

Safe *kids*

Join Safe Kids in Celebrating Safety This Fourth of July

The Fourth of July is a time for celebration across the country, and here in New London County- fireworks are a crowd favorite each year. Whether at a professional show or in the backyard, fireworks can be fun to watch – but they can also be very dangerous.

“Don’t ever let kids play with fireworks, period,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids assistant coordinator. “They’re intended for use by adults in open spaces and children should watch from a safe distance with plenty of adult supervision to make sure they don’t get too close.”

As with any activity involving hazardous equipment, keep all children under active supervision at all times and give them your undivided attention. “The safest way to enjoy fireworks is to watch them at a community event where professionals handle them,” says Murphy.

Safe Kids recommends these precautions for adults using fireworks:

- Light fireworks only on smooth, flat surfaces, and aim them away from spectators, buildings, dry leaves, and flammable materials.
- Do not try to relight fireworks that malfunction.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket or hold them close to your face.
- Visit www.recalls.gov to make sure the pyrotechnic devices you are using are not subject to any safety recalls.
- Do not modify fireworks or use homemade fireworks.
- Keep a phone handy, and know first aid for burns. Also, keep a fire extinguisher handy and know how to use it.

Fireworks, including sparklers and flares, can cause serious burns as well as blast injuries that can permanently impair vision and hearing. “Teach your children how to call 911 in an emergency. Also teach them what to do if their clothing catches on fire - ‘stop, drop and roll,’” adds Murphy.



The Mohegan Tribe/Safe Kids Car Seat Inspection Station will no longer offer car seat checks to the public. Appointments will still be available at L&M and Norwich Fire Department. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause and hope to be able to accommodate all families at the other locations.

**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

Travel Tips from Safe Kids to Ensure Safety Stays a Top Priority

Plan Ahead When Traveling by Car or Plane, Regardless of the Distance

To many children, summer means one thing – vacation! Having fun while traveling is important, whether you go to Disneyland or Grandma’s house, but planning ahead to ensure safe travels should be a top priority for all parents.

“If your vacation includes a stay at a relative or friend’s, make sure you plan ahead and talk to your host about the possibility of installing age-appropriate safety devices such as cabinet locks or outlet covers to prevent injuries to your kids,” says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids coordinator. “This is especially true when visiting people whose children have already grown or those without children, as safety devices may be out-of-date or nonexistent.”

When traveling by car, always bring your child’s car seat or booster seat. Babies should be kept rear-facing for as long as their car seat allows, usually to about age 2 and 30 pounds – but at least until age 1 and 20 pounds – and a forward-facing car seat can protect older toddlers up to 40 pounds or more depending on the weight limit for the harness. Safe Kids coalitions around the country hold child safety seat check-up events where certified child passenger technicians teach parents about proper installation and car seat safety. Visit www.usa.safekids.org to find the nearest child safety seat check. “Every time you get in your car, it is important to make sure all occupants are buckled appropriately and secure all loose items so that they don’t become projectiles in case of a sudden stop or crash,” Pendola says.

When traveling by airplane, Safe Kids and the Federal Aviation Administration strongly recommend using a car seat. Infants and toddlers are safest in an approved car seat with a harness, in case of turbulence. “A child who rides in a car seat on the ground should ride in that car seat on a plane,” says Esther Pendola “While most car seats can fit on standard airplane seats, make sure your child’s car seat is labeled ‘certified for use in motor vehicles and aircraft.’”



Children who have outgrown car seats should sit directly on the airplane seat and, like all passengers, keep the lap belt buckled across their thighs or hips. Booster seats cannot be used on airplanes, because they require shoulder belts and airplane seats have only lap belts.

Planning ahead also involves packing appropriate gear for your children. If they will be biking, riding a scooter, rollerblading, skateboarding, etc, make sure to pack a helmet that is appropriate for the activity and fits them properly. If you have a baby and the trip involves staying overnight, bring your own folding playpen if possible, rather than relying on borrowed cribs. In several surveys from 2001-2006, Safe Kids Worldwide found many hotel-issued cribs to be defective, damaged or even recalled from the market.

“If you must use a hotel’s crib,” says Pendola, “inspect it carefully for broken or missing parts and look up the model on www.Recalls.gov to make sure it isn’t subject to any safety notices.”



4 out of 5 safety seats are used wrong.

Is yours one of them?

Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians will be available to check your child's safety seat and answer all your questions

June 7th from 10 am - 1 pm at

Lisbon Wal-Mart

Lisbon Landing. 180 River Road,

NO APPOINTMENTS

NECESSARY!!!!

For more information: 860-442-0733.

Learn about a new website for parents of injured children

After an injury, parents are key to a child's emotional recovery. www.AfterTheInjury.org helps parents learn what to expect and what they can do to help their child respond in a healthy way. The site provides practical guidance and tools, videos, quick tips, and links to additional resources.

Attend a webcast to learn about www.AfterTheInjury.org as a resource for your patients

Crib Safety: www.cpsc.gov/cribs.html

In response to the large number of recent crib recalls, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has launched a new crib safety website. The site includes safe sleep tips and a listing of crib recalls for the past two years. You can also link to a complete listing of the CPSC's crib safety and SIDS reduction publications, which are available for download. Some of the publications are available in Spanish. Visit the website at www.cpsc.gov/cribs.html.

Childhood Injury Prevention for Parents:

www.safekids.org/stages

This parent-friendly Web site was created to educate parents and caregivers on how to keep kids safe from serious injury as they grow. Weekly rotating content on the site will feature video tips, safety information and quizzes. Visitors will also be able to sign up for email, shop at the new Safety Shop, and join the Safe Kids Online Focus Group. The site was launched on Monday, April 27, in conjunction with National Safe Kids Week.