



“Celebrating Safe Communities”

Permission to reprint granted by the National Safety Council, a membership organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health

THE QUARTERLY SOURCE OF NEWS AND TIPS FROM THE ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH & SAFETY CENTER

Volume 7, number 2

Summer 2007

June is National Safety Month

Sponsored by the National Safety Council



Keeping Your Home Safe From Fire is a Hot-Button Issue.

EH&S will be sending safety information every Monday of the month!

- June 4: Workplace Safety
- June 11: Driving Safety
- June 18: Emergency Preparedness
- June 25: Safety in the Home and Community

Not all fires are created equal. Although all fires can bring injury, destruction and death, fires caused by smoking materials cause more fatalities than any other. While the number of fatalities due to fire has decreased by 16 percent, it is necessary to remain alert to the dangers. Most home fires are due to careless or thoughtless behavior, and are easily preventable. With proper attention, fires and the destruction and injuries they bring can be avoided by everyone.

Fire Risks

- Leaving lit cigarettes, candles or stoves unattended
- Using cooking equipment as a heat source
- Failing to maintain smoke alarms, space heaters

Tips for Prevention

- Put matches, lighters and candles out of reach and out of sight of children.
- Do not leave children alone near lit candles, fireplace or other open flame.
- Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher in your kitchen

- Don't leave food cooking unattended
- Don't use appliances with worn or exposed wires.
- Have chimneys inspected and cleaned every year.
- Gas or charcoal grills should only be used outdoors. .
- Test your smoke detectors monthly and replace the batteries



Deaths: Home and Community Sector, 2005

Poisoning	32%
Falls	26%
All other	25%
Choking	7%
Drowning	5%
Fires	5%

Not All Poisons Are Poisonous. And Children Aren't The Only Ones at Risk.



Thirty-two percent of deaths occurring at home or in the community are due to poisoning— it is the second greatest health risk people face, after motor vehicle accidents. And, contrary to popular belief, most fatalities occur among people over the age of 19, particularly among people aged 40-50. Although warnings about poisoning conjure up the skull and crossbones image, many accidental poisonings result from the ingestion of non lethal substances in toxic amounts or mixtures. The declining

number of child fatalities due to poisoning proves that risk prevention education works. With a little more knowledge, every family member can live safely and responsibly.

Poisoning Risks

- Misuse of prescription drugs,
- Mixing drugs and alcohol; a small amount can lead to liver failure
- Exposure to household toxins,
- Carbon monoxide poisoning, a risk in homes with gas or oil heating

Tips for Prevention

- Lock up all household products and medications out of children's reach and sight.
- Prevent drug interactions by asking your pharmacist or doctor to periodically review your prescriptions.
- Never mix medicines with alcohol.

- Do not take medications that are past their expiration date.
- Install a carbon monoxide detector near your home's sleeping area.
- In case of accidental poisoning, read the label and follow the directions.
- Don't automatically induce vomiting; it may cause more harm than good.
- Keep all drugs, household products and pesticides in their original containers.
- Follow label instructions for use and for safe discarding.

Post the national toll-free number for the Poison Control Center near your phone.
800-222-1222.