



○ ISSUE
40

○ VOLUME
40

○ YEAR
2008

▶ FIRE PREVENTION
WEEK
▶ CAR SEAT EVENTS
..... 1

▶ BUS SAFETY
▶ TWEENS 2

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!!

Oct. 5-11, 2008 is Fire Prevention Week

This year's theme: Prevent Home Fires

Nationwide, every year, over 1,300 children ages 14 and under are injured in residential fires¹, and more than 400 die¹. Oct. 5-11, 2008, is Fire Prevention Week, observed every year since 1922 around the anniversary of the Great Chicago Fire of 1871. Safe Kids New London County reminds parents and caregivers that approximately 80 percent of all fire-related deaths and injuries occur in the home¹.

Most fire-related fatalities are caused by smoke inhalation. "A working smoke alarm cuts your chances of dying in a fire by about 50 percent," says Esther Pendola, MSW. "Put a smoke alarm on every level of your home, outside every sleeping area, and in each bedroom — and test them every month and change the batteries once a year even if they are hard-wired." Smoke alarms are also available with 10-year lithium batteries.

Safe Kids also reminds parents:

- Keep matches, candles, gasoline, lighters and all other flammable materials locked away and out of children's reach and teach them never to touch these items.
- Never leave a burning candle unattended. Place candles in a safe location away from combustible materials and where children or pets cannot tip them

Child Safety Seat Inspections

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

Wednesdays 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

over.

- Keep children away from cooking and heating appliances. Never leave the kitchen while you are cooking.
- Place space heaters at least 3 feet from curtains, papers, furniture and other flammable materials. Always turn space heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.
- Plug an electric space heater into an outlet with enough capacity. Never plug it into an extension cord.
- Consider a home sprinkler system. The combination of smoke alarms and sprinklers can reduce your chances of dying in a fire by 82 percent.

"Plan and practice several escape routes and a safe place to meet outside," says Esther Pendola. "Teach children never to go back into a burning building, and to call the fire department from a neighbor's home or a cell phone outside."



*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

“Avoid Harm, Obey The Stop Arm”

Oct. 20-24, 2008, is National School Bus Safety Week

October 20-24, 2008, is National School Bus Safety Week, and Safe Kids reminds parents and caregivers that school bus transportation is the safest way for school-aged children to ride. School buses are nearly 8 times safer than passenger vehicles. Getting to and from the bus is more dangerous than riding the bus.

“Teach your children about the 10-foot danger zone around the school bus, where the driver can’t see children on the ground,” says Kelly Murphy, Safe Kids New London County Assistant coordinator. “Young children should take more than five giant steps away from the bus to be sure the bus driver can see them. Older kids who must cross the street should look to the bus driver for an ‘OK’ sign before crossing, and always cross in front of the bus.”

Kids should stand on the grass or sidewalk while waiting for the bus and not enter the street until the driver has opened the door of the bus. “Kids tend to run toward the bus and assume that drivers will see them and wait for them to cross the street. Remind your child to stay within the bus driver’s sight,” says Murphy.

Safe Kids also offers children these reminders from the National Association for Pupil Transportation:

- **Arrive at the bus stop five minutes early.**
- **While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street. Stand at least 5 giant steps (10 feet) away from the edge of the road.**
- **Be alert to traffic. When you get on or off the bus, look left, right, left before you enter or cross the street.**
- **Stay in your seat and sit quietly so that the driver is not distracted.**
- **Some school buses now have seat belts. If you have seat belts on your school bus, be sure to learn to use the seat belt correctly.**



- **Wait until the bus stops, the door opens, and the driver says it’s okay before stepping onto the bus.**
- **Be careful that clothing with drawstrings and book bags with straps or dangling objects do not get caught in the handrail or door when exiting the bus.**
- **If something falls under or near the bus, tell the driver. Never try to pick it up yourself!**
- **When you get on or off the bus, look for the bus safety lights and make sure they are flashing.**

“School buses are, by far, the safest way for kids of all ages to get to and from school,” says Kelly Murphy. “School buses are designed with safety features no other vehicles have. The padded, high-backed seats on school buses are close together to create protective compartments, like egg cartons.”

Drivers should be reminded not to pass a school bus with its lights flashing. In Connecticut, it is against the law to pass a stopped school bus or approach within 10 feet.

Baby Safety

In the bath: Mix hot and cold water together, and test the temperature before putting the baby in. Set your hot water heater to 120 degrees to help prevent scalding. Never leave a baby alone in the bath.

In the water: Never leave your baby unattended in or near water, even for a second. Empty and turn over all buckets as soon as you are done using them. Pools should be fenced on all four sides and have self-closing gates.

In the play room: Do not use baby walkers. Use play centers that stay still instead. Look for well-made toys and follow the age and safety information on the warning labels. Check regularly for damages such as sharp edges. Keep toys with small parts or other choking hazards away from children under age 3. Avoid toys that can become hazards. Toys with strings, straps or cords longer than 7 inches can accidentally strangle them. Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Children under age 8 should not use toys with electrical plugs or batteries. Make sure toys are stored safely.

In the home: Install guards on windows that you will open, and tie up cords on curtains and blinds. Install smoke alarms on every floor and outside all sleeping areas. Install safety gates at top and bottom of stairs. Always strap babies into high chairs, swings, changing tables and strollers. Keep cleaning products, medicines, and other poisons locked and out of reach. Keep the poison control hotline number (800-222-1222) and emergency numbers by ever phone.



Recalls



Infants Strangled to Death in Simplicity Bassinets: CPSC Urges Consumers To Stop Using Simplicity 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 Convertible “Close-Sleeper” Models

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is urging parents and

caregivers to stop using convertible “close-sleeper/bedside sleeper” bassinets manufactured by Simplicity Inc., of Reading, Pa. CPSC has learned that on August 21, 2008, a 5-month-old girl from Shawnee, Kan. was strangled to death when she became entrapped between the bassinet’s metal bars. This is the second strangulation death CPSC has learned of in the close-sleeper bassinets. On September 29, 2007, a 4-

month-old girl from Noel, Mo. became entrapped in the metal bars of the bassinet and died.

The Simplicity 3-in-1 and 4-in-1 convertible bassinets contain metal bars spaced farther apart than 2 3/8 inches, which is the maximum distance allowed under the federal crib safety standard. The metal bars are covered by an adjustable fabric flap which is attached by velcro. The fabric is folded down when the bassinet is converted into a bed-side co-sleeping position. If the velcro is not properly re-secured when the flap is adjusted, an infant can slip through the opening and become entrapped in the metal bars and suffocate. This warning does not cover bassinets produced in recent months that have fabric permanently attached over the lower bar.

Due to the serious hazard these bassinets pose to babies, CPSC urges all consumers to share this safety warning with day care centers, consignment stores, family and friends to ensure that no child is placed to sleep in a Simplicity convertible bassinet covered by this warning.

Simplicity Brand Drop Side Cribs Recalled By Various Retailers Due To Serious Entrapment And Suffocation Hazard To Infants and Toddlers



Hazard: Due to sizing problems with the crib’s hardware, the drop side can come off the tracks. When the drop side detaches or partially detaches, it creates a hazardous gap, which can lead to infant entrapment and suffocation.

Description: This recall of Simplicity drop side cribs involves models that used a different style of hardware from those cribs recalled in September 2007. The recalled model numbers include: 8620, 8745, 8748, 8755, 8756, 8778, 8810, and 8994. The recalled drop side cribs have a date code, which



can be found on a label on the headboard under the mattress support, which ends in 05DH, 05GB, 06DH, 06GB, 07DH or 07GB (examples: 1806 DH or 0507 GB). The recalled model names include: Aspen and Crib N Changer Combo, Gabrielle, Camille, Providence and Shenandoah. Only the brand name “Simplicity” can be seen on the label on the headboard.

Remedy: Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled cribs and find an alternative, safe sleeping environment for their baby. Consumers should return the recalled crib to the place of

purchase for a refund or store credit. SFCA Inc., of Reading, Pa. is working with retailers to carry out this recall program.

Regent Sports Recalls Soccer Goal Nets Following Strangulation Death of a Child

Description: Both soccer goals have a foldable white frame with a white net that is attached by Velcro strips. When upright, the MacGregor goal measures 6 feet wide by 3 feet high and the Mitre net measures 8 feet wide by 6 feet high. Each has a recalled net with squares measuring 5 inches on each side. The MacGregor soccer goal has model number 97236 printed on the assembly instructions and UPC code number 029807972365 printed on the net’s packaging. The Mitre



soccer goal has model number 89186 printed on the assembly instructions and UPC code number 029807891864 printed on the net’s packaging.

Nets manufactured after April 2007 with 4 inch by 4 inch square openings are not included in the recall