

Gas Fireplace Safety

Whether you use your gas fire place as a source of heat or as an attractive center piece of a room, beware of the dangers it may bring to children.

Stats About Fire and Burn-related Injuries in Children

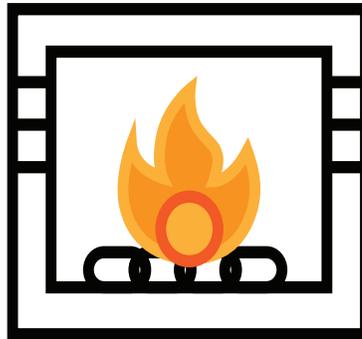
- Fire or burn-related injuries are among the ten leading causes of unintentional injury in children ages 0 to 5, with children 2 and younger at greatest risk.
- Every day, 300 children ages 0 to 19 are treated in the ER for burn-related injuries.
- Three children under age 6 go to the ER every day for burns related to fireplaces, including gas fireplaces. Specific statistics on the number of children injured by glass-front gas fireplaces are not available.

The Need for Gas Fireplace Safety Awareness & Education

- Approximately 1 in 3 fireplaces in U.S. homes are gas-powered. Gas fireplaces are also frequently found in resorts, hotels and other public places.
- For a variety of reasons, we can expect to find more and more gas fireplaces in people's homes, resorts, hotels, restaurants and other places over time. As they become more popular, the time to address safety concerns is now.
- The hot glass on the front of gas fireplaces can cause 3rd degree burns within 1 second of contact with the glass. This is because the glass on the front of a gas fireplace is extremely hot (500 degrees Fahrenheit or more) during operation and even long after the fireplace is turned off. The impact of these serious, irreversible burns can last a lifetime.

Why Children – Especially Babies & Toddlers – are at Higher Risk

- Children ages 6 and under are found to be more likely to suffer contact burns from fireplaces than older children, with babies and toddlers being at greatest risk.
- Young children in this age group are at greater risk as they are more likely to touch or come in contact with the glass surface of a gas fireplace because they:



1. Can be unstable as they learn to walk, and often use any surface within their reach to pull themselves up,
 2. Are becoming more mobile and curious (crawling, cruising and walking) and can fall and come into contact with the hot glass,
 3. Might be attracted to the appearance of the flames and are less likely to know intuitively or from life experience that the glass front of a fireplace can be a hot surface.
- Also, the glass in front of a fireplace can be cold or hot depending on if the fireplace is off or on, so if a toddler has touched it once when it's cold, they may not realize that it can be hot as well.
 - Additionally, young children are more likely to suffer serious burn injuries from touching the glass on gas fireplaces because they: have slower reflexes and may not react quickly when they touch something hot, and have thinner skin on their palms than adults, which can lead to more serious burn injuries.

Tips for Parents and Caregivers

- Watch children around fireplaces. When a gas fireplace is turned on, the glass is extremely hot and can take more than an hour to cool down after it is turned off. Keep children away from the fireplace to prevent burns from the hot glass.
- Make sure your gas fireplace has a safety screen or safety gate. These barriers help keep children away from the hot glass on fireplaces. If you need a safety screen, contact your local fireplace manufacturer or retailer for the best option.
- Keep fireplace remote controls out of children's reach and sight. Make sure children also stay away from on and off switches for gas fireplaces.
- Think about places outside of your home with fireplaces. When traveling to other homes, restaurants, hotels or resorts, there may not be a safety screen or gate installed. Keep children away from fireplaces and teach them not to touch the glass.
- If there is an emergency, call the doctor or 9-1-1 immediately. Physicians can give you information on how to treat a burn correctly.

Prevention Works is the official biannual newsletter of Northern NJ SAFE KIDS/Safe Communities.

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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 Atlantic Health System
Morristown Medical Center

**SAFE
KIDS**
NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY

Get Ready to Go Outside!

There is no reason to hibernate during the winter. Get outside and enjoy with fun winter can bring.

ICE & SNOW
Remove It Before You Go

- Remember to remove all ice and snow from your vehicle before driving, especially from the hood, windows and roof.
- Motorists who fail to do so face fines of \$25 to \$75 for each offense, regardless of whether the ice and snow is dislodged from the vehicle.
- If flying ice or snow causes property damage or injury to others, motorists face fines of \$200 to \$1,000 for each offense.

SAFE PASSAGE
moving toward zero fatalities
www.njsafekids.com

Activities like skiing, snowboarding, ice skating, hockey and sledding are great ways to get outside during the long, cold winter months, they can also be dangerous. Every year, hundreds of thousands of people suffer injuries from these and other outdoor winter sports.

To avoid these injuries be prepared to avoid include fractures, sprains, strains, concussions and dislocations. Take the time to be ready for the outdoors, then enjoy it.

10 Tips for Winter Sport Safety

- 1. Shape up.** Stay in shape and condition muscles prior to participating in winter activities. Don't go from 0 to 100. Warm up with light exercises or stretches, and ease into the activity. Cold muscles, tendons and ligaments are more prone to injury.
- 2. Protection is a must.** Always wear the appropriate protective gear for the activity, like helmets, goggles, wrist guards, and knee and elbow pads.

3. Test your equipment. Before going on the first run, make sure all equipment is in good working order.

4. Learn how to fall. Shoulder, elbow and wrist injuries can result from trying to brace a fall. Take a lesson or two from a trained instructor, who will provide direction on how to fall correctly.

5 Know and follow safety rules. For example, stay within the marked ski and snowboard trails, and learn how to get on and off the ski lift.

6. Know your limits. Choose slopes and maneuvers that match your skill level.

7. Stop when you're tired. Accidents are more likely to occur when you're fatigued.

8. Layer up. Clothes that become damp from sweat can lower your body temperature. Wear a breathable base layer, one or two insulating layers, and a water and windproof outer layer to ensure you stay warm and dry.

9. Stay hydrated. Drink water before, during and after the activity.

Get Your Car Seat Checked! New Station in Pompton Lakes

Northern NJ Safe Kids/Safe Communities

Car Seat Inspection Stations

Morris County

Chester First Aid Squad
100 North Rd, Chester NJ
Open 1st Tuesday of Month
2pm – 6pm
and 3rd Thursday of Month
7am – 12 noon

Shade Tree Garage

171 Washington St.
Morristown, NJ
Open 2nd Saturday of
Month 8am – 12 noon
and 3rd Tuesday of Month
5pm – 8pm

Morris – Essex

**Atlantic Ambulance
Building**
120 Dorsa Ave,
Livingston NJ
Open Wednesdays
9am – 3:00 pm
June, July & August
9am – 1pm

Sussex County

Sparta Ambulance Squad
14 Sparta Ave North
Sparta Township, NJ 07871
Open 4th Monday of Month
10am – 1pm



Passaic County

**Pompton Lakes
First Aid Squad**
700 Ramapo Ave
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
Open: 3rd Monday of
Month 4pm – 7pm

Atlantic Health System
Morristown Medical Center

**SAFE
K:IDS**
NORTHERN
NEW JERSEY



www.preventionworks-nj.org

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The CPS stations are financially supported by grant funding and individual donations. A suggest donation of \$10.00 per seat is recommended at the time of services