



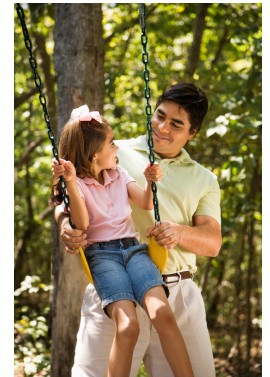
More than 2,000 Children per Year Fatally Injured at Home

Safe Kids Gallatin County Urges Parents to Childproof Homes

Approximately 2,096 children in the United States, ages 14 and under, die from accidental injuries in the home each year and 3 million kids are treated in emergency rooms for accidental injuries occurring at home. In 2004, approximately 2,300 children ages 14 and under died from unintentional injuries that occurred in the home and nearly 80 percent of these deaths were among children ages 4 and under. Most fatal injuries at home are caused by fire, suffocation, drowning, choking, falls, poisoning or firearms discharged unintentionally.

Safe Kids Gallatin County urges parents and caregivers to check their homes for basic safety precautions. “There’s no substitute for active supervision, but childproofing your home provides extra protection and peace of mind,” says Stacy Wesen, Safe Kids Coordinator. “It’s easy to eliminate the most obvious hazards — and it doesn’t have to involve a lot of expensive equipment.”

The first step in childproofing a home is to explore every room at a child’s eye level. “Literally get down on your hands and knees and crawl around. You’ll be surprised at how much you can reach and how many small objects you can pick up,” says Wesen. “Anything that can fit through a standard 1½-inch toilet paper tube is a potential choking hazard. Of course, cleaning products, medications, alcohol, firearms and other potentially harmful products need to be stored out of reach and locked up.”



Safe Kids Gallatin County also recommends these precautions:

- **Test your smoke alarms every month:** Make sure you have working smoke alarms in every level of your home, outside each sleeping area and in every bedroom. Also, check for fire hazards such as frayed electrical wires or flammable materials near heating appliances.
- **Always supervise children while they’re in the bathroom and follow other important safety guidelines.** Set your water heater at 120 degrees F and test the bathwater with your wrist or elbow before putting your child in it. Keep toilet lids closed and locked, and doors to bathrooms and utility rooms closed. When not in use, put razors, curling irons and hair dryers out of reach. Never leave young children alone in the bathtub – a child can drown in a matter of seconds.
- **Install a self-closing and self-latching gate around the home swimming pool.** Make sure the fence surrounds the entire pool.
- **Look at every room as your child would.** Ask yourself what looks interesting and what can be reached. Get down on your hands and knees, and check for small things children can choke on such as jewelry, coins, small toy parts, buttons, pins, nails, batteries and stones. Be sure to keep all plastic bags out of reach and cover electrical outlets that are not in use.
- **Always supervise young children while they’re eating.** To avoid choking, don’t allow children under age 3 to eat small, round or hard foods, including hot dogs, hard candy, nuts, grapes and popcorn.
- **Prevent serious falls.** Keep furniture away from windows, install guards or stops on windows that are not emergency exits, install safety gates at the top and the bottom of stairs, never use baby walkers and use protective surfaces beneath playground equipment.

Continued on Page 2

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Continued from page 1

- **Avoid exposing children to potential poisons.** Lock up potential poisons out of children's reach, including cleaning supplies, pet food, medicine, vitamins, beer, wine and liquor. Read labels and follow directions when giving medicine to children. Know which houseplants are poisonous and keep them where children can't reach them.
- **Install carbon monoxide detectors in every sleeping area and test them every month.** This invisible, odorless gas can be fatal. Make sure heating systems are vented outside and checked every year.
- **Keep guns locked, unloaded and where kids can't reach them.** And lock up ammunition in a separate place.
- **Keep emergency numbers by every telephone.** Call 911 if a child is choking, collapses, can't breathe or is having a seizure. If you suspect a child has been poisoned, call 1-800-222-1222.
- **Check your first aid kit to make sure it is fully stocked.** Make sure babysitters know where to find first aid supplies and how to handle an emergency.

"Safety comes first, even if it means making your home a little less convenient for adults," says Wesen. "Safety gates and cabinet locks are a small price to pay to keep a child out of the emergency room."

For more information about kitchen safety, window blinds, cribs, windows, furniture and other hazards around the home, visit www.usa.safekids.org.



Car Seat Check Up Events and Fitting Stations



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

March 11th, April 8th, May 13th & June 10th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Bozeman Fire Station 1, 34 North Rouse from 10 am—2 pm. Please call Stacy @ 587-7786 for more information.

March 19th, April 16th, May 21st & June 18th

Clinics will be held on the above dates at Livingston Fire Rescue, 414 East Callander 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

Pat McLaughlin, Montana Highway Patrol @ 388-3190



***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.

Winter Driving Safety Is No Accident

The Three P's of Safe Winter Driving:

PREPARE for the trip;
PROTECT yourself; and
PREVENT crashes on the road

*PREPARE

Maintain Your Car: Check battery and tire tread, keep windows clear, put no-freeze fluid in the washer reservoir, check your antifreeze.

Have On Hand: flashlight, jumper cables, abrasive material (sand, kitty litter, even floor mats), shovel, snow brush and ice scraper, warning devices (like flares) and blankets. For long trips, add food and water, medication and cell phone.

Stopped or Stalled? Stay with your car, don't ever exert, put bright markers on antenna or windows and shine dome light, and, if you leave your car running, clear exhaust pipe and run it just enough to stay warm.

Plan Your Route: Allow plenty of time (check the weather and leave early if necessary), be familiar with the maps/directions, and let others know your route and arrival time.

Practice Cold Weather Driving!

During daylight, rehearse maneuvers slowly on the ice or snow in an empty lot

Steer into a skid

Know what your brakes will do: stomp on antilock brakes, pump non-antilock brakes

Stopping distances are longer on water-covered ice and ice

Don't idle for a long time with the windows up or in an enclosed space

*PROTECT YOURSELF

Buckle up and use child safety seats properly

Never place a rear-facing infant seat in front of an air bag

Children 12 and under are much safer in the back seat

Sit back 10 inches from an air bag

*PREVENT CRASHES

Drugs and alcohol never mix with driving

Slow down and increase distances between cars

Keep your eyes open for pedestrians walking in the road

Avoid fatigue – Get plenty of rest before the trip, stop at least every three hours, and rotate drivers if possible

(Source: National Highway Traffic Safety Administration)





BUCKLE UP GREATER GALLATIN

Lead Agency
Child Care Connections
317 East Mendenhall, Suite C
Bozeman, MT 59715
(406)587-7786
Fax 587-1682

Stacy Wesen
Buckle Up/Safe Kids Coordinator



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.



Safe Kids Worldwide
1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
Tel 202-662-0600
Fax 202-393-2072
www.safekids.org

Buckle Up Greater Gallatin Coalition Partners



American Medical Response
Belgrade Police Department
Bozeman Deaconess Hospital
Bozeman Fire Department
Bozeman Police Department
Bozeman Public Schools
Brad Daws State Farm Insurance
Central Valley Fire District
Color World Printers
Gallatin City-County Health Dept.
Gallatin Community Clinic
Gallatin County DUI Task Force
Gallatin County Sheriff's Dept.

GapWest Broadcasting
Jessi Malcolm, Livingston
Livingston Fire Rescue
Montana Highway Patrol
MSU Police
Ressler Motors
The Billion Auto Group

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, Gallatin Community Clinic
Pat McLaughlin, Montana Highway Patrol

