

Montana: No Longer Last in Child Passenger Safety Enforcement

For many years, Montana has been the only state in the country that lacks a child restraint law with primary enforcement. Recently, Montana's governor signed into law SB 319, legislation that provides for primary enforcement of the state's child passenger safety law. Each child under the age of 6 and weighing less than 60 pounds must be properly secured in a child safety seat. Primary enforcement of the law allows police officers to stop a vehicle suspected of not following this law without having to observe another traffic violation first. This new law will begin July 1st.

Along with our state's new child restraint law, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) has released new car seat recommendations for children.

- ◇ Select a car seat based on your child's age and size, and choose a seat that fits in your vehicle and use it every time.
- ◇ Always refer to your specific car seat manufacturer's instructions; read the vehicle owner's manual on how to install the car seat using the seat belt or LATCH system; and check height and weight limits.
- ◇ To maximize safety, keep your child in the car seat for as long as possible, as long as the child fits within the manufacturer's height and weight requirements.
- ◇ Keep your child in the back seat at least through age 12

For a detailed description of seat guidelines from birth through 12 years old, visit www.childcareconnections.info or www.nhsta.gov.

Child Care Connections is the lead agency for Safe Kids Gallatin County and Buckle Up Greater Gallatin. Our agency coordinates car seat check up events monthly in Gallatin and Park Counties. For more information, contact Stacy at 406-587-7786 or stacy@childcareconnections.info.



New Bike Helmets Available at Child Care Connections

As the lead agency for Safe Kids Gallatin County, Child Care Connections has available new, low-cost bike helmets for children and adults. These Bell Sports helmets are being offered for a \$12.00 donation and are available immediately.

According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), more than 51,000 bicyclists have died in traffic crashes in the United States since 1932, the first year that bicycle fatality estimates were recorded. Universal bicycle helmet use by children 4 to 15 would prevent 39,000 to 45,000 head injuries, and 18,000 to 55,000 scalp and face injuries annually. Bicycle helmets offer bicyclists the best protection from head injuries resulting from bicycle crashes.

Bike helmets will be available by appointment by contacting Child Care Connections at 587-7786 or stacy@childcareconnections.info. Child Care Connections is the lead agency for Safe Kids Gallatin County. The mission of the program is to prevent childhood accidents.



Life Jackets Now Available - \$15.00 donation



The following car seat check up events are available for families and caregivers:

Thursdays August 11th, September 8th, October 13th, November 10th & December 8th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 12pm—2 pm. Please call Stacy @ 587-7786 for more information.

Mondays July 25th, August 22nd, September 26th, October 24th, November 21st & December 19th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 4pm—6pm.

Saturday September 24th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 10am—12pm



August 19th, September 16th, October 21st, November 18th & December 16th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Livingston Fire Rescue, 414 East Calendar from 11 am—2 pm. Please call Jessi @ 223-1991 for more information.

If you are unable to attend a check up event, you may call one of the following fitting stations for individual appointments*:

Central Valley Fire in Belgrade @

388-4480

Bozeman Fire Department, Station 1 @ 582-2350

Child Care Connections in Bozeman @ 587-7786

*Please note that due to the nature of our schedules, we are unable to accommodate parents & caregivers without an appointment. Thank you for your understanding.



Montana Buckle Up Laws

If a child under 6 years of age and weighing less than 60 pounds is a passenger in a motor vehicle, that motor vehicle must be equipped with one child safety restraint for each child in the vehicle and each child must be properly restrained.

All other occupants must be properly buckled up in a safety belt.



Safe Kids Urges Parents to Practice Summer Fire Safety

The summer months are a time when families enjoy doing a variety of activities outdoors; however, it's also when barbecue grills and fireworks cause devastating residential fires and serious injuries to children. According to the United States Fire Administration, each year almost 5,000 Americans are injured by charcoal/wood-burning and propane grill fires. Additionally, nearly 9,000 people are injured by fireworks annually. Children under 15 years old account for 39 percent of the estimated fireworks injuries. In 2009, 67 percent of fireworks injuries occurred between June 19 and July 19.

Safe Kids urges parents to practice these safety tips recommended by the United States Fire administration to reduce the risk of a residential fire or a trip to the emergency room and ensure this summer is a safe one for your family.

Grilling Safety

- Only use the grill outdoors; position the grill well away from siding, deck railings, out from under eaves and overhanging branches and a safe distance from lawn games, play areas, and foot traffic.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area by declaring a 3-foot "kid-free zone" around the grill.
- Be careful when using lighter fluid. Do not add fluid to an already lit fire because flames can flashback up into the container and explode.
- Do not wear loose clothing while cooking at a grill.
- When cooking food, use long-handled grilling tools to give plenty of clearance from heat and flames. Periodically remove grease or fat buildup in trays below the grill so it cannot be ignited when the grill is hot.
- Keep all matches and lighters away from children. Teach your children to report any loose matches or lighters to an adult immediately. Supervise children around outdoor grills.
- Dispose of hot coals properly - douse them with plenty of water, and stir them to ensure that the fire is out. Never place them in plastic, paper or wooden containers.
- If you smell gas while cooking on a propane gas grill, immediately get away from the grill and call the fire department. Do not attempt to move the grill.
- Never store propane cylinders in buildings or garages. If you store a gas grill inside during the winter, disconnect the cylinder and leave it outside.



Fireworks Safety

- The best way to enjoy fireworks is to visit public fireworks displays hosted by professionals who know how to safely handle fireworks.
- If you plan to use fireworks, make sure they are legal in your area.
- Never light fireworks indoors or near dry grass.
- Always have a bucket of water and/or a fire extinguisher nearby. Know how to operate the fire extinguisher properly.
- Do not wear loose clothing while using fireworks.
- Stand several feet away from lit fireworks. If a device does not go off, do not stand over it to investigate it. Put it out with water and dispose of it.
- Closely supervise children around fireworks at all times.

Gasoline Safety

- Never use gas to start a fire.
- Keep gas out of reach of children. Out of sight isn't enough, for any age. Store your gasoline where children cannot access it in a well-ventilated area outside your vehicle and living space. Consider a detached garage or outdoor storage shed.
- Use gasoline containers with a spout and automatic shut-off feature that will prevent overfilling of fuel tanks.
- Never use old soda bottles or other makeshift containers to store gas; children may think it's a beverage and drink it.
- Keep gas away from any source of heat, spark or flame. Even common household appliances like water heaters and clothes dryers can ignite gas vapors. (Source: www.safekids.org)

Child Deaths in Hot Cars Can Be Prevented

Summertime brings more than fun and vacation time; too often it brings tragedies that could have been prevented. Each year, approximately 38 stranded children die from being overheated in an unattended vehicle, and the number starts to drastically increase in the peak of summer. The United States has already reached a milestone this year, one not worthy of pride. In late May, the tragic death of a 3-year-old boy in a hot car marked the 500th death in the nation since 1998. All of these deaths could have been prevented. Just since March, there have been 21 disturbing incidents of toddlers dying from being trapped in a sweltering car.

Unfortunately, it is inevitable that these incidents will occur across the country, but we don't want this happening in Gallatin Valley. That is why Child Care Connections is gearing up for the heat wave in hopes of stopping any caregiver or parent from leaving their child alone in a car.

It can happen as early as February, with temperatures as low as the mid-50s. However, the seemingly inevitable news that a child has died from heat stroke becomes more consistent with warmer weather.

Although most would assume this would never happen to them, there is no common description of the caregiver who has experienced this tragedy. It has happened to the rich and poor, well-educated and less educated, women and men, and city-dwellers and suburbanites. Historically, 51% of these accidents occur because of parents unintentionally "forgetting" their child, likely from a distraction or change in routine.



"Don't be fooled into thinking that this can never happen to you. Unfortunately, I did," says Reggie McKinnon, a father who accidentally left his 18-month-old in a vehicle last year during a work day. "Before this accident, every time I would read of a child dying in a parked car of hyperthermia, I too would ask, 'how could they forget their child?' I would never do that. That only happens to people who are uneducated, drunk, drug-addicts, not me."

There is truly no greater tragedy for a parent than to suffer the loss of a child, especially one due to hyperthermia. While the risks and causes of these horrific child hyperthermia deaths are well known, it still happens an average of 38 times a year. Sadly, last year was the worst year on record yet with nearly 50 deaths. These tragedies have occurred in all but one state — Wyoming — and currently only 19 states have laws addressing unattended children in vehicles.



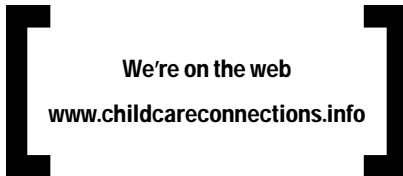
As resilient advocates for never leaving your child alone in a car, Safe Kids USA and Safe Kids coalitions nationwide have united to educate parents and caregivers with preventative tips to avoid these heart-breaking tragedies. Safe Kids has already launched two national press conferences, as well as more than 30 local events across the country. Tips include placing a cell phone, laptop, or whatever is necessary for the day on the floor in front of a child in a backseat. You can also set an alarm to remind yourself to drop off your child at day care. (Source: www.safekids.org)



BUCKLE UP GREATER GALLATIN

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Safe Kids Gallatin County is one of more than 300 grassroots coalitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico that bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families. Safe Kids Gallatin County is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, a global network of organizations dedicated to preventing accidental injury.



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Buckle Up Greater Gallatin Coalition Partners



American Medical Response
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
Bozeman Fire Department
Bozeman Police Department
Bozeman Public Schools
Central Valley Fire District
Color World Printers
Gallatin City-County Health Dept.
Community Health Partners
Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept.
Jessi Malcolm, Livingston
K-Mart of Bozeman

Safe Routes To School
Livingston Fire Rescue
Montana Highway Patrol
MSU Police
Ressler Motors
The Billion Auto Group
Town Square Media

Safe Kids/Buckle Up Advisory Committee:
Scott Mueller, Bozeman Fire Department
Marilyn King, Bozeman Public Schools
Shanda Smith, Gallatin City-County Health Department
Buck Taylor, Community Health Partners
Pat McLaughlin, Montana Highway Patrol

