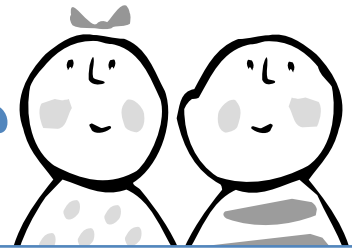




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

Dedicated to reducing preventable injuries and deaths in Connecticut children

WINTER 2003

Connecticut SAFE KIDS Coalition

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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Walk this way in Waterbury



This fall, the Greater Waterbury Chapter of Connecticut SAFE KIDS organized a "Walk Your Child to School Day" event at Chase Elementary School in Waterbury where students, parents, and community leaders came together to teach the students safe pedestrian behaviors, alert drivers to slow down and identify environmental dangers for child pedestrians.

Pedestrian injury is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 5 to 14. In 2000, nearly 44,600 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for pedestrian-related injury, and in Connecticut alone, an average of 3,629 children visited an ED for these types of injuries.

On October 2nd — International Walk to School Day — students and staff from Chase Elementary joined forces with CT SAFE KIDS, FedEx Express (a corporate sponsor of the event), the Waterbury Police Department, the Waterbury Fire Department, the Connecticut State Police, AMR Ambulance, Campion Ambulance, the Department of Transportation, and even a therapy dog to bring attention to the problem of pedestrian safety. After a kick off event and walk around the school, the students returned to the school to move through different safety stations, such as the Safety Street where they learned about basic pedestrian safety. They also were able to get in an ambulance to learn more about safety, as well as two FedEx trucks to learn about "blind spots." •

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Hello and Happy New Year! Connecticut SAFE KIDS is very excited about our newly created legislative commit-



Karen Brock

tee, which is working on a necessary booster seat bill. Information about all things legislative is available on our website www.ctsafekids.org and through our listserve (sign up at groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsafekids). Additionally, during Child Passenger Safety Week (February 9th-15th), we further hope to spread the word about the importance of booster seats.

Our fall was very busy. We participated in Walk to School Day with the Greater Waterbury Chapter; collaborated with Injury Free Coalition for Kids on Halloween safety programs (with retroreflective bags and bilingual safety tips) in Hartford elementary schools, and hosted a much-needed CPS update/refreshers class in Hartford, with instructors from Fairfield County and New London County SAFE KIDS. Additionally, we supported Fire Safety Awareness Week with fire safety programs for students and parents at a local elementary school and a children's library. We look forward to keeping this momentum and making 2003 a great year. Thank you to everyone for their past (and future!) hard work!

Karen
Karen Brock

Keep informed of Connecticut SAFE KIDS legislative and other happenings! Sign up for our listserve at groups.yahoo.com/group/ctsafekids.



We're honored!

At the National SAFE KIDS Conference, Connecticut SAFE KIDS won the Bell Sportsmanship Award for "Outstanding Performance for 2001." This award, given to four SAFE KIDS coalitions nationwide, was presented by Bell Sports for the most helmets purchased through the Bell Sports discount program. Connecticut SAFE KIDS especially wishes to thank the Connecticut Elks and the Connecticut Trial Lawyers Association for their dedication to the helmet safety program. Good job everyone! •

Keep Kids Safe License Plate Grant Awards



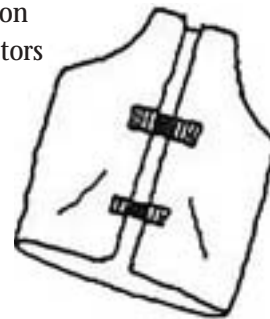
Congratulations to the Fall 2002 Keep Kids Safe License Plate grantees! In October, these groups received funds for their programs to keep kids safe from unintentional injuries.

- Connecticut Poison Control Center, "Small Doses, Big Problems" poster project
- Griffin Hospital, Childbirth Education Department, "Dial-a-Belt" Mobile Seat
- Communities in Schools of Norwalk, Inc., "AfterSchool Alliance Safe Wheels" project
- John F. Kennedy Campus School Based Health Center, "Helmet Safety" program
- Orange Police Department, "Bicycle Safety Course"
- Leadership Greater Hartford / Quest Class 2002, "Hartford Bike Week 2003 Safety Rodeo" •

The new round of Keep Kids Safe License Plate grant applications is here! The application are available online at www.ctsafekids.org or by calling Connecticut SAFE KIDS at 860-545-9988. The deadline for the grant applications is postmarked by January 15, 2003.

Personal floatation devices now available

CT SAFE KIDS can now offer its members Water Pals U.S. Coast Guard Approved Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) at a reduced price. The PFDs for child or infant are available for \$11.50 each, but must be ordered in quantities of six and the minimum order is \$120. In addition, you can still order Evenflo car seats, Bell Sports bike helmets, and First Alert smoke and carbon monoxide detectors at a reduced cost. Please call 860-545-9988 for details. •



DON'T FORGET:



Child Passenger Safety Week is February 9-15, 2003!

Good luck!

Best wishes to Catherine Rogers, who is leaving Connecticut SAFE KIDS. Catherine served as the Program Assistant for Connecticut SAFE KIDS and the Violence Prevention Program. She is moving to Milwaukee to work on her master's degree. We will miss her greatly, but wish her the best of luck in her new endeavor! •



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Windham County Update

Windham County has had a busy and productive fall. They have had 10 car seat clinics around the county, as well as co-sponsoring a four day NHTSA technician class. For Halloween, they gave out 300 reflector SAFE KIDS bags with a safety fact sheet in English & Spanish. Additionally, they have set up subcommittees in the areas of home, traffic, fundraising and recreation which are working on projects such as a bike helmet program with helmets donated by the Willimantic Rotary Club as well as a window falls prevention program with window guards donated by Fairfield County SAFE KIDS. For more information, please contact Karin Davis at 860-423-4534 ext. 318 or wrcc.kdavis@snet.net.

Greater Waterbury Update

The Greater Waterbury Chapter has not slowed down this fall, keeping a busy schedule of car seat clinics, pedestrian safety events and much more. On October 2nd, Waterbury participated in a very exciting and successful International Walk to School Day, in partnership with Fed Ex, with a walk at Chase Elementary School for parents, students, and community leaders. Also in October, Waterbury took part in an early childhood career and resource fair, as well as a pedestrian safety presentation at a local nursery school. Of course, Halloween was a top priority and was celebrated with safety tips and pumpkin reflectors for all 3rd graders in Waterbury! Finally, Waterbury wrapped up their fall programs with a presentation for the Cub Scouts on bike safety. For more information, please contact Sheila Staib at 203-597-3655 or sstaib@stmh.org.

Fairfield County Update

SAFE KIDS Fairfield County has been very busy during the last couple of months on the CPS front. They hosted a CPS update class at Danbury Hospital in September, a four day CPS class in Greenwich in October, and worked in conjunction with SAFE KIDS Connecticut and SAFE KIDS New London County to present another CPS update class in the Hartford area in November. Additionally, during the first quarter of the upcoming year, they will be hosting the new NHTSA Bus Safety Course, as well as the new Moving Kids Safely course for day care providers. Coalition members are also in the process of developing a water safety program, which they hope to be able to share with the rest of the state in 2003. Their web site is also undergoing some changes; check out the new National SAFE KIDS Flyer Presentation at www.fcsafekids.org. For more information, please contact Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway at 203-325-5566, or at rcordes@fcsafekids.org or cconway@fcsafekids.org.

New London County Update

SAFE KIDS New London County has been busy reorganizing its coalition – establishing a steering committee, formalizing safety teams, recruiting new members, and creating comprehensive bylaws. Additionally, the Inspection Station has been extremely successful and has checked over 500 seats since its inception in May. Targeting at-risk communities has been a primary objective of the program, and has been the most challenging component thus far. One of New London County's upcoming projects is to educate local coaches on concussions and putting kids back in the game. A health care team have agreed to distribute concussion cards,

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

FEBRUARY 6, 2003

Coalition Meeting*

Noon – 2pm

CCMC, Level G, Rooms C&D

FEBRUARY 9 – 15, 2003

National Child Passenger Safety Week

MARCH 17 – 23, 2003

National Poison Prevention Week

APRIL 3, 2003

Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Annual Workshop

Rocky Hill Marriott

MAY 2003

National Bike Safety Month

* To RSVP for this meeting, please call 860-545-9988.



and give short informational lectures to coaches on the importance of understanding concussions and how it relates to the health of their players. Finally, other events that are in the works include a bike rodeo, obtaining videos for local hospitals on bike safety, a helmet giveaway at a local skateboard park, and the annual SAFE KIDS Fair. For more information, please contact Esther Schuman at 860-442-0733 or esther@community-partnerships.com.

Valley Amity Update

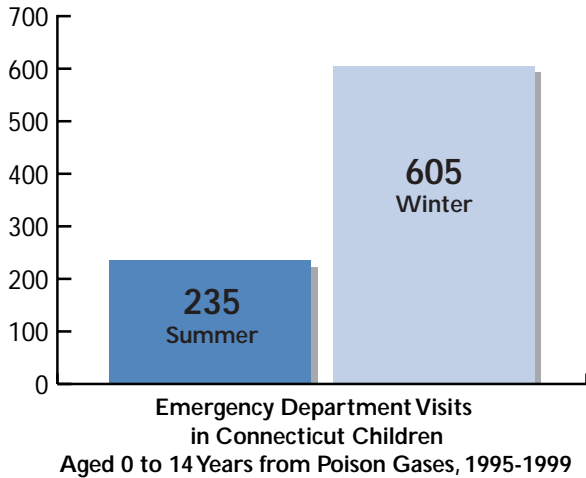
For more information, please contact June Marcucio or Frank Marcucio at 203-888-8843 or at JCMFFM@AOL.COM or svacems@aol.com. •



Preventing poisoning from gases

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



Source: Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center

During the snowy and cold winter season, children will spend more time indoors. While this may decrease their risk from other types of injury, it increases their risk of poisoning from carbon monoxide and other gases. As seen in the accompanying chart, during the winter there were more than 2½ times as many admissions to Connecticut emergency departments for poisonings from carbon monoxide and other gases as during the summer.

One way to decrease the number of gas-related poisonings is to inspect and properly ventilate all fireplaces, furnaces, heaters, and wood-burning stoves. Another method to decrease carbon monoxide poisonings is to install Underwriters Laboratory (UL) approved carbon monoxide detectors in all bedrooms. Of course, all detectors should be in working conditions and checked twice a year (traditionally when the time changes for daylight saving time). •

Walk this way
in Waterbury



NO. 21
WINTER 2003

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