

SUMMER SAFETY MYTHS

(AND WHAT TO DO TO SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER)

#	MYTH	TRUTH	HAZARDS	FACTS*	TO DO**
1.	MYTH: ONE BARRIER OF PROTECTION WILL GUARD AGAINST BACKYARD DROWNINGS	ONE BARRIER IS NOT ENOUGH BETWEEN A CHILD AND WATER	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DEATHS: 356 (AVG. PER YEAR 2012-2014), INJURIES: 5,900 (EST. PER YEAR 2014-2016) (UNDER 15 YEARS)	USE MULTIPLE BARRIERS BETWEEN A CHILD AND WATER (I.E., DOOR LOCKS, GATES, POOL COVERS, ALARMS) / AND ALWAYS SUPERVISE
2.	MYTH: ONLY LARGE BODIES OF WATER (I.E., IN-GROUND SWIMMING POOLS) ARE DROWNING HAZARDS	CHILDREN CAN DROWN IN AS LITTLE AS 2 INCHES OF WATER	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DEATHS: 434 REPORTED NON-POOL & NON-SPA (I.E., BUCKETS, DECORATIVE YARD EQUIPMENT) (CHILDREN UNER 5, 2006-2010) EVERY 5 DAYS: 1 CHILD DIES IN PORTABLE POOLS IN WARM WEATHER MONTHS	DO NOT OVERLOOK SMALLER WATER HAZARDS (I.E., BUCKETS, WADING POOLS, FOUNTAINS) USE SAME PRECAUTIONS AS ABOVE EMPTY BUCKETS, BABY POOLS AFTER USE AND TURN UPSIDIE DOWN SO THEY DO NOT COLLECT RAINWATER
3.	MYTH: FLOTATION DEVICES ARE SAFETY DEVICES (I.E., WATER WINGS, RAFTS)	FLOTATION DEVICES DO NOT REPLACE ADULT SUPERVISION	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	DROWN: 10 PEOPLE EVERY DAY	DILIGENT SUPERVISION STILL REQUIRED/ BEWARE: RAFTS CAN BLOCK THE VIEW OF A CHILD IN TROUBLE
4.	MYTH: YOU WILL HEAR A CHILD DROWNING	DROWNING CAN BE QUICK AND SILENT	DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE	LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL DEATH: DROWNING (AGES 1 TO 14)	NEVER LEAVE A CHILD UNATTENDED NEAR WATER-- EVEN TO ANSWER THE PHONE
5.	MYTH: BICYCLE HELMETS ARE ONLY FOR THE ROAD AND DON'T HAVE TO BE WORN IN YOUR DRIVEWAY	MOST BICYCLE ACCIDENTS TAKE PLACE WITHIN 5 BLOCKS OF HOME/ HELMETS REDUCE THE RISK OF BRAIN/HEAD INJURY UP TO 88%	HEAD/BRAIN INJURIES- CONCUSSION, BRAIN DAMAGE, DEATH	9 OUT OF 10 KIDS WHO DIE EACH YEAR RIDING A BIKE ARE NOT WEARING A HELMET/ A 2-FOOT FALL CAN CAUSE FRACTURE/BRAIN DAMAGE	ALWAYS WEAR A PROPERLY FITTED HELMET- EVEN WHEN BIKING IN A DRIVEWAY OR TO A NEIGHBOR'S HOME
6.	MYTH: PLAYGROUNDS ARE DESIGNED FOR CHILDREN THEREFORE MUST BE SAFE	INJURIES OCCUR FROM COLLISIONS, ENTRAPMENT, FALLS, INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, IMPROPER GROUND SURFACING,	DEATH, STRANGUALTION, FRACTURES, OTHER SEVERE INJURIES	DEATHS: 34 (2009-2014) INJURIES: 1,459,201 (2009-2014) (PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT)	NO STRINGS/CHORDS: DRAWSTRINGS ON CLOTHING AND BICYCLE HELMET STRAPS CAN CATCH ON EQUIPMENT/ EQUIPMENT: SHOULD BE AN AGE APPROPRIATE SIZE/ALWAYS SUPERVISE
7.	MYTH: SOCCER GOALS ON FIELDS ARE PERMANENT AND CAN'T FALL OVER	GOALS CAN BE IMPROPERLY ANCHORED AND POORLY DESIGNED-22 LBS: ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO TIP A 400 POUND GOAL	SOCCER GOALS CAN TIP OVER AND CRUSH CHILDREN- SEVERE INJURY, DEATH	DEATHS: 35 (MINIMUM SINCE 1979) INJURIES: 56 (1979-2009)	GOALS SHOULD BE ANCHORED: RE-ANCHOR AFTER MOWING OR STORAGE REDESIGN: MANUFACTURERS SHOULD REDESIGN GOALS TO BE TIP-RESISTANT
8.	MYTH: TRAMPOLINES ARE SAFE FOR BACKYARD USE	TRAMPOLINES SHOULD ONLY BE USED IN PROFESSIONAL SETTINGS OR UNDER TRAINED SUPERVISION	DEATH, PARALYSIS, BACK INJURIES, FRACTURES	DEATHS: 22 (2000-2009) INJURIES: >100,000 (EACH YEAR)	DO NOT USE TRAMPOLINES AT HOME
9.	MYTH: WINDOW SCREENS PROTECT AGAINST FALLS	OPEN WINDOWS POSE A RISK TO CHILDREN; SCREENS DO NOT PREVENT WINDOW FALLS	FALLING- DEATH AND SEVERE INJURY	DEATHS: 8 INJURIES: 3,300 (TO CHILDREN UNDER 5)	INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS & WINDOW STOPS/ NEVER RELY ON SCREENS TO STOP FALLS
10.	MYTH: PRODUCTS DESIGNED FOR KIDS ARE SAFE	CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS, OUTDOOR PLAYTHINGS, AND TOYS CAN HAVE HIDDEN HAZARDS	INJURIES OR DEATH	TOY DEATHS: 11 (CHILDREN UNDER 15, 2015) TOY INJURIES: 254,200 (ESTIMATED, 2015)	DEMAND SAFER DESIGN & MANUFACTURE FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS/ READ INSTRUCTIONS & WARNINGS/INSPECT PRODUCTS

*FACTS: INJURIES AND DEATH STATISTICS ARE **ESTIMATED PER YEAR** IN THE U.S.A. UNLESS OTHERWISE SPECIFIED (INJURIES- TREATED IN HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOMS)

**FOR MORE SAFETY TIPS, SEE SOURCES BELOW

[SOURCES: TOYSAFETY.ORG, CPSC, NATIONAL HELMET SAFETY INSTITUTE, NEISS, ANCHORSAFETY.ORG]