



NEWS DIGEST ~ March 12, 2010

Safe Kids in the News (click on link for full text)

[Group Urges Parents to Protect Against Home Hazards \(KTKA, Kansas\)](#)

[Columbus Council Honors Police Capt. Renee McAneny for Volunteer Work \(Ledger Enquirer, Georgia\)](#)

[Pitt County Sheriff's Office Sponsors Second Annual Medicine Drop \(WNCT, North Carolina\)](#)

[Protect Your Family From Carbon Monoxide \(NAPS\)](#)

Risk Area News (click on link for full text)

Child Passenger Safety

[Fort Myers Police Investigate Infant's Death \(The News-Press, Florida\)](#)

Pedestrian Safety

[Preventing Vehicle Versus Pedestrian Accidents \(KIDK.com, Idaho\)](#)

Fire Prevention

[Firefighters Inspecting Residential Smoke Alarms \(The Tribune, Canada\)](#)

Bike Safety & Helmets

[Bike Helmet Laws \(Illinoishomepage.net, Illinois\)](#)





SAFE KIDS IN THE NEWS

Group Urges Parents to Protect Against Home Hazards (KTKA, Kansas) [| TOP](#)

March 12 / Vicky Lu

According to Safe Kids Kansas, a coalition of statewide organizations dedicated to children's injury protection, unintentional poisoning is the cause of death for approximately 100 children ages 14 years and under each year.

Poison control centers in the United States receive 1.2 million calls as a result of accidental poisoning of children ages 5 and under. Nearly 90 percent of these toxic exposures occur in the home, and 56 percent involve non-pharmaceutical products such as cosmetics, cleansers, personal care products, plants, pesticides, art supplies, alcohol and toys.

National Poison Prevention Week runs from March 14 to March 20. The week, nationally designated by Congress since 1961, highlights the dangers of poisonings and how to prevent them.

Safe Kids Kansas wants to remind parents to make sure they store hazardous materials – such as cleaning products or medication – out of their children's reach.

Safe Kids Kansas offers these additional tips:

- Lock up potential poisons out of sight and reach of kids. This includes makeup, medicine, plants, cleaning products, pesticides, art supplies, baking extracts, and beer, wine and liquor.
- Never leave kids alone with an open container of something you wouldn't want them to ingest. A child can be poisoned in a matter of seconds.
- Don't refer to medicine or vitamins as candy and don't involve children as helpers with your medication.
- Choose medicines and products that have child-resistant caps. When you are giving medicine to your children, follow dosage directions carefully.
- Keep products in their original containers. Read labels to learn if a product is poisonous and for first aid information.
- If your home was built before 1978, test for lead-based paint and get your child tested for lead exposure. Children inhale the dust of lead-based paint and can build up enough lead in their blood to affect intelligence, growth and development.
- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home. Carbon monoxide is an invisible, odorless gas that builds up around fuel-burning appliances and cars in garages. It can make a child seriously ill in concentrations that would barely affect an adult.



- Know which plants in and around your home can be poisonous.
- Discuss these precautions with grandparents and caregivers. They may have medications that can be very dangerous to children and their homes might not be as well childproofed as yours.

For more information about poison prevention, call Poison Control Center at 800-222-1222, or call Safe Kids Kansas at 785-296-0351, or visit www.usa.safekids.org.

<http://www.ktka.com/news/2010/mar/12/protect-against-home-hazards/>

Columbus Council Honors Police Capt. Renee McAneny for Volunteer Work (Ledger Enquirer, Georgia) | [TOP](#)

March 10 / Mike Haskey

Columbus police Capt. Renee McAneny was recognized Tuesday by Columbus Council for being named Safe Kids Georgia Volunteer of the Year.

Safe Kids is a coalition dedicated to preventing unintentional childhood injury and promoting changes in attitudes, behaviors, laws and the environment to prevent accidental injuries to children.

McAneny, a 26-year veteran of the department, has been a Safe Kids volunteer for more than 11 years.

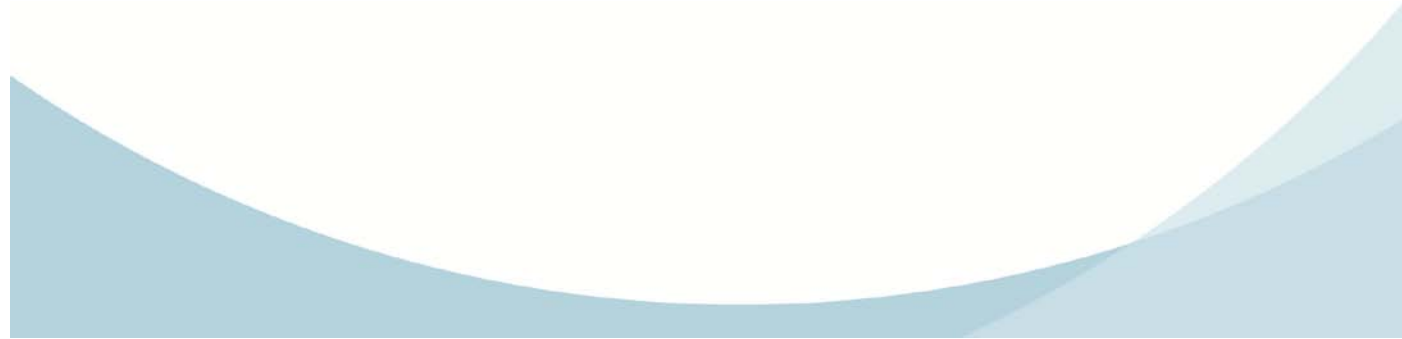
She was selected for the honor by a 27-member panel from a list of applicants in Georgia.

<http://www.ledger-enquirer.com/2010/03/10/1045569/council-honors-police-officer.html>

Pitt County Sheriff's Office Sponsors Second Annual Medicine Drop (WNCT, North Carolina) | [TOP](#)

March 8 / Kiara Jones

Pitt County – The Pitt County Sheriff's Office, in partnership with the North Carolina State Bureau of Investigation, Pitt County Safe Kids Coalition, and the Pitt County Substance Abuse Coalition will be holding its second annual Operation Medicine Drop event. Operation Medicine Drop is a program aimed at providing the public a safe and secure method of disposing of unwanted prescription and over-the-counter medications to reduce the accessibility of medication to small children and to prevent accidental poisonings.





The Pitt County Sheriff's Office will be sponsoring the Operation Medicine Drop event on March 20th from 10a-2p in the lobby of the Pitt County Community Schools and Recreation building located at 4561 County Home Road.

The Sheriff's Office will also be assisting the Pitt County Memorial Hospital Police Department with two additional event dates where citizens can deposit unwanted medications at the following locations:

- Monday, March 15th from 11a-2p in Pitt County Memorial Hospital cafeteria
- Tuesday, March 16th from 11a-2p at the East Carolina Heart Institute at Pitt County Memorial Hospital

For more information about Operation Medicine Drop, please visit <http://www.ncsafekids.org>. For more information on Pitt County's Operation Medicine Drop events, please contact Melissia Larson at 252.902.2656.

http://www2.wnct.com/nct/news/local/article/pitt_county_sheriffs_office_sponsors_second_annual_medicine_drop/117580/

Protect Your Family From Carbon Monoxide (NAPS) | [TOP](#)


(NAPSI)-When people think of unintentional poisonings, the toxic products stashed under the kitchen sink often come to mind. But there is one life-threatening poison that parents may not think about-carbon monoxide (CO).

Carbon monoxide is the leading cause of accidental poisoning deaths in America, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), claiming 400 lives and injuring another 20,000 each year.

Colorless, odorless and tasteless, it is often called "the Silent Killer." The most common symptoms of CO poisoning are headache, nausea and dizziness. Since these symptoms are similar to those of the flu, CO poisoning may be dismissed as a virus. Unfortunately, the consequences of doing so may be tragic.

"Young children are especially vulnerable to the effects of CO. Due to their smaller bodies, children process CO differently than adults and may be more severely affected by carbon monoxide in their blood," said Alan Korn, executive director for Safe Kids USA.

CDC reports show that from 2004 to 2006, children age 5 and younger had the highest estimated rate of CO-related emergency department visits among all age groups.





Common household appliances, such as a furnace or water heater, are potential CO poisoning sources. When these or other fuel-burning devices malfunction or are used improperly, carbon monoxide can quickly build up inside a home, causing injury or even death.

So how can families be sure the silent killer isn't lurking in their home? Install a carbon monoxide alarm. It's the only safe way to detect this poisonous gas.

In fact, many state leaders have recognized the importance of having a working carbon monoxide alarm. Currently, 24 states require CO alarms in certain residences. In addition, families can take these simple steps to reduce the chance of having a CO incident:

- Install a carbon monoxide alarm outside every sleeping area and on every level of your home.
- Place CO alarms at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances to reduce nuisance alarms.
- Test alarms each month and replace them every seven years.
- Have all gas-, oil- or coal-burning appliances inspected by a technician every year to ensure they are working properly.
- Never use a stove to heat your home.
- Do not use a grill, generator or camping stove inside your home or garage or near a window.
- Never leave a car, SUV or motorcycle engine running inside a garage, even if the garage door is open.

For more information on carbon monoxide poisoning as well as other home safety tips, visit www.safekids.org.

<http://www.napsnet.com/articles/63516.html>





RISK AREA NEWS

Fort Myers Police Investigate Infant's Death (The News-Press, Florida) [TOP](#)

March 8 / Rachel Revehl & Evangelia Ganosellis

7:30 P.M. UPDATE — Fort Myers police have identified the baby who died after being left in a car earlier today as 18-month-old Payton McKinnon.

Payton's father, Reginald McKinnon picked up his daughter from day care at 8 a.m. for a doctor's appointment, said Shelly Flynn, spokeswoman for the Fort Myers Police Department.

The appointment ran longer than expected and he returned to work at 11:09 a.m., accidentally leaving his daughter in the vehicle, Flynn said.

McKinnon left work shortly after 3 p.m., when he discovered Payton was still in the car. Charges have not yet been determined, Flynn said.

Detectives and the Medical Examiner's Office continue to investigate.

<http://www.news-press.com/article/20100308/NEWS0110/100308046/1085/NEWS01/Fort-Myers-police-investigate-infant-s-death->

Preventing Vehicle Versus Pedestrian Accidents (KIDK.com, Idaho) [TOP](#)


March 8 / Emily Florez

BONNEVILLE COUNTY - Saturday night a pedestrian was hit by a truck outside of Edwards Theater in Ammon. We decided to look into pedestrian safety and what needs to be done to keep our roads safe for everyone.

Last year 18 pedestrians were hit by cars in Bonneville and Jefferson counties combined. There were also 15 vehicle versus bicycle accidents. The tragedy is if drivers and pedestrians would work together the roads would be safe for everyone.

Captain Barry Dennert, at Idaho Falls Fire Department said, "There is no protection of another vehicle, it's just you versus the vehicle, and the vehicle always wins."

Already in 2010 there have been 4 pedestrian versus vehicle accidents, in 2009 there were 18. And these





numbers only include the accidents where injuries were involved.

"Obviously all of them in my mind are avoidable, whether it's the pedestrians fault or the motorists fault, if the proper precautions are taken and the laws are followed then we wouldn't have any pedestrian motor vehicle accidents," Captain Dennert said.

You've probably heard these tips before but even if you have remembering how to keep safe is important. Captain Dennert says a key for pedestrian safety is use the cross walks at intersections and avoid jaywalking. He said, "Most of the severe pedestrian vehicle accidents are because of pedestrians not crossing where they are supposed to be, where there isn't a cross walk or when they are not at an intersection. That is very dangerous and illegal on top of that. Most the time you can get away with it, but that one time you can't get away with it you'll pay the price."

And for the drivers, its back to the basic laws. Drive more cautiously and while paying attention to traffic signals always keep your eye out for pedestrians. When making a right hand turn be sure to make a complete stop, check left for oncoming traffic, but then look to your right for crossing pedestrians.

Bill, a local pedestrian said, "I look two or three times to make sure if there's going to be a right turn signal perhaps, maybe they aren't watching. Just make sure you look several times before you step out in front of a possible vehicle."

Captain Dennert said, "We should always use caution in making sure you look both ways and in making sure that the intersection is clear when you're crossing the intersection. And drivers need to always be aware that a pedestrian could step out at any time. It's also important to remember if a pedestrian is jaywalking and hit by a car it's not the driver's fault, it's the pedestrian."

<http://www.kidk.com/news/local/86773502.html>

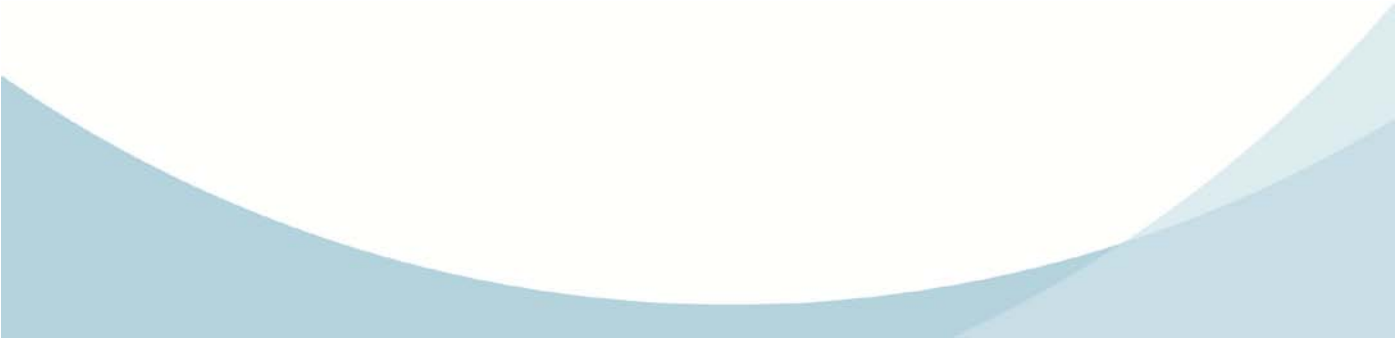
Firefighters Inspecting Residential Smoke Alarms (The Tribune, Canada) [TOP](#)

March 11 / Maryanne Firth, Tribune Staff

WELLAND — Welland firefighters are offering sound advice — test your smoke alarms.

Wednesday kicked off the beginning of the Welland Fire and Emergency Services Smoke Alarm Awareness program in the Rose City.

The program has firefighters travelling door to door to inspect for properly working smoke alarms and to make fire safety recommendations.





Fire prevention officer Tom Nenadovich said firefighters will be easily identifiable when they ring the doorbell — dressed in full uniform and driving an emergency response vehicle.

The year-round program, which is voluntary for residents, will operate Monday to Friday from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. and Saturday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. It will not operate on Sundays or holidays.

During their visit, firefighters will test smoke alarms, examine the home for any potential problems and make recommendations to the homeowner — such as the installation of a carbon monoxide detector.

They'll test alarms two ways — checking the circuitry and battery by pushing the button, and conducting a smoke test to check the smoke sensor.

Homeowners will have the opportunity to ask any fire safety questions they might have about their home while the crew is onsite.

Firefighters will leave information packages at each house they visit, whether the owner is home or not.

The package includes information on smoke alarms, fire escape plans, wood stoves, as well as contact information for the local fire prevention bureau.

The law in Ontario requires each home to have a working smoke alarm on each level and outside of each sleeping area.

"Working smoke alarms save lives," Nenadovich stressed, adding residents are only being asked to comply with the law.

Failing to comply could result in a \$235 ticket for each non-working or uninstalled smoke alarm in the home.

Individuals can also be fined up to \$50,000 or corporations up to \$100,000 if buildings are not up to code.

During the home visits, firefighters will not be charging residents for code violations, but will instead offer installation services.

Crews will install an alarm owned by the homeowner for free, or will provide and install a smoke alarm for \$10.

"Our goal is not to charge, but to have compliance of the law," Nenadovich said.





"We're there for the well-being of people."

Each year the fire department sees a number of fire-related deaths that may have been prevented had working smoke alarms been in the building. A fire can quickly take over a house, he said, so having working smoke alarms is crucial to getting people out of the home quickly.

"Being proactive is more advantageous than reactive."

In raising awareness through the program in the past, the city has seen an increase in the number of homes with properly installed and operating alarms, he said.

The public is reminded to change the batteries in smoke alarms this weekend when turning the clocks forward on Sunday, fire prevention officer Sheri Busch said.

Nenadovich stressed the importance of reading the smoke alarm manufacturer's directions for installation and maintenance to ensure it's being properly maintained.

There is information about alarms people may be unaware of, such as the importance of having a battery backup for a hardwire smoke alarm system — in case power goes out, he said. Also, most people don't know that smoke alarms and carbon monoxide detectors only have a 10-year life expectancy before needing to be replaced.

For any questions pertaining to fire safety, the fire prevention bureau can be reached Monday to Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at 905-735-9922 ext. 229.

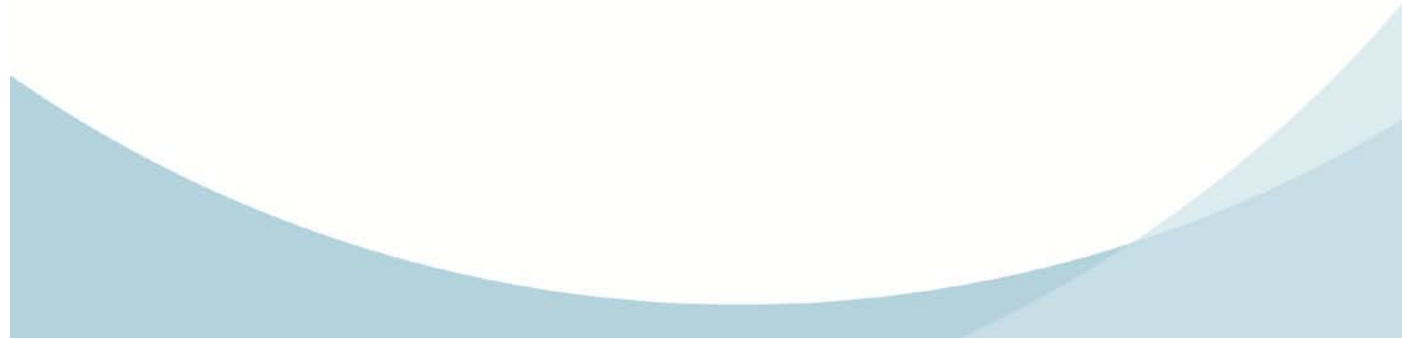
<http://www.wellandtribune.ca/ArticleDisplay.aspx?e=2485850>

Bike Helmet Laws (Illinoishomepage.net, Illinois) | [TOP](#)

March 4 / Jenny Gastwirth

ILLINOIS--Two bills, one in the state House and one in the Senate, could stop the debate on wearing helmets. All kids including teenagers may be required to put them on. Lawmakers are just beginning to weigh in on whether that should happen. Every parent want to make the streets safer for their kids, but not everyone agrees forcing helmets on heads will make a difference. "A lot of kids who go through falling concussions have trouble concentrating, lots of laceration [and] some permanent issues in terms of speech" said Dr. Malcom Hill of Carle Clinic.

Bicycle helmets can reduce your chance of getting a head injury by about 75 percent, but only a quarter





of riders actually put one on. "I think parents put helmets on the younger, but older kids maybe seven and up don't seem to wear helmets," said Casey Norris. "I even have a hard time getting my grandson to wear one and it's very important," added Pat Marxmiller. But important enough to make it a law for those 18 and under? Not everyone is sold. "I don't think that bike riding has gotten that much more dangerous," said Jennifer O'Connor. "I know there are more people and more cars, but I really think that it's up to individuals and I think that's one of those things we all have to decide on our own." "I think the law enforcement people are probably not crazy about this," added Dr. Hill. "It could be more work for them." But he says the extra work is worth it if it means kicking better street safety into gear.

<http://illinoishomepage.net/content/fulltext/?cid=136332>

