



AMUSEMENT PARK RIDE SAFETY

Whether it's flying through the air or spinning in circles – there's something about a summer day at an amusement park that draws people of all ages. Safe Kids New London County believes that staying safe and having fun can and should go hand in hand.

“Parents need to use their own judgment. Posted age and height requirements are minimal guidelines,” says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids New London County coordinator. “Following the rules is also important. If a ride operator tells you to keep your hands and feet inside the car, hold the handrail or remain seated, there's a good reason for doing that - it helps make the ride safer.”

Every year, an estimated 8,000 children suffer injuries from amusement park or carnival-type rides that require treatment in an emergency room. These injuries involve fixed rides, mobile rides, inflatables and other types of rides at amusement parks, festivals, traveling carnivals and other locations.

Parents can follow these tips to help keep amusement park and carnival rides safer for children of all ages:

- **Role-model proper safety behavior.** 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, parents should practice active supervision. Don't allow older children to supervise younger children on rides.

- **Always use the safety equipment provided.** Safety belts, lap bars, chains, handrails and other safety features are there for a reason.
- **Be careful when getting off a moving ride.** Wait until the ride comes to a complete stop. Also, if a ride stops due to a mechanical problem or safety concern, stay seated and wait for instructions.
- **Don't let children ride if they're too tired or scared to comply with safety procedures.** On some rides, it's important to stay upright and face forward. Don't pressure kids to go on a ride they're afraid of, as they're more likely to sit incorrectly or even try to get off.
- **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. If a small child sits next to a large adult, a lap bar might not offer the child much protection.

Child Safety Seat Inspections

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

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 Five-Second Walk Around the Car Could Prevent More Than 200 Deaths per Year to Children

Safe Kids New London County reminds parents to spot their tot before starting the engine

In that rush to get to the store before it closes, or in the frenzy of getting the entire family in the car to go to Grandma's house, the focus is often on what is in the car – not what is around it. Safe Kids New London County encourages anyone driving a car to walk completely around it to check for children, pets, or toys before getting in and starting the engine.

In the United States in 2007, it is estimated that there were 5,000 injuries and 205 deaths to children under age 14 as a result of being hit by a vehicle in a driveway or parking area. These incidences are known as "backovers" or "frontovers," depending on direction.

"We believe these injuries and deaths are preventable as too many result from a driver not seeing children who might be playing, running after, or standing near their vehicle," says Esther Pendola, Safe Kids New London County coordinator. "What is truly tragic about these stories is that oftentimes, the drivers are friends or even family members."

Parents and caregivers can follow these free, low-tech tips to help make sure that children remain safe around vehicles:

Before getting in the car and starting the engine – walk all the way around the parked vehicle to make sure children and pets are not under or behind it. When possible, engage older kids as helpers to accomplish this.

Use a "Spot the Tot" window sticker as a reminder to walk completely around the vehicle before every trip. Contact Safe Kids New London County for information on how to obtain one of these stickers for your own personal vehicle.

Ensure that young children are always accompanied by an adult when getting in and out of a vehicle.

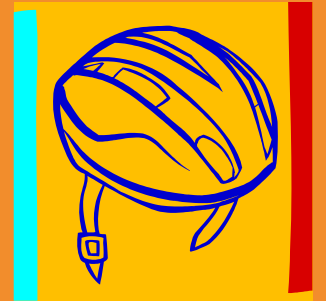
Talk to your children and identify a safe play area for them to use far away from parked or moving vehicles.

When walking near moving vehicles, in driveways, in parking lots, or on sidewalks – make sure to firmly hold the hand of each child that is with you. Avoid using driveways as play areas if moving cars have access entering or exiting these areas.

"No matter how important it is at that moment for you to get to your destination on time," says Esther Pendola, "taking a five-second walk around your car to make sure that children are not in harm's way and it could save your family and your child from a lifetime of physical and emotional pain."



Fitting your Child's Bike Helmet



Correct fit is essential. Do the "Eyes, Ears and Mouth" check:

EYES check: Position the helmet on your head. Look up and you should see the bottom rim of the helmet (one to two fingers above the eyebrows).

EARS check: Make sure the straps of the helmet form a "V" under your ears when buckled. The strap should be snug but comfortable.

MOUTH check: Now open your mouth as wide as you can! Do you feel the helmet hug your head? If not, tighten those straps!

Simplicity Drop Side Cribs Recalled by Retailers Due to Risk of Death from Suffocation

Name of Product: Simplicity Drop Side Cribs

Hazard: The crib's plastic hardware can break or deform, causing the drop side to detach. When the drop side detaches, it creates space between the drop side and the crib mattress. Infants and toddlers can roll into this space and become entrapped which can lead to suffocation.

Description: This recall involves all drop side cribs with a different or "newer" style of plastic hardware from those cribs recalled in September 2007. This newer style of Simplicity hardware can be identified by a flexible plastic tab at the top of the lower tracks. The recalled model numbers include but may not be limited to: 8050, 8325, 8620, 8745, 8748, 8755, 8756, 8765, 8778, 8810, and 8994, 8995, 8996.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled cribs and find an alternative, safe sleeping environment for their baby. Consumers should immediately return the crib to the place of purchase for a refund, replacement or store credit.

RECALLS

July 2009

**For More Recalls on
Consumer products, Foods,
Medicines, and Vehicles
go to
www.Recalls.gov**



Aqua-Leisure Industries Recalls Inflatable Baby Floats Due to Drowning Hazard

Name of Product: Inflatable Baby Floats

Hazard: The leg straps in the seat of the float can tear, causing children to unexpectedly fall into or under the water, posing a risk of drowning.

Description: The recalled inflatable baby floats were sold in a variety of styles and colors. The names and model numbers are located on the packaging. A date between 08/02 and 07/08 is molded on the valves of recalled products. Products not included in the recall can be identified with the lettering "NP" molded on the valve. The following names and model numbers are included in this recall:

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using these recalled inflatable baby floats and contact Aqua-Leisure for a full refund.

Pacifiers Recalled by Gromex Due to Choking Hazard

Name of Product: Jaloma Pacifiers

Hazard: The pacifier mouth guard and the ventilation holes are too small and fail to meet federal safety standards. The pacifier could pose a choking and aspiration hazard to young children.

Description: This pacifier has a ring-shaped handle and a round-shaped mouth guard with two ventilation holes. "Jaloma" is printed on the handle side of the mouth guard and the nipple has a gel-like liquid inside.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled pacifiers away from children and contact Gromex for a refund or exchange.

