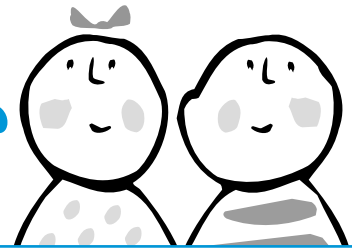




CONNECTICUT SAFE KIDS Newsletter



DEDICATED TO REDUCING PREVENTABLE INJURIES AND DEATHS IN CONNECTICUT CHILDREN

*Dedicated to
reducing
preventable
injuries and
deaths in
Connecticut
children*

WINTER 2004

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SAFE KIDS Coalition
Connecticut Children's
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Honorary Chairman
Senator Christopher J. Dodd



Safety tips for aspiring chefs



Baking tasty treats, cooking hearty meals or making hot cocoa is a winter tradition. As this good food is being prepared, children are often eager to help. Whether mixing, measuring or just licking the spoon, children need to be closely supervised by an adult at all times in and around the kitchen. Connecticut SAFE KIDS recommends the following tips for keeping children safe as they learn to help out in the kitchen:

-  Never leave a child unattended in the kitchen. It is essential that children are closely supervised, whether the children are helping an adult cook or are simply watching.
-  Before introducing a child to cooking, be sure you've taken essential safety steps, such as having a fire extinguisher nearby and posting emergency numbers near the phone.
-  Never hold a child while cooking.
-  Make sure pans are on back burners and turn all pot handles toward the back of the stove.
-  Supervise your child when he or she is near or using a microwave, and never let a young child (under age 10) remove heated items from the microwave. Adults should also use caution when heating food and liquids in the microwave.
-  Place hot foods and liquids away from the edges of counters and tables.

(continued on page 2)

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

Happy New Year! Like the rest of you, Connecticut SAFE KIDS has had a busy autumn. We hosted a CPS Update-Refresher Course at the Middletown Police Department, as well as running/participating in many car seat clinics around the state. In October, we joined with the Hartford Fire Department and the Injury Free Coalition for Kids to run several fire safety programs at Hartford schools for National Fire Prevention Week. Also in October, we worked with the Greater Waterbury Chapter on their very successful Walk to School Day (Great work, everyone!). In early November, we distributed our eagerly-anticipated eight poison safety boxes. (Please see the next page.) Finally, we participated in ConnPIRG's annual *Trouble in Toyland* press conference to alert parents and consumers about the importance of toy safety.




This spring, we are changing things around a bit and have moved the Connecticut SAFE KIDS annual conference from April to September. Hopefully, this will work positively with departments' fiscal years. Also, because of this change, we will be having a coalition meeting in April.


I hope everyone has a safe and productive winter!


Karen
Karen Brock

Aspiring Chefs

(continued from page 1)

 Make sure you and your children wear close-fitting clothing when cooking.

 Be aware of items sitting on tablecloths or placemats. Young children could pull hot food or liquid down and scald themselves.

 Unplug appliance cords when not in use and keep them tied up, out of children's reach. •

Never leave cooking food unattended – it is the number-one cause of house fires.



Legislation is Here Again!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS, along with the other SAFE KIDS coalitions in Connecticut, will again be trying for a booster seat law in Connecticut. Currently, 22 states and D.C. already have a booster seat law. Please contact your state Representative and educate them on the importance of booster seats. And of course, urge them to vote for the booster seat bill! •

DON'T FORGET:
Child Passenger Safety
Week is February 8th
through 14th!

We're Honored!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS was the proud recipient of the Education and Prevention Award from the Brain Injury Association of Connecticut, Inc. (BIAC). This award was given "for demonstrating outstanding effort that has resulted in the increase of public awareness of brain injury and prevention." Connecticut SAFE KIDS wishes to thank all of its members who, whether through car seat clinics, bike rodeos, or educational efforts, work to prevent traumatic brain injury in kids! •

The Times They Are A Changin'

The annual CT SAFE KIDS conference has been moved from April to September 2004. However, the location will still be in the greater Hartford area. •

The poison safety boxes are here!

Connecticut SAFE KIDS has purchased eight poison safety boxes that have been placed around the state and may be reserved for any injury prevention event. These interactive boxes engage the children (and adults) into recognizing that candies and medication are often confused and that it is critical for poisons and medications to be locked up. To make a reservation for a box, please contact the location nearest you (listed below).

Lou Carta.....860-344-3482
Middletown Health Department

Bob Cordes203-853-7115
Fairfield County SAFE KIDS

Karin Davis860-423-4534
Windham County Chapter of CSK

Frank Marcucio203-888-8843
Valley Amity SAFE KIDS

Esther Schuman.....860-442-0733
New London County SAFE KIDS

Sheila Staib.....203-709-3655
Greater Waterbury Chapter of CSK

Karen C. Summit860-496-6395
Charlotte Hungerford Hospital

Karen Brock.....860-545-9977
Connecticut SAFE KIDS •



The Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, along with FedEx Express, hosted an outstanding Walk This Way event at the Tinker Elementary and the Our Lady of Mount Carmel Schools in Waterbury. The event, which was covered by four television stations, taught kids all about how to walk safe, be safe, and obey your friendly traffic light!

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



CHAPTERS AND COALITIONS UPDATE: Connecticut SAFE KIDS

Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GNHSK)

The Greater New Haven Chapter, the newest CT SAFE KIDS chapter, held its kick-off event on October 4th. The event, a bicycle rodeo and fire safety event, went very well and sparked avid interest from a variety of communities for similar events. Please contact Kathy Shea, Greater New Haven Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS, at 203-562-3320 or kshea@sponsorhospital.org for more information.

Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (GWSK)

Fall was a busy time for GWSK. Aside from maintaining their on-going bicycle helmet replacement program at Saint Mary's and Waterbury Hospital, GWSK presented on child passenger safety at Walmart and held a multi-day event focusing on pedestrian safety with "Safety Street" at the Terryville Nursery School. For Halloween safety, GWSK distributed over 2,000 Halloween safety tips to 43 public schools in Waterbury and gave out Halloween bags and tips to the Blessed Sacrament Elementary School. Finally, the big event of the fall was on October 8th with the "Walk to School Day." Over 150 third-graders from Our Lady of Mount Carmel School and Tinker Elementary School participated. Sgt. Paul Vance of the CT State Police was the Master of Ceremonies; dignitaries from the City of Waterbury, DOT and Fed EX were present, in addition to a special appearance from the chapter's new four foot tall stoplight! Four TV channels, as well as the *Waterbury Republican* newspaper, covered the event. For more information call Sheila Staib, Greater Waterbury Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (203) 709-3655.

Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS (WCSK)

WCSK has been busy this fall, hosting three car seat clinics in the month of October alone. They also held a chapter meeting at the Willimantic Fire House, who was proudly highlighting their new smoke house. WCSK also held a fire safety talk at the New Heights Preschool Center. For Halloween safety, chapter members assisted the Willimantic Elks on several nights with their annual haunted house, distributed over 300 reflective Halloween bags to preschool age children, and sold blinking Halloween-themed lights (as a fundraiser) for children to wear so they could be seen on Halloween. For more information contact Karin Davis, Windham County Chapter of CT SAFE KIDS at (860) 423-4534.

Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS (VASK)

The Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS Coalition is winding down another busy year. The Executive Director, Chief Frank F. Marcucio, III was featured as a runner up for the Nicholas Rosenkrans award in the October 2003 issue of JEMS magazine. Valley-Amity SAFE KIDS is still the only EMS based Coalition in the U.S. and they are gearing up to work extremely hard with their sister coalitions here in Connecticut to get the booster seat bill passed and signed into law. For more information, call Frank or June Marcucio, VASK, at (203) 888-8843.

New London County SAFE KIDS (NLCSK)

During the fall, NLCSK participated in dozens of injury prevention events around the area promoting safety, including a bike safety themed parade with water bottles given to the crowd.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

For more information
www.ctsafekids.org

February 5, 2004

Coalition Meeting*
Noon – 2pm
CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

February 8 – 14, 2004

National Child Passenger Safety Week

March 21 – 27, 2004

National Poison Prevention Week

April 1, 2004

Coalition Meeting
Noon – 2pm
CCMC, Level G, Rooms C & D

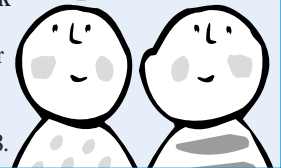
April 5 – 11, 2004

National Public Health Week

April 26 – 30, 2004

National Playground Safety Week

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



Additionally, members conducted several car seat clinics during the fall. NLCSK members have educated hundreds of children, both in public schools and on the Mohegan reservation, on the importance of correctly using the 911 system with the 911 simulator. Finally, NLCSK Coordinator Esther Schuman attended the SAFE KIDS Leadership Conference in Washington DC and is looking forward to sharing new ideas with coalition members in the upcoming year. For more information call Esther, NLCSK at (860) 442-0733.

Fairfield County SAFE KIDS (FCSK)

This fall, FCSK moved to Trumbull. For more information, call Bob Cordes or Charlie Conway, FCSK, at (203) 853-7115.



Scald burns

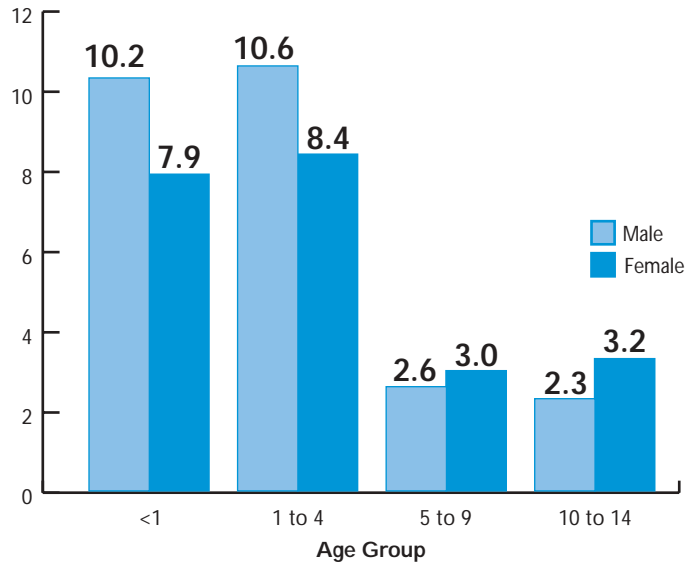
Garry Lapidus, PA-C, MPH, Director, Injury Prevention Center, Connecticut Children's Medical Center; Associate Professor of Pediatrics and Public Health, University of Connecticut School of Medicine

Scalds are rarely a cause of death, but are a frequent cause of hospitalization and emergency department visits. Among Connecticut children aged 0-4 years, more than 200 scalds each year require emergency department treatment. The highest incidence is among males under 5 years of age.

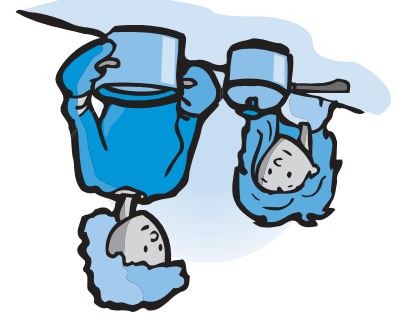
Because younger children have thinner skin than that of older children or adults, their skin burns at lower temperatures and more deeply. Hot tap water, coffee, and tea are the most

common agents, with boiling water or food the most damaging. Scalds typically occur when toddlers upset containers of hot liquids either on the stovetop or at table's edge. A child exposed to hot tap water at 140°F for three seconds will sustain a third degree burn, an injury requiring hospitalization and skin grafts. These burns often affect the face and hands, areas that are cosmetically or functionally very important. •

Emergency Department visit rate for scald burns (per 10,000), Connecticut 1995-2001



Safety tips for aspiring chefs



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