

Safe Kids New London County

E-Newsletter contains information on new recalls, safety announcements, and events to help ensure your little ones safety all year long!

May 2011

Life Jackets and Active Supervision Are Essential To Boating Safety

National Safe Boating Week is May 22-28

Whether it's during vacation or part of an ordinary day, boating can be fun for the entire family – as long as everyone remains safe. In 2005, 21 children ages 12 and under were killed in boating incidents. Of the children who drowned while boating in 2003, more than 60 percent were not wearing life jackets. The U.S. Coast Guard reports an estimated 85 percent of boating-related drowning could be prevented by the use of life jackets.

“On a boat, everyone should wear a life jacket at all times,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids New London County coordinator. “Look for a life jacket approved by the U.S. Coast Guard, with a legible label that is the correct size and fit for the wearer. ‘Water wings’ and other inflatable swimming aids such as inner tubes do not prevent drowning.”

Safe Kids New London County recommends that children ages 14 and under wear life jackets not only on boats, but near open bodies of water or when participating in water sports. Connecticut law requires life jackets be worn by children under 13 years old on any vessel that is underway unless the child is below deck or in an enclosed cabin. In addition, life jackets must be worn by anyone operating or riding on a Personal Watercraft (PWC). A PWC is a type of recreational watercraft that the rider rides or stands on rather than inside of, as in a boat. Jet Ski, Wave Runner & Sea Doo are common terms used when describing a PWC. Life jackets must also be worn by anyone being pulled behind a boat (such as tubing or skiing).



Safe Kids New London County urges parents and caregivers to wear life jackets on boats or other watercraft as well. “Your children will pick up and embrace your safety habits,” says Murphy. According to a 2005 study by Safe Kids Worldwide, children are much more likely to practice safe habits when they witness similar behavior by parents and caregivers.

Safety Experts now recommend that children remain rear facing until the age of two! Real crash data tells us that they are 5 times safer in the rear facing position!!!!!!!

Water Safety Cont.

- Never drink alcoholic beverages while boating — a large portion of boating accidents that occur each year involve alcohol consumption by both boat operators and passengers.
- Nobody should swim near a dock or marina with electrical hookups or lighting — swimmers can be electrocuted in the water and drown.
- Make sure the boat operator has passed a boating safety course approved by the Coast Guard before letting your child and your family ride in the boat. For more information about safe boat operations, contact the local Coast Guard Auxiliary or visit www.uscgboating.org.
- When there are several adults present and children are swimming, use the Water Watcher card strategy, which designates an adult as the Water Watcher for a designated amount of time (e.g. 15-minute periods) to prevent lapses in supervision. To download a Water Watcher card, visit www.safekids.org.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector on your motorboat to alert you to dangerous levels of exhaust fumes.
- Learn infant and child CPR. In less than two hours, you can learn effective interventions that can give a fighting chance to a child who has fallen into water and become unconscious. Local hospitals, fire departments and recreation departments offer CPR training

National Safe Boating Week is an annual educational campaign, coordinated by the National Safe Boating Council (www.safeboatingcouncil.org), running the week prior to Memorial Day.



Bike Helmet Use Could Prevent 45,000 Head Injuries to Kids

Safe Kids offers bike safety tips to celebrate May's National Bike Month

Spring has arrived and families are gearing up to enjoy the outdoors on their bikes. While inflating the tires and checking the brakes are important – a helmet is essential. Safe Kids urges parents, caregivers, and children to use their helmet each time they ride their bike – no matter how long or short the distance traveled.

Each year, approximately 135 children die from bicycle-related injuries and more than 267,000 nonfatal bicycle injuries occur. Helmets can reduce the risk of severe brain injuries by 88 percent; however, only 15 to 25 percent of children 14 and under usually wear a bicycle helmet.

“A bike helmet is essential safety gear,” says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids coordinator. “Helmets could prevent an estimated 75 percent of fatal head injuries and up to 45,000 head injuries to children who ride bikes each year.”

Did you know safety expert recommend that children 13 and under remain in the back seat of motor vehicles? Even if the child is a “big” kid, they do not have the bone density to withstand the impact of an airbag!

Recalls

While all recalls are important, Safe Kids urges you to pay particular attention to the ones in **red**, as they are associated with one or more child deaths.

April 2011

[4/4/2011 – Infantino Recalls Toy Activity Trucks Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[4/5/2011 – Arm's Reach Concepts Recalls Infant Bed-Side Sleepers Due to Entrapment, Suffocation and Fall Hazards](#)

[4/5/2011 – Pampers® Natural Stages Pacifiers Recalled by Key Baby Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[4/7/2011 – Fashionviews Inc. Recalls P.Jamas Children's Sleepwear Due to Violation of Federal Flammability Standard](#)

[4/12/2011 – Girl's Clothing Recalled by My Michelle Due to Risk of Lead Exposure](#)

[4/14/2011 – Wrist Rattles and Baby Booties Recalled by Midwest-CBK Due to Choking Hazard](#)

[4/21/2011 – Disney Princess Plastic Trikes Recalled by Kiddieland Due to Laceration Hazard](#)

[4/21/2011 – Children's Scooters Recalled by Kiddieland Due to Laceration Hazard](#)



Bike Safety Continued.....

Sometimes children mistakenly believe that they don't need to wear helmets when they're riding near home. Unfortunately, about 53 percent of vehicle-related bike deaths to children happen on minor roads and residential streets. "Teach kids to obey traffic signs and the rules of the road. Kids should not ride without supervision until they have demonstrated that they always follow the rules," says Pendola.

A helmet should also be labeled to indicate that it meets the standards set by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. "As long as it's certified, let kids pick out their helmets" Pendola says. "If they think a helmet looks cool, they'll be more likely to wear it when you're not around."

Did you know children in the state of Connecticut are required by state law to wear a bike helmet? Please, try to set a good example by requiring everyone to wear a brain bucket!