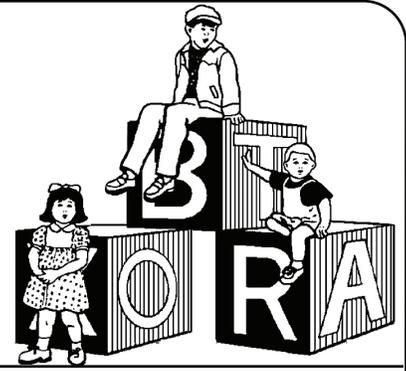


Building Blocks to Safety

*A newsletter for prevention of
childhood injuries*

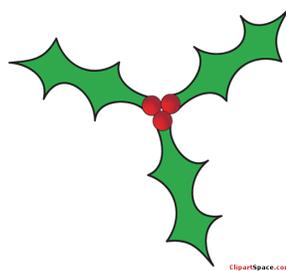


North Dakota Department of Health Winter 2006 Division of Injury Prevention and Control

Holiday Decorating Safety Tips

No matter how people plan to celebrate the holidays, special care should be taken when decorating. Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,800 people for falls, cuts, shocks and burns due to incidents involving faulty holiday lights, dried-out Christmas trees and other holiday decorations. To prevent holiday traditions from turning into tragedies, the CPSC recommends the following decorating safety tips:

- Test smoke detectors to ensure they are working, and review the family fire escape plan.
- Purchase artificial trees with a “Fire Resistant” label. This does not mean the tree won’t catch fire, but it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- If purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, its needles are hard to pull from branches and, when bent between your fingers, the needles do not break. The trunk should be sticky with resin, and the tree should not drop many needles when the trunk is bounced on the ground.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water.
- Indoors or outdoors, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory.
- Check lights for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections. Discard damaged sets.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per extension cord.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters.
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house.
- Do not burn candles on or near trees or curtains. Never leave burning candles unattended.
- Use only noncombustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Hang breakable or sharp ornaments on upper tree branches out of the reach of small children and pets. Avoid decorations that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Keep live plants such as mistletoe, holly berries and poinsettias out of reach of children and pets. Some are poisonous; others may cause severe stomach illness.
- If small children will be visiting over the holidays, check your home to be sure it is childproof. Cover electrical outlets, and store medicines, cleaning supplies and poisonous substances out of reach. Unload all firearms; place them in a locked location and store ammunition separately. Place safety gates at the top and bottom of stairs.



Continued on next page

Holiday Decorating Safety Tips (continued)

- When attending holiday parties, choose a designated driver. Remember to buckle up on every trip, even those short ones to the shopping mall.
- If hosting a holiday party, check for carelessly discarded cigarettes before going to bed. Place ashtrays in the sink, rather than emptying them into the trashcan. Empty all glasses, bottles and cans, and place liquor bottles out of reach of children. It doesn't take much alcohol to poison small children who may get up earlier than their parents.

'Tis the Season for Toys

As the holiday season advances, kids around the nation will be making their lists of must-have toys. But what a child wants may not always be the best choice when it comes to safety. The United States Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) advises parents and caregivers to shop smart and find gifts this holiday season that will both please children and keep them safe. The CPSC recommends using the following tips to help choose appropriate toys for children:



- Be a label reader. Look for toy labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infant, toddlers and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy constructions, such as tightly secured eyes, noses and other potential small parts.
- For all children younger than 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children younger than 8.

- Check toy instructions for clarity — both for you and, when appropriate, the child.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys, which can cause suffocation, before they become deadly playthings.

What To Know Before You Go..

Things Every Rider Must Know About ATVs

- ATVs are not toys! They are powerful and potentially dangerous vehicles.
- ATVs can travel at speeds of more than 60 miles per hour and can weigh more than 700 pounds.
- ATVs can easily roll and tip over. Their unpredictable nature in off-road conditions makes training and proper use essential.
- In the U.S. during 2003, there were an estimated 740 deaths associated with ATVs, including 140 reported deaths that involved children. In 2004, an estimated 136,000 ATV-related injuries were treated in hospital emergency rooms.
- All riders should always wear a helmet when on an ATV.
- About one-third of ATV-related deaths and injuries involve children. Anyone younger than 16 should never be on an adult-size ATV.
- Stay off paved roads and avoid unfamiliar terrain.
- Never carry a passenger on a single-rider ATV.

For more information about ATV safety, visit this website: www.atvsafety.gov.

Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov
www.ndhealth.gov

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www.ndhealth.gov



LEGO Toy Trucks Recalled

The CPSC and LEGO Systems Inc. are recalling about 358,000 LEGO EXPLORE Super Trucks. The plastic wheels on the truck can detach, exposing a metal axle. This poses a puncture hazard to young children.



The LEGO EXPLORE Super Truck is a toy-in-toy product designed for children 18 months and older. The toy features a red plastic pick-up/dump truck that measures about 15-inches high and 19-inches wide, with four 7-inch black plastic wheels that are packed with a box of 40 LEGO DUPLO bricks in the cargo area.

Various retailers, including Toys R Us and Wal-Mart, sold the toy trucks from August 2002 through August 2004. Consumers should stop using the recalled toy trucks immediately and contact LEGO Systems for information about receiving a refund. For additional information, contact LEGO at 800.718.1858.

Toy Tool Benches Associated With Two Deaths

The CPSC and Playskool are voluntarily recalling about 255,000 Team Talkin' Tool Bench toys following the deaths of two young children. Playskool received reports that a 19-month-old child and a 2-year-old child suffocated when oversized, plastic toy nails sold with the tool bench toys became forcefully lodged in their throats.



The tool bench toys were sold at Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys stores and various other stores nationwide from October 2005 through September 2006. Consumers should take the toy nails away from children immediately and contact Playskool to get information on returning the nails for a \$50 certificate for a Playskool product. For additional information, call Playskool at 800.509.9554.

Kids Bath Sets Recalled

CPSC and Almar Sales Co. are recalling about 11,000 Suave kids bath sets. Items in the bath sets contain small parts that pose a choking hazard to young children. Additionally, some of the handles on the carrying cases are long enough to pose a strangulation hazard. The plastic carrying case also poses a danger of suffocation.



The recall involves "Suave" brand bath sets that contain a three-in-one shampoo, bath sponge and various other toy animal and character bath products.

The bath sets were sold at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from March 2006 through June 2006. Consumers should stop using these bath sets and either dispose of them or return them to the store where purchased for a full refund. For additional information, contact Almar Sales at 800.251.2522.

LeapFrog Activity Centers Recalled

CPSC and LeapFrog Enterprises Inc. are recalling about 186,000 Learn-Around Playground Activity Centers. A child's arm can become caught in the activity center's plastic tube, posing a risk of injury. LeapFrog has received 145 reports of children's arms becoming caught in the plastic tube, resulting in 54 reports of minor scratches and bruises.



The activity learning centers were sold at department stores and toy stores nationwide, on the website www.leapfrog.com and by other online retailers from July 2005 through August 2006. Consumers should take the recalled activity center away from children and contact LeapFrog at 800.701.5327 for a free repair kit.

Water Toy Recalled



CPSC and Wild Planet Toys Inc. are recalling about 273,000 Jet Streamers Water Blasters Pool Toys. When partially filled with water, the pool toy can stand upright on the pool floor with the rigid narrow end pointed

upward, posing an impalement risk. Wild Planet has received one report of an impalement injury to an 8-year-old girl who landed seat first onto a Jet Streamer left in a swimming pool and received a puncture wound.

The Jet Streamers are straight squirt guns for the pool. The Jet Streamers measure 9-inches long, with a bulbous water reservoir at one end and a rigid tapering handle containing a small water intake hole at the other end. The toys were sold as a two-set pack in packages with other pool toys, such as dive balls and magnet dive gloves and with boys' swim trunks.

The Jet Streamers were sold at Target, Kohl's Internet retailers, discount department stores and toy stores nationwide from February 2003 through August 2006. Consumers should stop using the Jet Streamers and contact Wild Planet Toys at 800.247.6570 for a replacement product.

TV and Furniture Tip-Over Deaths

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission estimates that in 2005 at least 3,000 children younger than 5 were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms because of injuries associated with TV tip-overs. In addition, from 2000 through 2005, CPSC received reports of 36 tip-overs and 65 furniture tip-over deaths. More than 80 percent of all these deaths involved young children.

The injuries and deaths frequently take place when kids climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests and television stands. In some cases, televisions placed on top of furniture tip over and cause a child to suffer a traumatic and sometimes fatal injury. CPSC offers the following safety tips to prevent furniture or TV tip-overs:

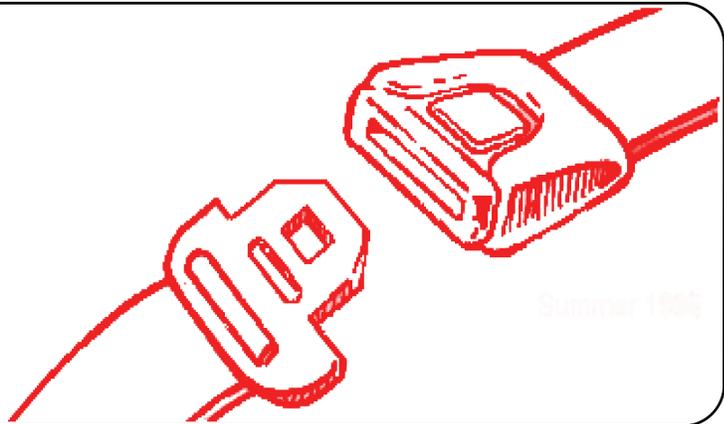
- Verify that furniture is stable on its own. For added security, attach to the wall or anchor to the floor all entertainment units, TV stands, bookcases, shelving, and bureaus using appropriate hardware, such as brackets, screws or toggles.
- Place the TV on sturdy furniture appropriate for the size of the TV or on a low-rise base.
- Push the TV as far back as possible.
- Place electrical cords out of a child's reach and teach kids not to play with them.
- Remove items from the top of the TV and furniture that might tempt kids to climb, such as toys and remote controls.

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The Buckle Update



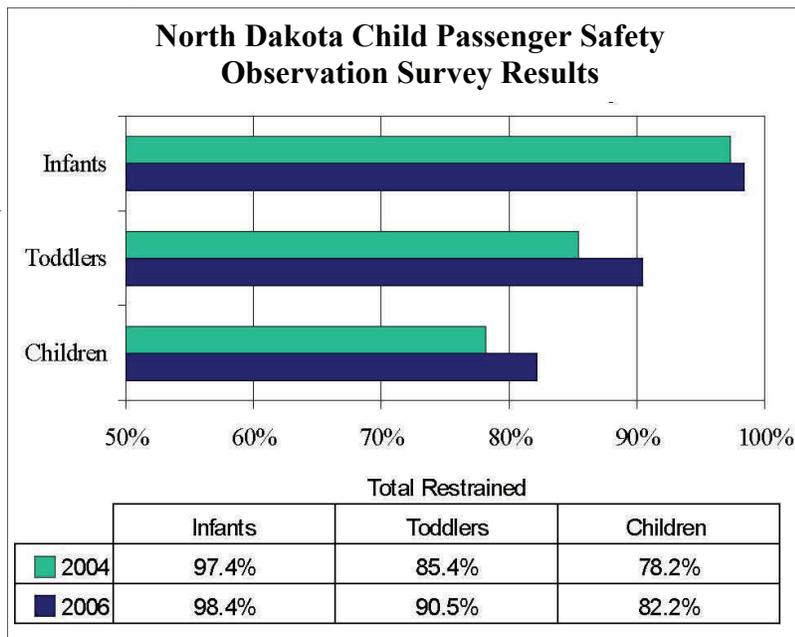
How North Dakota Kids Ride

The North Dakota Department of Health has completed its biennial observation surveys to measure restraint use by children younger than 11. The surveys were conducted between May and September 2006 by certified child passenger safety instructors and were done in Bismarck, Jamestown, Valley City, Fargo, Wahpeton, Grand Forks, Devils Lake, Minot, Williston and Dickinson.

In the 10 communities, observers recorded data on 1,937 children, of whom 191 were infants younger than 1; 775 were toddlers ages 1 through 5; and 971 were children ages 6 through 10. Survey results showed:

- 98.4 percent of infants younger than 1 were riding in a car safety seat.
- 90.5 percent of toddlers ages 1 through 5 were buckled in a car seat, booster seat or seat belt.
- 82.2 percent of children ages 6 through 10 were restrained in a seat belt, booster seat or car seat.

Restraint use increased in all age categories between 2004 and 2006. In 2004, restraint use by infants was 97.4 percent, and restraint use by toddlers was 85.4 percent. In 2004, 78.2 percent of children ages 6 through 10 were restrained.



Winter Warning — Be Sure Baby's Car Seat Harness Is Tight



With cold weather upon us, young children are being dressed in heavier coats and snowsuits. Parents should be aware that the heavier clothing could interfere with the snugness of the harness on their child's car seat.

The harness should be tightened to the child — not just to the coat of snowsuit the child is wearing. You should not be able to pinch any slack in the harness. For infants, avoid using thick blankets under the straps. Buckle the harness first and then put a blanket over it. Remember — strap before you wrap.

Seat Belts on School Buses

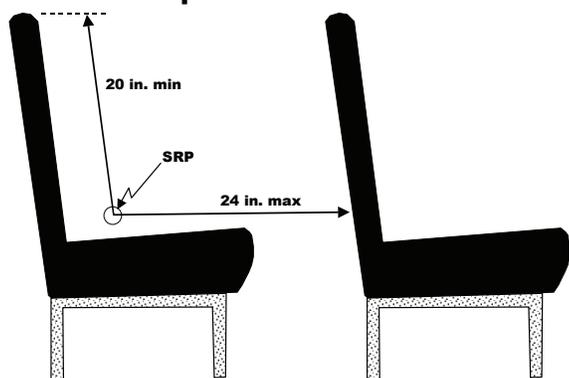
When compared to other motor vehicles, school buses are one of the safest forms of transportation in the United States. Each year, public school buses travel about 4.3 billion miles to transport 23.5 million children to and from school.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) requires all new school buses to meet safety standards that include improved emergency exits, roof structures, seating, fuel systems and structural integrity. However, the standards do not include installation of seat belts on buses, and many parents question why seat belts are required in passenger vehicles but not in buses.

According to NHTSA, the best way to provide crash protection to passengers of large school buses is through a concept called “compartmentalization,” rather than through use of seat belts.

Compartmentalization provides occupant crash protection through use of strong, closely spaced seats that have energy-absorbing, padded seat backs.

Compartmentalization



Because small school buses are more like passenger vehicles, the federal government does require seat belts on small buses that weigh less than 10,000 pounds. Children riding in small buses equipped with seat belts must be restrained in a car seat or seat belt to comply with North Dakota’s child passenger safety law.

The most dangerous part of the school bus ride is getting on and off the bus. Many more children die as pedestrians while loading and unloading school buses than as occupants on the bus.

The American School Bus Council offers the following tips for school bus riders:

- Be alert to traffic. Check both ways for cars before stepping off the bus.
- Make eye contact with the bus driver, and wait for the bus driver’s signal before crossing the street.
- Walk in front of the bus; never walk behind the bus to cross the street.
- While waiting for the bus, stay in a safe place away from the street.
- Never go under the bus to retrieve something you’ve dropped.

Britax Companion Infant Car Seat Recalled

Britax Child Safety Inc. recently announced a voluntary recall of its Companion infant car seat, model E9L14, for failure to comply with federal safety regulations. The recall includes Companion models produced from Oct. 31, 2003, through June 6, 2004.



According to Britax, a small percentage (1%) of the Companion car seat may have been incorrectly assembled. With the incorrect assembly, one or both of two tabs on the bottom of the car seat may not be properly positioned. If the tabs are not properly positioned, in a crash, the car seat may rotate in the base beyond the limit allowed by law, increasing the risk of injury. No accidents or injuries have been reported.

To determine if a restraint has an incorrect assembly, owners will need to visually inspect the bottom of the car seat. Detailed instructions for inspection are provided at www.britaxusa.com or can be requested from Britax at 888.427.4829. If the car seat has the incorrect assembly, Britax will replace the car seat and base free of charge. However, owners will be advised to continue using the seat **without the base** until they receive the new restraint system.