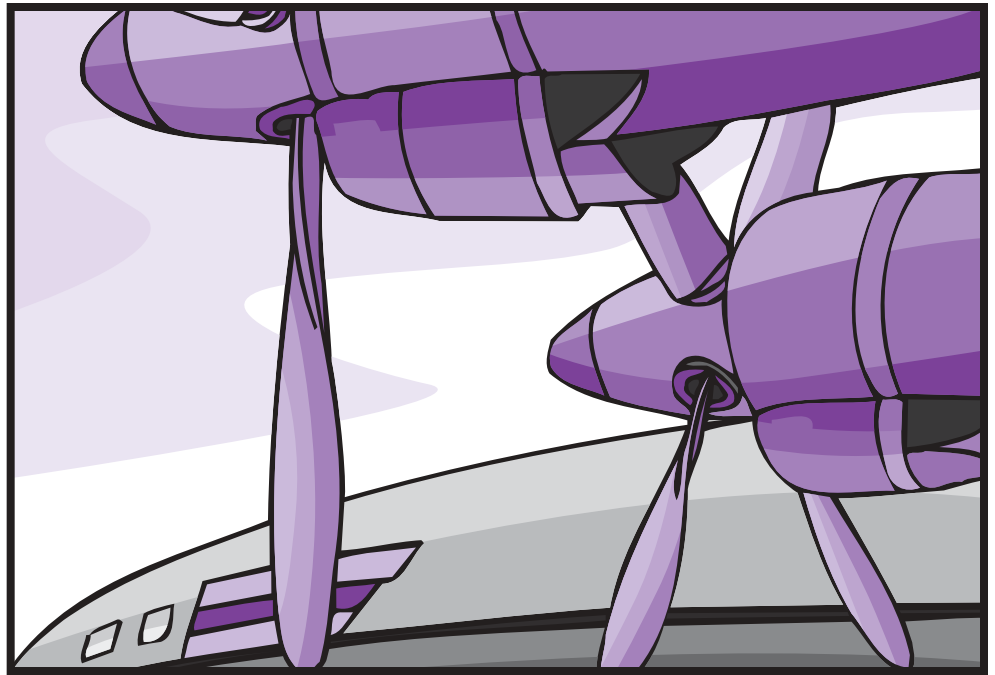




## Travel safely on airplanes this fall

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 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.



Some tips for safe airline travel include: 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.

### Advantages to using a child's own car seat on the airplane

- Both the FAA and AAP recommend children be in car seats on an airline.
- The child will be more comfortable and less frightened in the familiarity of their own car seat.
- The parent/caregiver will be more relaxed without having to hold a child the entire trip.
- Turbulence can happen at any time. Most car seats are tested to make sure the child is held in securely, during turbulence. A child can be ripped from the parent's/caregiver's arms in a crash or turbulence.
- The child's car seat will be available for use immediately at the end of the trip. Since the car seat is not "checked baggage," it will not be lost or damaged during the trip.

# CO Detectors Critical to Child Safety

Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH

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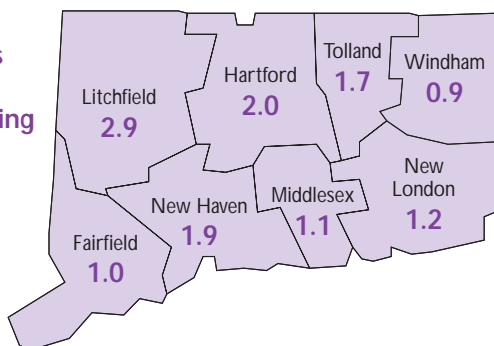
When people hear "change the time, change your batteries," many people associate that only with smoke detectors. While smoke detectors are important, carbon monoxide detectors are critical as well. In Connecticut, during the five year period from 1997 to 2001, there were 580 emergency department (ED) 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. •

**Emergency department visits due to carbon monoxide poisoning <15 yrs, 1997-2001, CT**

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



# 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! •

## 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! •

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Connecticut Children's MEDICAL CENTER



For more information, please contact:

**Connecticut SAFE KIDS** 860-545-9988

or your local SAFE KIDS Coalition

**Fairfield County SAFE KIDS** 203-863-4744

supported by Danbury Hospital and Greenwich Hospital

**New London County SAFE KIDS** 860-442-0733

supported by Lawrence & Memorial Hospital

**Valley Amity SAFE KIDS** 203-888-8843

supported by Seymour Ambulance



## License Plate Funding Available

The Keep Kids Safe License Plate grant applications are now available online at [www.ctsafekids.org](http://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. •