



NO. 20

FALL 2002

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children.

Change the time, change your batteries

Daylight Saving Time will end on October 27th and at that time, we will set our clocks back one hour. This is also the perfect time to replace the batteries in your smoke detector and check to make sure that all alarms are working.

Fire is the second leading cause of unintentional death in the home and severely affects children aged 14 and under. Each year, nearly 600 children die in residential fires, and an additional 136,000 children are injured.

There is both good news and bad news concerning smoke detectors. According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), about 90 percent

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MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Halloween Safety



Karen Brock, MPH

Halloween is a time when children are scared of ghosts, ghouls, and goblins, but the real threat comes from pedestrian injuries. According to a 22-year study by the CDC, young pedestrians (5 to 14 year olds) are four times more likely to be killed on Halloween than on any other night of the year. Everyone has a part in keeping kids safe on this night.

For motorists: at dusk and later in the evening, watch for kids in dark clothes; watch for kids on the roadways, curbs, medians, and darting out from between parked cars; and enter and exit driveways and alleys carefully.

For parents: Make sure an adult or older responsible youth supervises the outing for kids under 12 years of age; teach your children to use flashlights, stay on the sidewalk, and avoid crossing yards; restrict trick-or-treating to well-lit houses; and teach children to never enter a stranger's house, even if invited.

For costumes: Shoes should fit and be easy to walk in so that children won't trip; use face paint or make sure the costume eyeholes are wide enough so the child can see fully; and make sure that costume props are flexible, not rigid or sharp.



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS has had a busy spring and summer with their many ongoing safety programs, such as their helmet replacement/education program, their interactive pedestrian safety street, helmet giveaways, and car seat checks. Additionally, the Greater Waterbury Chapter participated in events ranging from the Magic Mile Safety Fair to the annual Stand for Children event to a series of injury prevention programs for an after-school program. This fall, upcoming events include Buckle Up events, as well as "Walk your Child to School Day." For more information, please contact Sheila Staib at 203-597-3655 or email at ssaib@stmh.org.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS is the newest chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, and has been very active so far. This summer the chapter has participated in the UConn Canine Olympics, bike helmet distribution and education for helmet providers, car seat checks, informational talks, mall safety day, and the Boom Box Parade. Plans for this fall include several car seat clinics and a four-day training for Child Passenger Safety Technicians. For more information, please call Karin Davis at 860-423-4534 or email at wrcc.kdavis@snet.net.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK) is very proud to announce that as of August 1, 2002, they are officially a coalition. Additionally, they have been awarded a grant (one of 30 nationwide) from National SAFE KIDS, GM, and UAW to run a car seat/booster seat inspection station at L&M Hospital in New London. This grant provides safety seats and booster seats to children in need and the inspection station is open on Tuesday and Thursday evenings. NLCSK is also continuing outreach to all of the communities in New London County. They regularly participate in local community events, such as car shows, kid fairs, health/safety fairs, and neighborhood block parties. They also held several child safety seat clinics, and have many events planned for the fall. For more information, please call Esther Schuman at 860-442-0733 or visit their website at www.nlcsafekids.org.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK) was founded in 1998 and became the second SAFE KIDS Coalition in the state. Their lead organizations consist of Danbury Hospital, Greenwich Hospital, The Stamford Hospital, and St. Vincent's Medical Center. Over the years, they have worked with many groups throughout Fairfield County to make childhood injury prevention a top priority and have seen that effort come to fruition with eight lives saved last year alone. This fall, the coalition is geared up with many items such as a technical update for CPS technicians, Walk to School Day events, Halloween and Toy Safety programs, a four-day NHTSA technician class, car seat clinics, presentations, and much more. For more information, please call Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway at 203-325-5566 or visit their website at www.fcsafekids.org.

Valley Amity SAFE KIDS covers the towns of Oxford, Beacon Falls, Bethany, Seymour, Woodbridge, Ansonia, Derby, Orange, and Milford. Their lead organization is Seymour Ambulance Association, Inc. They have had a busy summer and events for this fall include car seat clinics, bike rodeos, and helmet giveaways. For more information, please contact June Marcucio at 203-888-8843 x201 or Frank Marcucio at 203-888-8843 x200. ■

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Window Guard Prevention Program Update

Catherine Rogers

Program Assistant, Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Every year, 4,700 children visit an emergency department with injuries sustained after experiencing a fall from a window. Approximately 18 of these children will die from their injuries. In response to these preventable injuries, Connecticut SAFE KIDS has been working with Hartford's Healthy Homes to educate parents on the dangers of open windows as well as to distribute and install window guards. Made possible by a grant from the Allstate Foundation, CT SAFE KIDS was able to display thirteen billboards on window safety throughout the Hartford area, distribute educational materials to families throughout Connecticut, and purchase over 400 window guards, which are not only being given to Hartford families at no cost, but are also being installed by trained outreach workers to insure both compliance and correct set up.

For more information on this program, please call (860) 545-9916. Hartford residents may also call to find out how to be eligible for free window guards and installation. ■

Change the Time, Change the Batteries

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of U.S. households have smoke alarms installed. However, CPSC survey found that the smoke alarms in 20 percent of those households were not working, largely because of dead or missing batteries.

This is a great time for coalition members to educate the public on the importance of working smoke detectors. Limited quantities of smoke detectors may be available in your area through the Connecticut SAFE KIDS/Elks Partnership. Please contact Connecticut SAFE KIDS or your local Elks lodge for more details. ■

Reporting on childhood injury: Child Pedestrian Injury



Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH

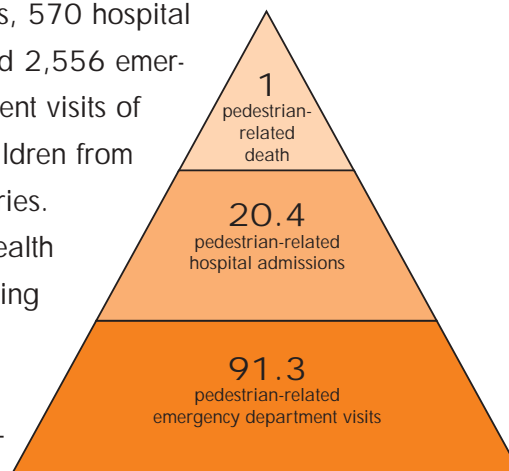
Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Pedestrian injuries are more severe and result in more death per injury than other types of motor vehicle-related injuries. In the five years from 1995 to 1999, there were 28 deaths, 570 hospital admissions, and 2,556 emergency department visits of Connecticut children from pedestrian injuries.

Additionally, health care costs treating these non-fatal pedestrian injuries exceeded \$13.4 million dollars.

Prevention of pedestrian injuries requires

efforts in many different areas: educational programs directed at children, parents, drivers, and policy makers; roadway design improvements; effective placement of school crossing guards; and other changes in school policies and redesigning of neighborhoods. ■



Number of pedestrian-related incidents among children (birth to 14 years) from 1995 to 1999

SOURCE: INJURY PREVENTION CENTER, CONNECTICUT CHILDREN'S MEDICAL CENTER

Connecticut SAFE KIDS thanks the Connecticut Elks for their continued support.



Why become a SAFE KIDS member?

- You will receive the latest research and program information.
 - You will have the opportunity to purchase low-cost safety supplies and materials for your program.
 - You will be participating in an active, growing movement to reduce childhood injury.
- Please send me a SAFE KIDS brochure and membership application.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Daytime Telephone: (_____) _____

or call (860) 545-9988

Mark your calendar!

The Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition breaks for the summer and will resume meetings in September. Dates and times are scheduled, but may change. Please look for mailings to announce meetings, and be sure to RSVP your attendance by calling (860) 545-9988.

November 7, 2002 Coalition Meeting
Noon – 2 p.m. Location: TBA

February 6, 2003 Coalition Meeting
Noon – 2 p.m. Location: TBA

April 3, 2003 Connecticut SAFE KIDS Annual
Workshop

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org



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www.ctsafekids.org

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