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SAFE KIDS IN THE NEWS

Carbon Monoxide Alarms Could Prevent Deaths, Health Officials Say (Cache Valley Daily, Utah) | [TOP](#)

Jan. 20 / Bear River Health Department





Long winter months means continued cold weather, as well as an increase in the number of fuel-burning appliances being used in the home. These appliances include ovens, space heaters, generators, indoor grills and fireplaces, and they can cause dangerous levels of carbon monoxide (CO) to build up in the home.

“Families today are better at understanding the importance of having working smoke alarms in every sleeping area, but what about carbon monoxide alarms?” says Safe Kids Bear River Coalition member David Hull of the Logan City Fire Department. “Carbon monoxide is so dangerous because it is odorless, invisible, and it can kill. CO can make a child seriously ill in small doses that might not noticeably affect an adult.”

According to a study from 2004-2006, children younger than 5 years old have the highest estimated rate of CO-related visits to the emergency room each year among all age groups in the United States. More than 25 kids die from CO poisoning every year.

Important safety tips to protect families from CO poisoning include:

Prevent CO buildup in the first place – make sure heating appliances are in good working order and used only in well-ventilated areas.

Don't run a car engine in the garage, even to warm it up; move the car outside first.

Install a CO alarm outside every sleeping area, on every level of your home and at least 15 feet away from every fuel-burning appliance.

When you check your smoke alarm batteries each month, check the batteries on your CO alarms at the same time – and replace the batteries twice a year.

Never use a stove for heating.

Have all gas, oil or coal burning appliances inspected by a technician every year to ensure they're working correctly and are properly ventilated.

If a CO lead is suspected, open windows to allow fresh air in the home. If someone who has been in a poorly ventilated room with a fuel-burning appliance exhibits symptoms including headache, fatigue, nausea, vomiting, or confusion, move the victim to fresh air and call 911.

If more than one person in the home suddenly feels ill for no apparent reason, or if a CO alarm goes off, get everyone outside immediately and call 911 from a pre-arranged meeting place. “CO alarms are available at hardware stores for about \$20,” adds Hull. “That is a small price to pay to help detect odorless, poisonous gases in the home before it's too late.”

Low income families in need of CO alarms should call Safe Kids Bear River at 435-792-6510. For more information about CO poisoning, visit www.usa.safekids.org or call the poison control hotline at (800) 222-1222.

Safe Kids Bear River works to prevent unintentional childhood injury, the leading cause of death and disability to children ages 1 to 14.

<http://www.cachevalleydaily.com/news/local/82166932.html>



RISK AREA NEWS

Dorel Juvenile Group Plans New State-of-the-Art Car Seat Design and Development Competency Center in Columbus, Indiana (FoxBusiness.com) [TOP](#)

Jan. 19 / Dorel Industries

MONTREAL and COLUMBUS, Ind., Jan 19, 2010 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ ---- Dorel Industries (TSX: DII.B, DII.A) today announced plans to build a Design and Development Competency Center at its Dorel Juvenile Group (DJG) USA car seat manufacturing facility in Columbus, Indiana. The project is the first major milestone in Dorel's car seat product capital investment program and involves a total investment of US\$20.8 million through 2013. DJG will immediately spend US\$3.6 million and will add 39 jobs at its Columbus facility with a total of 98 jobs being created over the next four years.

"The development of this world class technology center with specialized research and design facilities will further Dorel's leadership position as the largest manufacturer of car seats globally and will drive ongoing technical advancements and innovations for child passenger safety," stated Dorel President and CEO, Martin Schwartz.

This past year, Dorel's team of car seat [engineers](#) launched Air Protect(TM) Side Impact Technology, the most innovative and ground-breaking safety feature ever offered in a car seat.

The Design and Development Competency Center will be located adjacent to Dorel's current one million square foot car seat manufacturing facility. The expansion project will renovate 40,000 square feet of office and warehouse space, doubling the space dedicated to child restraint systems design and development. The new center will house cutting-edge resources to aid in the development of future car seat technological breakthroughs. A revolutionary new crash test sled, dedicated computational [engineering](#) resources, and advanced side impact testing capabilities are just some of the dynamic assets to be included.

"We take great pride in the continued innovation and advancements our team has made in the car seat industry, most recently with the launch of the ground-breaking Air Protect Side Impact Technology," said Dave Taylor, President of Dorel Juvenile Group US. "The new Design and Development Competency Center will enable us to bring additional leading car seat technologies to more families on the road today."

"Dorel's decision to expand its development and testing operations here is an incredible vote of confidence in the Indiana economy and the work force of Columbus," said Governor Mitch Daniels. "We appreciate their continued investment in this region and look forward to the new opportunities they will bring Indiana workers."





Ninety percent of Dorel car seats and 50 percent of the DJG USA's total business are currently produced and distributed from the Columbus, Indiana facility. In addition, expansion with Dorel's new Competency Center will improve the community's economic development through the addition of new jobs and will highlight the area as a center for child passenger safety innovation.

About Dorel Industries

Dorel Industries Inc. (TSX: DII.B, DII.A) is a world class juvenile products and bicycle company. Established in 1962, Dorel creates style and excitement in equal measure to safety, quality and value. The Company's lifestyle leadership position is pronounced in both its Juvenile and Bicycle categories with an array of trend-setting products. Dorel's powerfully branded products include Safety 1st, Quinny, Cosco, Maxi-Cosi and Bebe Confort in Juvenile, as well as Cannondale, Schwinn, GT, Mongoose, Iron Horse and SUGOI in Recreational/Leisure. Dorel's Home Furnishings segment markets a wide assortment of furniture products, both domestically produced and imported. Dorel is a US\$2.2 billion company with 4700 employees, facilities in eighteen countries, and sales worldwide.

SOURCE Dorel Industries

<http://www.foxbusiness.com/story/markets/industries/retail/dorel-juvenile-group-plans-new-state-art-car-seat-design-development-competency-1271235636/>

Child Nearly Drowns in Trash Can Full of Water (KPLC, Louisiana) | [TOP](#)

Jan. 19 / Tiffany Blackmon

JENNINGS, LA (KPLC) – An 18-month old boy remains on life support after nearly drowning in a trash can full of water last Friday.

The child's mother was not home at the time. The child was left in the care of her boyfriend, 23 year old Ricky James Caswell II of Jennings.

Caswell was arrested and charged with second degree cruelty to a juvenile. He allegedly went outside to smoke cigarettes, and then returned to find the child in a trash can full of water it was catching from a pipe leak.

Caswell performed CPR on the child, stabilizing him before first responders arrived. He remains in jail until his bound hearing on Monday.

Cases like this are not uncommon in Louisiana. Drowning is the third leading cause of preventable deaths for children under the age of 15.

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"Whether it be the bathtub, a bucket of water that you're mopping with, or even the toilet for that fact, if you turn your head for just a second it can have detrimental effects," said Alisa Stevens, Child Safety Coordinator with the Office of Public Health Region V.

Household objects that hold water don't even need to be filled to become a hazard.

Stevens stated, "A child can actually drown in as little as a few inches of water, you can use your index finger as a guide."

If a toddler falls into an object full of water, some might think that child can lift themselves out, but as Stevens explained it's not that easy.

"A toddlers head is heavy, so after the child bends over, it's unable to actually get up so it stays in this position [bending inside the water filled object] and water then enters the lungs."

There are certain items that can be purchased to assist you in protecting your child.

"You can use barriers if you're mopping. You can put up a safety gate to protect your child," said Stevens.

You can also purchase a toilet lock to prevent a child from playing in the toilet area, but these are not substitutes for supervision.

"Don't leave, not even for a second for the phone. Always keep your eye on your child near water," said Stevens.

You can purchase a safety gate or toilet lock from most local stores. Stevens also recommends that parents and caretakers be trained in CPR.

<http://www.kplctv.com/Global/story.asp?S=11844740>

CPSC Outlines Revamped Crib Recall Policy (ConsumerAffairs.com, Washington, D.C.) [TOP](#)

Jan. 22 / James Limbach

Credits or refunds for recalled items a possibility

Call it "refunds for recalls." That could be part of the new beefed-up crib safety rules unveiled before Congress by the head of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).





CPSC Chairman Inez Tenenbaum told a House Energy and Commerce Committee panel that her "Safe Sleep Initiative" is considering a requirement that crib makers offer a refund or store credit when crib is recalled. This, she testified, would "incentivize consumers to discard and replace defective cribs."

At the same time, she cautioned that the requirement couldn't send manufacturers into bankruptcy or financial distress, as that could "foreclose the possibility of any corrective action."

Committee Chairman Bart Stupak (D-MI), emphasized the importance of the issue noting that "a baby crib is the only product designed expressly so that parents can leave their children unattended for long periods of time and be confident their children will be safe. What is most shocking," he added, "is that all of these recalled cribs were certified as meeting the industry's voluntary safety standards."

As part of her 6-step initiative, Tenenbaum said she plans to ratchet up public outreach in cases of crib and durable infant and toddler product recalls. This would include increasing consumer awareness via multimedia tools, including print, radio, television, and social media, as well as community-based events and partnerships with crib advocacy groups including Safe Kids USA, Keeping Babies Safe, and the National Safety Council.

The hearing by the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations came less than two weeks the recall of more than 2 million [Stork Craft drop-side cribs](#) and just days after Dorel Asia recalled [more than 6000,000 cribs](#).

Federal crib safety standards haven't been updated since 1982.

http://www.consumeraffairs.com/news04/2010/01/cpsc_cribs.html

Slippery Slope: Ski Helmets May Soon Be Mandatory (San Diego News Room, California) | [TOP](#)

Jan. 19 / Emily Holding

Children under the age of 18 are used to grabbing their helmets before going for a bike ride, but soon they may have to put on a helmet before hitting the slopes as well if Senate Bill 880 is passed.

The bill, introduced last week by Senator Leland Yee (D-San Francisco), would require children under the age of 18 to wear a helmet while skiing or snowboarding. Like California's bicycle helmet law, SB 880 would impose a fine of no more than \$25 on parents whose children do not wear a helmet.

"California's ski slopes are perhaps the last area of recreation where we do not have basic safety standards in place for children," Yee said in a press release last week. "Despite repeated warnings from public health experts, professional athletes,





and ski resorts, each winter brings news of hundreds of unnecessary tragedies for the failure to wear a helmet. With this legislation, we can significantly reduce instances of traumatic brain injury or death for such a vulnerable population.”

To Yee, the legislation is common sense. As a child psychologist who has also spoken out about limiting children’s exposure to violent video games, Yee wrote the helmet bill after seeing a federal study that showed that half of all skiing deaths are caused by head injuries.

“When the data is so conclusive that helmets save lives and reduce severity of injuries,” said Yee, “California should set minimum standards for safety.”

Senator Tom Harman (R-Huntington Beach) disagrees, calling the bill “nanny government.”

“You get into the question of just how far government should go in protecting people from themselves,” Harman told the Los Angeles Times.

Yee argues that the government does not leave decisions about seat belts, car seats or basic vaccinations up to parents, and therefore a minimum safety standard should be set for helmets on ski slopes as well.

The California Ski Industry Administration, which represents ski resort operators in California and Nevada, has pledged its support of the bill. The fine for not wearing a helmet does, after all, fall on the parents, not the resorts, and as Executive Director Bob Roberts told the San Jose Mercury News, “Let’s face it: We also sell them.”

While some may complain that a helmet law would just add another cost to an already expensive sport, Chuck Peters, president of the South Bay-based Sundancers Ski and Snowboard Club, told the San Jose Mercury News that a decent helmet costs less than a day on the slopes.

Dr. Jo Linder-Crow, Executive Director of the California Psychological Association, another one of the bills supporters, says, “The lives lost and public health costs are too high to ignore any longer.”

The bill will not be heard in the Senate until at least next month and will then go to committees for further debate. A final decision is expected later this year.

http://sandiegonewsroom.com/news/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=40152:slippery-slope-ski-helmets-may-soon-be-mandatory&catid=49:california&Itemid=50

