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Safe kids

Safe Kids monthly E-Newsletter contains information on new recalls, safety announcements, and events to help ensure your little ones safety all year long! Please call or email with your comments, or suggestions. Go to www.nlcsafekids.org today!!



Amusement Park Safety: 'Parents need to use their own judgment'

Every year, nationwide, more than 8,000 children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for injuries involving thrill rides at amusement parks and traveling carnivals; in an average year, four or five die.

Kiddie rides designed for ages 4 and under account for nearly a quarter of amusement park injuries to children. This category includes inflatable attractions such as bounces and slides. "Parents need to use their own judgment. Posted age and height requirements are minimal guidelines," says Esther Schuman, Safe Kids coordinator.

"Follow the rules," says Schuman. "If a ride operator tells you to keep your hands and feet inside the car, to hold the handrail or to remain seated, there's a good reason."

In addition, Safe Kids New London County offers these recommendations:

- Role-model proper safety behavior. A 2005 report by Safe Kids Worldwide shows that children are more likely to follow safety rules when they see their parents doing so.
- Supervise your child getting on and off a ride. Make sure the child understands all announcements and posted rules. Also, don't allow children

to supervise younger children on rides.

- Always use the safety equipment provided.
- Never get off a moving ride. Wait until the ride comes to a complete stop.
- Don't let children ride if they're too tired to comply with safety procedures. On some rides, it's important to stay upright and face forward.
- Note the limitations of safety devices. Lap bars and chains are not physical restraints — their main function is to remind the occupant to stay seated.
- Trust your instincts. If a ride looks like its poorly maintained or an operator seems to be inattentive or unfit, don't let your children ride. While most operators pay close attention to safety, there are exceptions, as in any industry. consistent use of safety belts.

Child Safety Seat Inspections

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

Wednesdays 12-3 PM / 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

Is there a gun where your child plays?



‘Asking Saves Kids’: June 21 is National ASK Day

New London— Safe Kids New London County joins gun safety advocates in urging parents to ask whether there are firearms in the homes where their children play. National ASK Day, June 21, is proclaimed by the Asking Saves Kids campaign to remind parents to ask, “Is there a gun where my child plays?”

Approximately one out of three U.S. households with children contains at least one gun. Each year, in the United States, approximately 60 children ages 14 and under are killed by accidental gunshots and more than 730 go to the emergency room with injuries from gun-related accidents — not counting approximately 6,600 injured in accidents involving BB guns and other air-powered arms.

“Kids should not have access to guns,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids Assistant coordinator. “More than half of the parents surveyed who own guns and have children ages 4-12 said they keep a loaded or unlocked gun in the home.” According to a 2002 survey commissioned by the ASK campaign, 97 percent of parents who own guns “would not feel uncomfortable if asked about the presence of a gun in their home by another parent,” yet 53 percent of parents said they had never asked. “Parents should ask the adults in any homes their children visit — ask whether there’s a gun in the home and whether it is locked up where children can’t get to it,” says Murphy.

Safe gun storage means:

- **Guns unloaded and ammunition locked up in a separate place**
- **Guns locked in a safe or lockbox or fitted with a trigger lock**
- **Keys or combinations to gun locks and ammo boxes stored out of reach of children**
- **BB guns, pellet guns and other non-powder guns stored the same way as firearms**

Also, says Kelly Murphy, “Teach kids not to touch a gun and to tell an adult if they find one. Most kids cannot tell the difference between a real handgun and a realistic-looking toy.”

When I called home one day, my six year old son answered the phone. "Hello," he said, panting a little. I said, "Hi, Nick. Wow, you sound out of breath." He replied, "No, I have more."

Fireworks Safety Tips

The best way to prevent fireworks-related injuries is to leave fireworks displays to the trained professionals. But for those who participate, the US Consumer Products Safety Commission and the National Council on Fireworks Safety have issued these tips.

Only buy from reliable fireworks sellers; read and follow all the warnings and instructions.

Have a bucket of water nearby. Do NOT try to re-light or handle malfunctioning fireworks. Soak them in water and throw them away.

Be sure other people are a safe distance away before lighting fireworks.

Never ignite fireworks in a container -- especially glass or metal.

Store fireworks in a cool, dry place according to their specific storage instructions.

Sparklers need to be handled carefully too: they burn at more than 1800 degrees F. Light them one at a time at arm's length. Always wear gloves while holding a sparkler, and never give one to a child under 5 years of age.

Educate children (of all ages) about the dangers of fireworks and teach them to practice safety at all times.