

Works

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Splash into safety!

Drowning is the second leading injury-related killer of kids ages 1-14, but these tragedies can be prevented if parents practice four “Water Safety Wisdoms” highlighted by the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

Recent research by SAFE KIDS and Johnson & Johnson, examining 2000 and 2001 data from Child Death Review teams in 17 states, found that 88 percent of children who drowned were actually under the supervision of another person,

dren how to swim.

As the summer season starts and children are more likely to be in and around water, SAFE KIDS Northern NJ urges parents to follow these four Water Safety Wisdoms:

Supervision: SAFE KIDS recommends adults take turns serving as the designated “water watcher,” whose sole responsibility is to actively supervise children in or near the water (and not allow them-

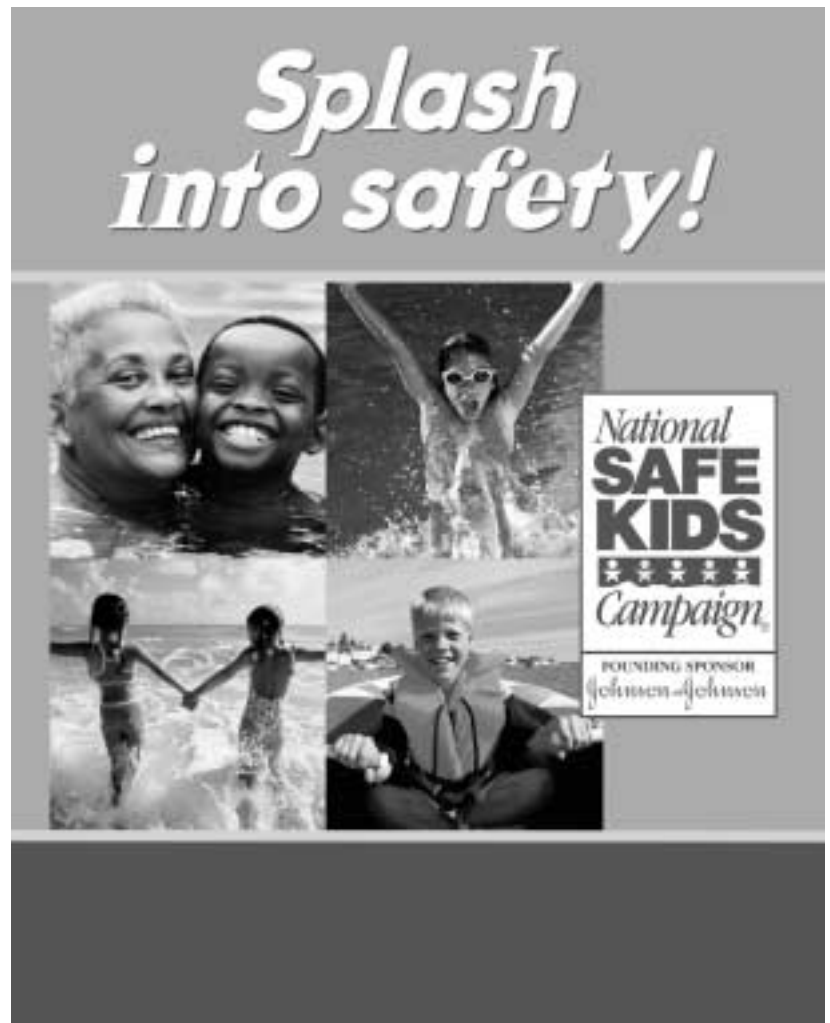
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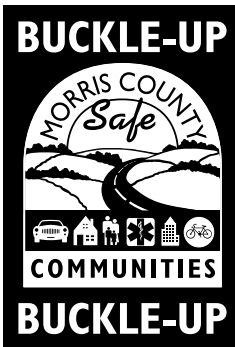


Splash into Safety at the Stanlick School in Jefferson Township NJ.

usually a family member. Supervision was defined as being in the care of another individual, not necessarily in their direct line of sight.

While better quality supervision is critical, the study also found that many adults were not properly fencing pools, requiring use of personal flotation devices (PFDs), or teaching their chil-





Buckle Up Morris County

Why Buckle Up!

Studies show seat belts do save lives and reduce injuries during crashes.

Seat belts work with air bags to protect occupants. Air bags alone are not enough to safeguard occupants.

More than 2,000 unbuckled drivers and front seat passengers died on New Jersey's roadways in the past 10 years.

Approximately 700 unbuckled drivers



PO Dean Coppella of the Newton Police Department completes a car seat inspection held in Stanhope, New Jersey in May 2004.

and front seat passengers were thrown out of their vehicles during crashes and killed in the past 10 years.

Child Passenger Safety

Please make sure that children are properly protected while traveling in a motor vehicle. Only the correct use of child car seats will offer the protection your child needs. So please be aware of the facts listed on this page regarding the proper use of child car seats.

There are many different types of child car seats on the market today. Each one must meet federal standards and all provide good protection for your child when used correctly. The "right" seat for you is largely a matter of personal choice. Choose a seat that fits your child and your car, read the instructions carefully, and use the seat correctly on every trip.

Correct use is easy if you follow four steps:

1. **Read the manufacturer's instructions for your car seat.**
2. **Face the child safety seat in the proper direction.** Infant seats always face

backwards.

Baby rides in a semi-reclining position facing the rear of the car.

Convertible seats face backwards in a semi-reclining position for infants under 20 pounds and under 1 year of age, and forward in an upright position for toddlers.

3. **Secure your child snugly in the car seat.** Always buckle the seats harness system securely to hold your child safely in the seat. Allow no more than one finger-width of slack between your child's collarbone and the harness strap.
4. **Secure the child car seat with a seat belt.** Anchoring the seat properly with a seat belt is critical. A seat that is not buckled securely to the car can tip over, slide sideways or, in a crash, be ejected from the car. Check your instruction manual to find out how to route the seat belt properly and fasten it tightly.



Splash!

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selves to be distracted by common practices such as eating, reading, talking to others, talking on cell phones, or napping). Active supervision means that the adult can always see and hear the child and stays close enough to intervene in an emergency.

Environment: Improve safety around residential pools and spas with installation and proper use of four-sided isolation fencing, which could prevent an estimated 50-90 percent of residential



Splash into Safety at the Stanlick School in Jefferson Township NJ.

pool drownings. Isolation fencing means the fence completely separates the pool area from the house and rest of the property, so a child cannot walk directly out a back door to the pool.



Program partners, Jefferson Township Rescue Squad, Morristown Memorial Hospital, NJ State Police Marine Division Lake Hopatcong - Trooper Chris Wasiak, Jefferson Township Police Dept. PTA Stanlick School.

Gear: Use properly fitting life vests in and around water, especially when boating, riding in personal watercraft and participating in water sports, to prevent an estimated 85 percent of boat-related drownings.

Education: Enroll children in swimming lessons with a certified instructor by the age of eight. Nearly three-quarters of drowning victims researched did not know how to swim.

"Childhood drownings are not inevitable, they are preventable," says Dr. Martin Eichelberger, director of Emergency Trauma Services at Children's National Medical Center in Washington, D.C. and CEO of the National SAFE KIDS Campaign. "These four Water Safety Wisdoms are critically important to the safety equation that will keep kids out of harms way."

All Terrain Vehicle Injury

As bigger and faster ATVs have been introduced over the past decade, ATV-related deaths and injuries have increased substantially in every age group. From 1997 to 2001, injury rates increased 23 percent for children ages 6 – 12 and 233 percent for children younger than 6.

ATVs are motorized vehicles with large, low-pressure tires. They are usually designed to carry one rider on an uneven surface and are generally used for recreation and farm, ranch and industrial work. Adult-sized ATVs have engines larger than 90cc. The average adult-sized ATV has an engine between 229cc and 694 cc. These sized ATVs come in various designs. Manufacturers' guidelines suggest that children under age 16 should operate ATVs with engines smaller than 90cc and children ages 6 – 12 should operate ATVs with engines between 70cc and 90cc.

ATV-Related deaths and injuries

In 2002, at least 44 children ages 14 and under died as a result of ATV-related injuries. Children ages 10 – 14 accounted for more than 75 percent of these deaths.

In 2002, nearly 30,300 children ages 14 and under were treated in hospital emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries.

ATV-related injuries are 6 times more likely to result in hospitalization and 12 times more likely to result in death than bicycle-related injuries.

Who is at Risk?

Males account for more than 60 percent of ATV-related deaths among children ages 14 and under.

Those who operate ATVs less than 25 hours a year, are under the age of 16, have less than one year of ATV experience and have ATVs with an engine 400cc or larger are at greater risk of ATV-related injuries.

ATV-Related Prevention Effectiveness

Wearing a helmet while operating an ATV reduces the risk of fatal head injury by 42 percent and the risk of non-fatal head injury

by 64 percent. However, helmets cannot protect from other causes of ATV-related injuries such as spinal cord, thoracic and abdominal injuries and asphyxiation.

Prevention Tips

- Children under 6 years should NEVER ride an ATV.
- No child under 16 should operate an adult sized ATV under any circumstances. If a child operates a youth-sized ATV, it should be according to the manufacturers instructions on a machine that is an appropriate size for the child.
- To ensure safe operation, adults should supervise all children operating ATVs
- Parents should consider a child's physical, mental and emotional maturity when deciding if a child is ready to operate a youth sized ATV
- Children should never operate ATV on public roads or paved surfaces. ATVs should be operated only on designated trails.
- All youth sized ATVs should employ throttle limiters and is equipped with identification flags.
- Personal protective equipment for ATV operators should include U.S. Department of Transportation-approved helmet with face protection, goggles, a long sleeved shirt or jacket, long pants, non-skid boots and gloves.
- Never carry passengers on ATVs.
- Children and their parent or guardian should enroll in and successfully complete an approved ATV safety course.

Morristown Memorial Hospital ATV DATA		
Year	ATV Victims	ATV Victims Under the age of 14
2002	24	5
2003	29	4

Walk Safe Be Seen

New Jersey experiences a disproportionate number of pedestrian injury crashes and fatalities compared to the nation as a whole. Each



Walk Safe Be Seen. Pedestrian Safety Program at Park Lake in Rockaway Township.

year, more than 800 children ages 14 and under die as pedestrians. Understanding and practicing pedestrian safety is necessary to avoid these tragic deaths and injuries.

- Understand and obey traffic signals and signs.
- Cross at corners, using traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Stop at the curb, or at the edge of the road if there is no curb, before crossing the street.
- Look left-right-and left again before crossing the street. Cross when the street is clear, and keep looking both ways while crossing.
- Walk, don't run, across the street.
- Walk facing traffic, on sidewalks or paths. Walk as far to the left as possible if there are no sidewalks.
- Watch for cars that are turning or backing up.
- Try to make eye contact with drivers before crossing in front of them.



Vinny Cicatelli spends some time with Detective Patricia Abrahamsen of Rockaway Township PD.

- Wear bright clothing in the daytime and retroreflective material at dawn and dusk. Rockaway Township Residents participated in the Walk Safe Be Seen program at Park Lake in May 2004. Reflective

May is Trauma Awareness Month

Morris County Safe Communities/SAFE KIDS Northern NJ on the Road

This year's theme, "Educate Your Community," enabled Morris County Safe Communities/SAFE KIDS Northern NJ to educate our community on various injury prevention topics. Our programming took covered injury prevention on the road, at home and at play. It targeted children, teens, adults and our senior population.



DWI re-inactment took place at Villa Walsh Academy just before the Junior and Senior Prom.



Program Partners, AHS MICU, Trauma Service MMH, Morris Minute Men, Morris Township Fire Department, and Helpful Friends of Morristown. This program was coordinated by the Morris Township Police Department.

New Community Partners

Newton Memorial Hospital
Harding Township Police Department

Due to our growing list of Community Partners we will now list them annually in our winter edition of our triennial newsletter. As new partners come on board, we will recognize them throughout the year.

Do you know where your matches and lighter are?



Keep your kids safe. Lock up your matches and lighters.

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Prevention Works

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Prevention Works is the official triennial newsletter of Morris County Safe Communities/SAFE KIDS Northern NJ.

We welcome articles of interest highlighting your community or organization.

Let us know how you have made your community a safe community.

If you have any comments or topics you would like to see covered, please feel free to contact
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