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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!!



Safety Experts Say ATVs Too Dangerous for Kids

Safe Kids reminds parents:

No children under 16 on ATVs of any size

Each year, in the United States, more than 100 children ages 16 and under are killed on all-terrain vehicles and approximately 45,000 are injured. An ATV crash is 12 times as likely to kill a child as a bicycle crash, and helmets provide only limited protection — no safety device can protect against the spinal and abdominal injuries commonly caused by ATV rollovers, collisions and ejections.

“Children under 16 should not be allowed on ATVs, period,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids Assistant coordinator. “There’s no way to make ATV riding a safe activity for kids.”

Safe Kids does not consider “child-sized” ATVs safe or advisable either. “If you’re not old enough to drive a car on a paved road with traffic control devices, you’re certainly not old enough to drive a powerful open-seat vehicle at high speeds over dirt trails and wild terrain,” says Murphy.

The number of ATV-related injuries per year doubled between 1993 and 2001, and the injury and death rates are highest among riders under 16. In 2003, children accounted for nearly one third of all ATV-related injuries.

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is developing regulations intended to make ATVs safer for children — for example, limiting speed on youth models, requiring warnings about the dangers to kids riding adult ATVs, and requiring free training classes for age-appropriate users. “These regulations won’t make ATVs safe for children,” says Kelly Murphy. “ATVs are very dangerous to children no matter what precautions you take. You could wear a helmet when you jump out a window, but that wouldn’t make it a safe activity.”

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





A Trampoline is Not a Toy

Safe Kids cautions against home trampolines, offers safety tips

Based on the AAP's guidelines for the use of trampolines in supervised training programs, Safe Kids cautions parents and caregivers to look for these features in a supervised trampoline program:

- **The frame, springs and floor around the trampoline are appropriately padded and the equipment is inspected frequently.**
- **Trained spotters are always used and a safety harness or spotting belt is available. Ideally, the trampoline is in a pit so its surface is closer to the ground.**
- **There is no ladder near the trampoline, where it could be used by unsupervised children to gain access. The trampoline is not be accessible to children when not in use.**
- **Jumpers do not attempt stunts or skills beyond their training and demonstrated ability.**

“Remember, these guidelines are for organized training programs led by qualified trainers. A trampoline is not a toy and kids should not have access to a trampoline at home,” says Esther Schuman.

In 2004, approximately 93,000 children ages 14 and under were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for trampoline-related injuries — up from nearly 63,400 in 1996. More than 90 percent of these injuries involve home trampolines, and Safe Kids joins the American Academy of Pediatrics in recommending against trampolines in the home and yard.

“Most trampoline injuries are muscle injuries or broken legs, not fatalities, but we also see head and neck injuries,” says Esther Schuman, Safe Kids New London County coordinator. “A concussion or an upper spine injury can be devastating in a child.”

Although many trampoline injuries involve aerial stunts, falling onto the ground or floor, or landing on the springs or frame, more than half of trampoline injuries involve colliding with another jumper. “Even trampoline manufacturers say there shouldn't be more than one person on the trampoline at a time,” says Schuman.

The AAP recommends that trampolines be used only as part of a supervised athletic training program — not at home, at school or on playgrounds. In addition, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission recommends that no children under 6 years old use a full-size trampoline. Safe Kids supports both recommendations.

A three-year-old child is a being who gets almost as much fun out of a fifty-six dollar set of swings as it does out of finding a small green worm. - Bill Vaughn

Safe Kids NLC offers the following safety tips to keep your yard beautiful and your kid's safe while doing yard work:

Keep children away from any work area in which any type of power equipment is being used.

The best place for a child during the time that a piece of outdoor power equipment is being used is inside the house.

Do not allow a child to operate or play with any type of outdoor power equipment, even when it is not in use.

Only allow responsible adults who are familiar with the outdoor power equipment to operate it.

Riding mowers should never carry passengers, especially children or tow trailers filled with children.