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Safe *kids*

Parents Cautioned: It Doesn't Take a Fire to Burn a Child

New London — As the president proclaims National Burn Awareness Week (February 3-9), Safe Kids reminds parents and caregivers that fire is just one cause of burn injuries — children can also be seriously injured by hot liquids, heating appliances, hot pots and pans, electrical currents and chemicals.

Each year, approximately 116,600 fire/burn-related injuries occur to children. In 2006, more than 100,600 children were treated in emergency rooms for burns. Approximately 8,000 children ages 2-14 were scalded by hot water in 2006. This type of burn is called a “scald burn,” and is a more prevalent type of burn-related injury in younger children than “contact burns,” which are more prevalent in older children and occur when fire is contacted directly. For children ages 0-14 years, there were 512 fire/burn deaths in 2004. “Kids are also at risk around steam irons, curling irons and space heaters,” says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids coordinator. “There’s a lot you can do around the home to minimize the risk of burn injuries in everyday life.”

Safe Kids urges caregivers to:

Set water heaters to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or lower. Consider putting an anti-scald device (about \$30) on each water tap and shower head, and check the temperature of a baby’s bathwater before putting the baby in.

Keep electrical cords out of reach — especially extension cords and cords connected to heating appliances. Make sure electrical cords can’t be pulled or snagged into a bathtub or sink.

Childproof your home. Cover unused electrical outlets. Lock matches, lighters and flammable materials out of a child’s reach. The basics go a long way toward preventing burns and other injuries.

Actively supervise. Simply being in the same room with a child is not necessarily supervising. Safety precautions are important, but there is no substitute for active supervision.

Don’t let kids play with fireworks. Fireworks are intended for use by adults in open spaces with plenty of active supervision for every child present. *Cont. pg 2*



Child Safety Seat Inspections

Tuesdays & Thursdays – 4-7 PM, Lawrence & Memorial Hospital,
1st level of the Parking Garage

Wednesdays 10-1 PM Mohegan Tribe
Eagle View Garage, Sandy Desert Road, Uncasville

1st and 3rd Friday of the Month
Norwich Fire Department, 10 North Thames Street

*Please note:
All Car Seat Checks are by
Appointment ONLY!!!!*

*Please bring your car seat,
directions to the car seat,
and the owner’s manual for
your vehicle.*

Call: (860) 442-0733

Safe Kids also recommends...

Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees F. At higher temperatures, it only takes three seconds to burn a child's skin severely enough to require surgery.

Test your smoke alarms every month. Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every sleeping area.

Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and near fuel-burning appliances.

Put safety gates at the top and bottom of every stairway. Gates installed with hardware are safer than pressure gates.

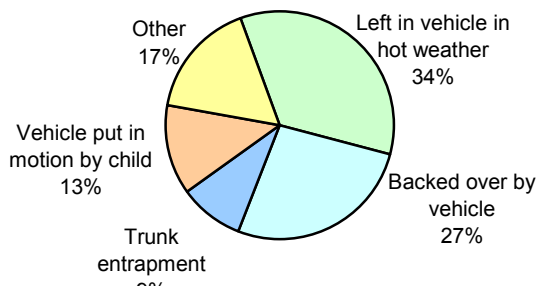
Cover unused electrical outlets. You can buy plastic outlet covers or just use duct tape.

Keep firearms unloaded and locked out of reach. And lock up ammunition in a separate place.



In and Around Vehicle Safety

Deaths from incidents in or around motor vehicles



Backover Injuries

From 2001 to 2003 approximately 7,475 children (2,492 per year) aged 1 to 14 years were treated for non-fatal motor vehicle backover injuries in emergency departments.

Nearly 50 percent of the children injured in backover incidents were 1 to 4 years old; 55 percent were males.

Most backovers occurred at either home or in driveways or parking lots; 47 percent occurred at home, and 40 percent occurred in driveways or parking lots.

Trunk Entrapment

Nine incidents of fatal car trunk entrapments were reported from 1987 to 1998, resulting in 19 deaths to children less than 7 years of age. All of the incidents occurred in hot weather.

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It is still important to take precautions against fire, too. "You need a smoke alarm on each level and in every sleeping area, and make sure each one actually works," says Esther Pendola. Test your smoke alarms once a month and replace the batteries every six months (except for lithium batteries that last for 10 years according to manufacturer's instructions). A working smoke alarm reduces the risk of dying in a fire by about 50 percent.

The theme of this year's Burn Awareness Week is preventing gasoline burns. "According to the Home Fire Sprinkler Coalition, the combination of smoke alarms and sprinklers cuts your chances of dying in a fire by 82 percent," says Pendola. The U.S. Fire Administration, National Fire Protection Association, Underwriters Laboratories, insurance companies and state associations of fire marshals are among the coalition members endorsing home sprinkler systems.



Heat-Related Incidents

Each year, an average of 36 children dies from hyperthermia after being left unattended in a vehicle.

Since March 17th to September 4th, 2007, there have been at least 26 hyperthermia deaths of children who were left in a hot vehicle. Ages of the children ranged from 3 months to 8 years old.

A child's body does not have the same internal temperature control as an adult's, and can warm three times to five times faster.

Heatstroke occurs when the body core temperature reaches 104 degrees F, and a body core temperature of 107 degrees F is usually fatal.

Within 10 minutes, the inside temperature of a vehicle will be almost 20 degrees hotter than the outside temperature, after 30 minutes the vehicle's temperature will be 34 degrees hotter.



Thousands Injured in Furniture Accidents

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 2005 at least 3,000 children younger than 5 were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms because of injuries associated with TV tip-overs. 8,000 to 10,000 people — mostly children — each year go to the emergency room with injuries from furniture tipping over, and about six are killed. In the years between 2000 and 2005, the CPSC states they were sent notifications of 36 deaths due to TVs tipping over and 65 deaths due to furniture tipping over. Kids can be seriously injured or killed as a result of climbing on shelves, bookcases, dressers, TV tables and other furniture.

“If a piece of furniture is top-heavy or unstable, fasten it to a wall using angle braces or anchors,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids New London County assistant coordinator. “Keep heavier items on lower shelves or in lower drawers.” Televisions, stereos or favorite toys sitting on a table or stand might entice a child to reach for the top and pull down the object, the stand or both.

“Tie up loose cords, too — a child pulling on an electrical cord, or tripping on one, could pull an appliance off a stand,” says Murphy.

In response to several child fatalities from furniture-related head injuries, Reps. Allyson Schwartz (D-Pa.), James McGovern (D-Mass.), Vito Fossella (R-NY) and Frank LoBiondo (R-NY) introduced legislation to establish a federal government safety standard for furniture in danger of tipping over. If passed, the legislation would require certain furniture to be sold with anchoring devices.

Kids are also in danger of suffocation if they become accidentally trapped in a cabinet, toy chest or laundry machine; in 2006 alone there were more than 3,800 injuries to children ages 2-14 involving toy chests. Always supervise children around any confined space and keep the doors closed and locked.

Toy chests that meet voluntary standards set by the CPSC are equipped with lid supports that hold the lid open in any position. The standards also call for ventilation holes to prevent suffocation. “If you have a toy chest with a lid that doesn’t stay open, the CPSC recommends you remove the lid or install a spring-loaded lid support,” says Kelly Murphy.

“These are not hazards that kill thousands of children every year, like vehicle crashes or drowning, but they are so easy to prevent and the consequences can be so severe,” says Murphy. “Don’t underestimate the possibility of a small child being crushed by unsteady furniture.”



Gun Safety



Approximately 880 children are treated in the emergency room annually for injuries due to accidental shootings from handguns, shotguns and rifles.

In 2005, there were more than 7,000 non-fatal injuries to children involving BB guns and pellet guns.

Proven Interventions

Two safety devices — gun locks and load indicators — could prevent more than 30 percent of all unintentional firearm deaths.

Gun design changes can prevent unintentional firearm death and injury in children; every unintentional shooting by a child under age 5 years who either killed himself or another could have been prevented with the installation of a safety device.

Letting Your Little One Go on a Play- date?

It’s ok to ask ...
“Do you have guns
in your home?”