



W.A.T.C.H.'S "TOP 10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" FOR 2018


(ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES, WATER BALLOON SLING SHOTS, & ABOVE-GROUND POOLS ARE EXAMPLES OF SOME OF THE MANY POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO WATCH OUT FOR SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER)

TRAP: 1	WATER BALLOON SLINGSHOTS
	
HAZARD:	Potential for Eye and Choking Injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Water balloon slingshots, popular for warm weather play, pose the potential dual threat for projectile eye injuries and small part hazards for young children.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Sling shots can shoot ammunition with great force:</u> The <i>Black Series Outdoor Slingshot Target Game</i> warns, "This is a potentially powerful slingshot, please use caution at all times." The <i>Bunch O Balloons Slingshot</i> is marketed with the capability to "launch water balloons up to 150 FT." and boasts that you can fill "100s of balloons in minutes." • <u>Balloons left behind can be a potential hazard for young children:</u> Balloon-related Fatalities: Between 2014-2016, 5 children twelve years old and younger died from balloons/balloon strings (strangulation, asphyxia, choking, asphyxia/suffocation). Not permitted to be sold for use by oral-age children, balloons are well known by the toy industry as posing a significant risk of choking. • <u>Some products have inconsistent or confusing marketing:</u> The <i>Black Series Outdoor Slingshot Target Game</i> on the box warns "Not intended for children under 8 years of age." The package insert states "This item is not a toy. Adult supervision required at all times." However, the same package insert reads "a great game for teenagers and adults." • <u>Warnings and instructions may be unrealistic to follow during play:</u> the <i>Bunch O Balloons Slingshot</i> and the <i>Black Series Outdoor Slingshot Target</i> include warnings not to "aim at eyes or face." • <u>State Regulations:</u> some states prohibit the sale of weaponry such as slingshotsⁱ
TO DO:	<i>Beware of slingshots that are capable of forcibly firing water balloons with the potential to cause serious eye injuries! Beware of balloons that could be choking hazards for young children! Beware of games with instructions and warnings that may be unrealistic to follow in the real world!</i>


TRAP: 2	LAWN DARTS
HAZARD:	Potential for Blunt Impact Injury
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Topping this year’s list of backyard fun that could take a serious turn is the new generation of lawn darts. Beware, these blunt bottomed lawn darts, intended to be thrown during use in outdoor games, could potentially lead to blunt force head injuries.
FACTS:	In 1988, pointed lawn darts were banned for sale in the United States. Modified versions of lawn darts with blunt, weighted bottoms can now be found for sale.
TO DO:	Watch out for the potential of blunt impact injuries with toys that are intended to be thrown!


TRAP: 3	LOW RIDING WHEELED TOYS (BIG WHEELS & OTHER PLASTIC TRICYLCES)
HAZARD:	Potential for Fall, Head and Impact Injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Big wheels and similar plastic tricycles, designed low to the ground, are potentially hazardous for outdoor use. Their low profile makes them particularly difficult for motorists to see in driveways and near roads. Additionally, when riding near pools, children have died when falling from riding toys into pools.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In 2016, riding toys were associated with 43 percent of toy-related deaths (children under 15 years). All were due to motor vehicle involvement. • Historically, some manufacturers added tall flags to low profile riding toys to make them more visible to motorists. • As far back as 1977, 1978, 1980 and 1982 there are recorded incidents of children being struck by cars while riding plastic tricycles. • Riding toys should not be used near bodies of water as children have fallen in. There were 7 deaths from 2011 to 2012 when children fell from tricycles. In 2012, 4 children died when they fell from tricycles into a pool and drowned. • A recently purchased <i>The Original Big Wheels</i> includes warnings such as “Never use near motor vehicles,” “Never use near streets, swimming pools, hills, steps or sloped driveways” and “Always wear a properly fitted helmet.”
TO DO:	Low-profile riding toys should not be used near driveways and roads where motorists may not see them or on pool patios where there is a risk of drowning! Always wear helmets when using wheeled toys!


TRAP: 4	BACKYARD IN-GROUND and ABOVE-GROUND POOLS
	
HAZARD:	Potential for Drowning
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	The number of children that drown in backyard pools each summer highlights the importance of raising awareness about water safety. Checking water safety measures at home is an important way to kick-off the summer. It takes just moments for an accident to happen. Beware of safety traps near pools. Young children can drown after scaling ladders or other objects stored near above-ground pools.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 people die in the U.S. every day from accidental drowning. • This month, former Olympic Skier Bode Miller’s 19-month-old daughter tragically drowned in a neighbor’s backyard pool.ⁱⁱ • Recently, a 2-year-old boy easily scaled a gate blocking the ladder to the family’s above ground pool. His mother said “If I turned my back for a minute, he would have been right in.”ⁱⁱⁱ • An average of 66 children younger than 15 years drown in above-ground pools annually. This accounts for nineteen percent of pool and spa fatalities for this age group. ^{iv} • Pool and spa-related submersion incidences: In 2015, a reported 347 children under 15 years old drowned in pools and spas. From 2015 to 2017, an estimated 6,400 children <i>each year</i> under 15 years old were seen in hospitals for submersion related injuries.
TO DO:	<i>When it comes to water safety, multiple barriers of protection should be used to prevent access and guard against accidental drowning. Remove toys when not in use. Regularly check all water safety measures used around the home and backyard including: “safety” devices that may be broken or defective, pool covers, alarms, automatic-locking gates, and more. Remove anything that children could use to access an above-ground pool. Never leave children unattended near water!</i>

TRAP: 5	ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)
	
HAZARD:	Potential For Head, Bone and Other Impact Injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Before summer was even officially underway this year, many ATV-related injuries were reported for both children and adults. Children should not operate ATV vehicles. Families should know the facts before deciding whether or not to allow children to ride as passengers in ATVs which have been associated with high crash rates and have been prone to overturning. This activity, popular in many states, has been associated with often devastating injuries including chest, head and internal traumas.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children lack the


	<p>coordination, reflexes and judgment to avoid crashes while driving ATVs and other motorized vehicles. Many states have passed regulations prohibiting children from driving ATVs (in MA, children under 14 are prohibited from operating ATVs).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Many fatalities happen on paved roads and public ways in part due to tip-overs and the inability to control the vehicles on these types of surfaces. Every year, there are about 650 deaths and 100,000 injuries involving ATV's. Nearly one-third (32%) of reported deaths from 2010 to 2013 involved ATVs being ridden on paved roads or parking lots. • Earlier this month, four and five year old sisters suffered catastrophic brain injuries as passengers in their family's ATV when the vehicle flipped after being driven onto an asphalt road.^v Recently on June 15th, a fifteen year-old boy died while riding an ATV in New York.
TO DO:	<p><i>Children should not drive ATVs! Families should know the history of serious injuries associated with ATV use when weighing the risks of children riding as passengers; The safest choice may be for children to stay away from ATVs altogether! Recommended safety precautions, such as avoiding paved roads and wearing helmets, could minimize the risk of some injuries but not prevent all injuries.</i></p>

TRAP: 6	<u>TOYS WITH SMALL PARTS</u>
	
HAZARD:	<i>Potential for choking injuries</i>
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	<p>Recently there have been numerous recalls addressing the issue of toys with parts that can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children. These hidden hazards, difficult for parents to identify at the time of purchase, must be prevented with better design and pre-market testing before they reach toy store shelves. Although a year-round concern, toys with small parts have earned a place as a summer safety trap due to the continuing volume of recalls from these types of dangerous toys. The above-pictured <i>My First Porsche - Wooden Car</i> was recalled (May 2018) because the wheels could detach posing a choking hazard to young children. Despite W.A.T.C.H.'s sustained efforts over the years, toys with small parts continue to put young children in danger. Recently a doll was purchased with a decorative ribbon headband that if detached could present a potential choking hazard.</p>
FACTS:	<p>Every three minutes, a child sustains a toy-related injury.^{vi} Recent recalls of toys due to choking hazards are evidence of the continued problem of toys with small parts sold to young children. In 2017, there were over 1,740,980 units of dangerous toys recalled after they were available for sale in the US and Canada.</p>
TO DO:	<p><i>This summer, continue to watch out for unsafe toys! Avoid toys for young children that may present a choking hazard. Become familiar with the types of choking and ingestion hazards associated with toy injuries and deaths in the past. Check toys for long slender parts, pieces that could easily break off, and soft materials that could be ingested and block a young child's airway!</i></p>

TRAP: 7	SHALLOW WATER: BABY POOLS, GARDEN BUCKETS, POOL COVERS
	
HAZARD:	Potential for drowning
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Shallow bodies of water in backyards are often overlooked as water hazards for young children. <u>Gaps in pool covers</u> as well as sagging pool covers that can collect water may put children at risk of drowning. <u>Baby pools</u> are portable and convenient to assemble; yet the potential for serious injury is easily overlooked. Baby pools are often left filled with water without barriers to prevent access. Water in backyard baby pools and other containers, such as <u>buckets and fountains</u> , may be inviting to children but can potentially and tragically lead to drowning.
FACTS:	Young children can drown in as little as 2 inches of water. In a 2018 report, the CPSC re-confirmed that the most water submersion incidents to children under five-years-old occur at residential locations. Children have drowned in water collected in unexpected places, such as pool covers. Another report for non-pool/ non-spa injury statistics, which typically involve smaller bodies of water such as buckets and fountains, emphasized the seriousness of the risk that even shallow water poses to children: From 2006 to 2010, there were 434 deaths and 233 injuries to children under 5 years from non-pool and non-spa related submersions. 92% of these injuries and deaths occurred at home.
TO DO:	Never leave baby pools and other containers with water unattended in your backyard--empty after each use and turn upside down so they cannot collect rainwater!

TRAP: 8	Backyard Water Slides
	
HAZARD:	Potential for neck, spine, head and other life-threatening injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Many teens may not know the serious consequences that have resulted from using backyard water slides that are designed for use by younger children only. These water slides, set up on the ground, have the potential to result in neck injury and paralysis if used by adults and teens.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> In 1993, Slip 'N Slides by WHAM-O were recalled after reports that seven adults and a 13-year-old teenager suffered neck injuries, quadriplegia, or paraplegia while using the water slides. CPSC warns consumers that these popular summertime toys for children should not be used by adults or

	<p>teenagers due to the risk of neck injury and paralysis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Because of their weight and height, adults and teenagers who dive onto Slip 'N Slide type water slides may hit and abruptly stop in such a way that could cause permanent spinal cord injury, resulting in quadriplegia or paraplegia. The slider's forward momentum drives the body into the neck and compresses the spinal cord. • 2012 Liquid Motion waterslides were recalled after a man injured his neck • The <i>Little Tikes Wet and Dry First Slide</i> pictured above contains warnings including “This product is not intended for anyone over 60 LBS” and “Because of their size, older children and adults risk spine, head, neck and other life-threatening injuries from using this slide.”
TO DO:	<i>Know the risks: serious injuries have been associated with backyard water slides, including paralysis!</i>

TRAP: 9	<u>HIGH-POWERED WATER GUNS AND GUNS WITH PROJECTILE AMMUNITION</u>
	
HAZARD:	<i>Potential For Eye Injury!</i>
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	High-powered water guns, replica guns with projectile “ammunition,” toy bow and arrows, and other toys that “take aim” can turn summer outdoor play into a serious matter when eyes are involved. Projectile ammunition, even foam darts and water streams, can lead to serious eye injuries. These products are often sold with inadequate or no warnings and without protective eye gear.
FACTS:	This <i>Air Warriors Thermal Hunter</i> , shown in the above (right) photograph, is sold for ages “6+” with 4 darts marketed to “blasts up to 90 feet!” Projectile toy guns have been known to shoot supplied ammunition with enough force to potentially cause eye injuries. Eye injuries to children from non-powder guns alone, such as airsoft and pellet guns, increased exponentially by more than 500% between 2010 and 2012.* Forty-five percent of the estimated 240,000 toy-related injuries in 2016 (107,400), occurred to the head and face area.
TO DO:	<i>Projectile-firing toys can cause serious eye injuries! Avoid toys that have enough force to injure an eye. In addition to toys that shoot “bullets,” watch out for foam dart guns, high-powered water guns, and other projectile toys that could potentially lead to eye contusions and even blindness.</i>

TRAP: 10	<u>BOUNCE HOUSES and BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES</u>
	
HAZARD:	<i>Potential for impact and other serious injuries</i>

W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Backyard activities that are designed for children to jump and bounce can be an invitation for injury. Bounce Houses: Colorful, inflatable bounce houses are frequent staples at backyard birthday parties during the summer months. However, the inherent potential danger of a “toy” that invites children to jump and bounce in close proximity to each other is not worth the risk. In addition, there have been numerous reports of these bounce houses falling over or being blown away. In April, 5 children in South Carolina went to the hospital with injuries after a bounce house became airborne. Many similar incidents have led to injuries. Backyard Trampolines: Although popular among children and adolescents, backyard trampolines have been associated with potentially catastrophic injuries including fractures, cervical spine injuries and paralysis. Netting, padding and adult supervision have not prevented the numerous injuries relating to trampoline use and may provide a false sense of security. Trampolines are not toys and should not be used at homes.
FACTS:	Bounce Houses: Bounce houses and other inflatable amusements for children have led to injuries and deaths. From 2003 to 2013, inflatable amusements were responsible for approximately 113,272 injuries (90% involved moon bounces aka bounce houses) and 12 reported deaths. Backyard Trampolines: Trampolines cause about 100,000 injuries each. There were 22 trampoline-related deaths between 2000 and 2009. Most injuries from trampolines occur at private homes (95% of fractures). 1 in every 200 injuries results in permanent neurological damage. The American Academy of Pediatrics warns against the use of home trampolines due to the potential for permanent and devastating consequences.
TO DO:	<i>Avoid bounce houses! Do not use backyard trampolines! Do not have a false sense of security that a toy is safe because it is popular. Know the facts and what injuries may have been reported before choosing toys and activities for children.</i>

Any reference to, or photographic representation of, specific products herein neither constitutes nor implies a recommendation or a criticism of such products, but rather is used only as visual examples to aid in the discussion of the types of potential hazards discussed.

W.A.T.C.H., Inc. is a non-profit organization working to educate the public about child safety. W.A.T.C.H helps raise awareness about the dangers lurking in many toys, children’s products, and recreational activities. Noted trial attorneys, authors and consumer advocates, Edward Swartz (1934-2010), James Swartz, Joan Siff and W.A.T.C.H. have been responsible for the “10 WORST TOYS” nominees released for over 44 years as well as a **Summer Safety Report** addressing summer hazards for children. For more information on W.A.T.C.H. and the press conference, please visit www.toysafety.org.

Joan E. Siff, President of W.A.T.C.H. & Board Member, Franciscan Children’s.

James A. Swartz, Director of W.A.T.C.H., noted trial attorney, author and consumer advocate.

Franciscan Children’s, located in the Brighton neighborhood of Boston, is the largest pediatric rehabilitation facility in New England. Programs and services offered address the medical, behavioral and educational needs of children. For more information on Franciscan Children’s please visit www.franciscanchildrens.org. Become a fan on Facebook at www.facebook.com/FranciscanHFC or follow Franciscan Children’s on Twitter at www.twitter.com/FranciscanChildrens

SOURCES:* “Toys That Kill” by Edward M. Swartz. American Academy of Pediatrics (healthychildren.org). 2016 Annual Report of ATV-Related Deaths and Injuries (December 2017, CPSC). Pediatric ATV Injuries in a Statewide Sample: 2004 to 2014, The American Academy of Pediatrics (July 2017, Mariano Garay, Joseph Hess, Douglas Armstrong, William Hennrikus). Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries Calendar Year 2016 (CPSC, November 2017). Pediatric eye injuries due to nonpowder guns in the United States,” by Rachel Lee, BS, and Douglas R. Fredrick, MD, DOI: The Journal of AAPOS, (April 2016). CPSC, National Helmet Safety Institute. neiss. Academic pediatric journal. Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2018 Report (CPSC, May 2018). Submersions related to Non-Pool and Non-Spa Products, 2012 report (CPSC, September 2012). Fractures From Trampolines: Results From a National Database, 2002 to 2011 (Journal of Pediatric Orthopaedics , October/November 2014). Sources for statistics and images: CPSC.gov unless otherwise specified.**facts: Injuries and Death Statistics in the U.S.A. unless otherwise specified. Injuries: refer to injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.

i Mass. Gen. L. ch. 269, §12 (1987): Whoever manufactures or causes to be manufactured, or sells or exposes for sale, an instrument or weapon of the kind usually known as a ...sling shot.... shall be punished by a fine of not less than fifty nor more than one thousand dollars or by imprisonment for not more than six months; provided, however, that sling shots may be manufactured and sold to clubs or associations conducting sporting events where such sling shots are used.

ii <https://apnews.com/search/bode%20miller>

iii <http://www.fox25boston.com/news/attleboro-couple-s-two-year-old-boy-nearly-falls-in-pool-due-to-faulty-safety-ladder/771682176>

iv Pool or Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2018 Report (CPSC, 5/2018)

v <http://fox13now.com/2018/06/05/family-shaken-after-atv-accident-leaves-girls-injured/>

vi <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/research>