

HSS Safety Message



Spring Safety Message

Battery Maintenance



Did you forget to change your batteries?

We changed our clocks in the USA last month and this is a reminder we need to check our batteries in our emergency devices in our homes. This year we included weather

radios, as well as our smoke detectors and CO detectors. PLEASE change your batteries in all three of these devices; if you do not have these devices in your home, PLEASE get one. EVERY HOME needs a Smoke Detector and a Weather Radio. And those with gas and oil fueled appliances (gas fireplaces, gas/oil furnace, gas water heater, etc.) used in their homes need a CO detector. This would also be a great time to review your home emergency plans and kits. Ensure everyone knows what to do in case of severe weather and fire.

Lawns and Gardens

The Consumer Product Safety Commission. (CPSC) reports over 400,000 people each year are treated from lawn and garden tool injuries.

- Wear gloves and approved eye protection when using hand tools and keep tools in good working order.
- When using hand tools keep tools in good working order (Cutting edges properly sharpened, replace cracked or damaged handles).

Over 25,000 people are injured and 75 killed on or near riding lawn mowers and garden tractors each year. Items propelled from mowers can reach speeds of over 100MPH.

- Pre-check motorized lawn equipment like mowers, tillers, weed eaters, edgers and blowers (Sharpen blades, change oil/filters and spark plugs).
- Ensure safety shutoff devices operate properly.
- NEVER fuel equipment indoors, near an ignition source or when hot.
- Use proper hearing, eye and foot protection.



Motor Vehicle/Deer Collisions

Deer-vehicle crashes continue to be a major concern for motorists. The majority of deer-vehicle collisions occur during the months of October and November when deer are most active during the breeding phase.

Many collisions also occur during spring fawning, when yearling deer are seeking out new home ranges. Regardless of the time of year, motorists should be aware of the potential for deer to cross roads at anytime. Taking proper precautions like driving slow during evening and night time hours and scanning roadsides for deer can prevent many of these accidents from occurring.





National Playground Safety Week (April 19 - 24)

What to remember when your child plays in the backyard:

- **SUPERVISION:** Your child should always be supervised when playing on playground equipment. Within residential settings, injury reports indicate that approximately 50,000 children are injured and 10 die annually. These fatal events are associated with falls from play equipment, strangulation by clothing or draw strings that become entangled on protrusions, head entrapment from feet-first entry into an opening between 3 ½ inches and 9 inches, and equipment tipping over.
- **AGE APPROPRIATENESS:** Provide your child with a play area that is developmentally appropriate. Playing helps children develop physically, emotionally, socially, and intellectually. You can offer a variety of play experiences such as: drama, games, art, and water, as well as activities such as climbing, swing and sliding.
- **PLAY EQUIPMENT:** Play equipment should be installed according to the manufacturer's recommendations and should withstand the maximum anticipated forces to be exerted upon it. The risk of serious crushing injury can be reduced by careful attention to anchoring.
- **FALL SURFACING:** We all know that when children play, they will fall. The goal should be to provide a soft cushion for them to fall onto. Asphalt, dirt, concrete, and grass are not acceptable surfaces for underneath play equipment. A one foot fall onto concrete can cause a concussion. Appropriate surfaces include loose fill materials such as sand, pea gravel, wood chips, or rubber chips. Rubber tiles, rubber mats, or poured-in-place rubber are acceptable if they meet the Consumer Product Safety Commission

Recommendations at:

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/pubs/325.pdf>

- **EQUIPMENT MAINTENANCE:** Routine maintenance should include following the manufacturer's guidelines on maintenance. Reminders include:

1. Periodically raking and replacing the loose-fill surfacing material.
2. Checking the equipment for broken equipment, gaps, and entanglements.
3. Periodically sealing, staining, or painting wooden play structures to prevent deterioration (This should be done according to the manufacturer's recommendations.)
4. Removing scattered debris, litter, feces, or rocks.
5. Checking for missing or damaged equipment components.
6. Accidental injury is a leading killer of children 14 and under worldwide. Most of these accidental injuries can be prevented by taking simple safety measures. For more information go to: <http://www.usa.safekids.org/>

Below are links to tips on how parents can keep their children safe.

Airway Obstructions

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_airway.html

Bikes

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_bike.htm

Cars

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_car.htm

Falls

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_falls.html

Fire and Burns

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_fire.htm

Pedestrians

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_ped.htm

Poison

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_poison.html

Water and Drowning

http://www.safekids.org/tips/tips_water.html