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W.A.T.C.H.’S “TOP 10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS” FOR 2019

(WATER RINGS, BALLOON SLING SHOTS, DEFECTIVE POOL DRAIN COVERS, SCOOTERS & ATVS ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE MANY POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO WATCH OUT FOR SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER)

TRAP: 1

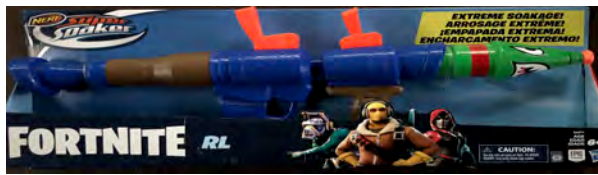
WATER RINGS and other INFLATABLE WATER TOYS



HAZARD:	Potential for Drowning
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Water rings that fit around a child’s waist are staples at many swimming pools in the summer, but one lesser known potential hazard that parents should be aware of is the risk of tip over: If an inner tube flips over, in an instant a child can become trapped head first under water. Recently, this was dramatically illustrated when a 3-year-old girl was caught on surveillance video almost drowning after jumping into the water with a float around her waist. ¹ Other safety traps to watch out for include larger flotation devices, such as rafts, that can block the view of a child in trouble. Keep in mind that flotation devices, such as water wings, can provide a false sense of security that a child is safe in the water.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning is the leading cause of accidental death among children age 1 to 4 years. • Pool and spa-related submersion incidences: In 2016, a reported 289 children under 5-years-old drowned in pools and spas. Each year from 2016 to 2018, an estimated 6,600 children under 15-years-old were seen in hospitals for submersion related injuries. • Water rings can tip over in an instant trapping children upside down in the water.
TO DO:	<i>A child can go from having fun on the water to being trapped under water in an instant--so remain vigilant. Diligent supervision is required around water whether or not a child is using inflatable pool toys.</i>

TRAP: 2**TRAMPOLINE PARKS**

HAZARD:	Potential for impact and other catastrophic injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Trampoline theme parks, now a billion-dollar industry, have been associated with potentially catastrophic injuries including fractures, cervical spine trauma and paralysis. For many years, the American Academy of Pediatrics has warned against the use of home trampolines, a common site in many backyards, due to the potential for permanent and devastating consequences. Trampoline theme parks have made recreational trampolines accessible to an even wider audience. As the parks grow in popularity, the number of reported injuries continues to climb. Netting, padding and adult supervision on backyard and park trampolines have not prevented the numerous injuries related to trampoline use and may provide a false sense of security.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trampoline theme parks are expanding rapidly: from an estimated 40 parks in 2011 to more than 800.ⁱⁱ In the last seven years, a reported 6 people died at trampoline parks.ⁱⁱⁱ • The Consumer Product Safety Commission reports injuries at trampoline parks have skyrocketed between 2013 and 2017 from 2,500 to nearly 18,000 injuries. The checks and balances in place at these parks are mainly voluntary safety standards instead of mandated federal regulations. • In 2017, there were an estimated 145,207 trampoline-related injuries.^{iv}
TO DO:	Remember, a popular activity is not necessarily a safe activity. Know the serious potential risks and catastrophic injuries that have been associated with theme park and backyard trampolines.

TRAP: 3**HIGH-POWERED WATER GUNS and TOY GUNS WITH PROJECTILE AMMUNITION**

HAZARD:	Potential For Eye Injury
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	High-powered water guns, replica guns with projectile “ammunition,” and other toys that “take aim” can turn summer outdoor play into a serious matter. Projectile ammunition, even foam darts and water streams, could lead to eye injuries. Some projectile products are sold with inadequate or no warnings and without protective eye gear.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Projectile toy guns have been known to shoot supplied ammunition with enough force to potentially cause eye injuries. • Forty-four percent of the estimated 251,700 toy-related injuries in 2017 occurred to the head and face area.^v
TO DO:	Projectile-firing toys could potentially cause contusions and other serious eye injuries. Watch out for foam dart guns, high-powered water guns, and other projectile toys that may have enough force to injure an eye.

TRAP: 4**BROKEN/ DEFECTIVE POOL DRAIN COVERS**

HAZARD:	Potential for Drowning, Hair and Body Entanglement
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Hot summer days can mean hours of fun in the water, but beware of the potential hazard created by broken, outdated or otherwise defective drains and outlet covers in pools and spas (including hot tubs and whirlpools). Drains have led to serious suction and entrapment injuries.
FACTS:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suction and circulation from pool and spa drains can be powerful enough to trap swimmers and bathers underwater. Victims can also become entrapped on broken outlet covers. 11 children under 15-years-old were victims of circulation entrapment in pools and spas between 2014 and 2018.^{vi} Injuries can be severe, including hair and body entrapment. In 2012, there were 2 reported incidents of evisceration/disembowelment^{vii}.
TO DO:	Check for missing, old, broken or otherwise unsafe drain covers in pools and spas. Make sure drains covers are compliant with safety features. Remember to regularly check other water “safety” devices that may be broken or defective, including drains, pool covers, alarms, automatic-locking gates, and more.

TRAP: 5**WATER BALLOON SLINGSHOTS**

HAZARD:	Potential for Eye and Choking Injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	Water balloon slingshots, popular during 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"> Slingshots can shoot ammunition with great force. The <i>Bunch O Balloons</i> toy, on the box is marketed as a “slingshot” with the capability to “launch Bunch O Balloons up to 130 ft/40m!” and boasts that you can fill and tie “100 water balloons in 60 seconds.” Balloons left behind could be a potential hazard for young children. Between 2014-2017, a reported 5 children 12-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 to pose a significant risk of choking. Warnings and instructions may be unrealistic to follow during play. The <i>Bunch O Balloons slingshot</i> has various warnings including: “Do not aim at eyes or face”, “CHOKING HAZARD- Children under 8 years can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons. Adult supervision required....”, and more. This slingshot is sold to children “6+”. Some state regulations prohibit the sale of weaponry such as slingshots.^{viii}
TO DO:	Beware of slingshots 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.

TRAP: 6**NON-MOTORIZED SCOOTERS and RIDING TOYS****HAZARD:****Potential for Fall, Head and Impact Injuries****W.A.T.C.H. OUT!**

Non-motorized scooters earned a place on this year's "Top 10 Summer Safety Traps" because they are responsible for the most toy-related injuries. Always use appropriate safety gear, such as helmets and other protective padding, and never let children ride near traffic. Some plastic tricycles and other wheeled riding toys are designed low to the ground and are particularly difficult for motorists to see in driveways and near roads. Also, pool patios and wheeled riding toys are a combination to avoid as children have died after falling from riding toys into pools.

FACTS:

- An estimated 48,700 injuries associated with non-motorized scooters were treated in hospital emergency rooms in 2017 (an estimated 40,300 of these injuries are to children under 15 years old).
- From 2015 to 2017, there were 8 reported deaths involving non-motorized scooters and motor vehicles to children 12-years-old and younger.
- Riding toys should not be used near bodies of water as children have fallen in. In 2017, a 3-year-old boy was found dead after he fell into the water. The boy was reportedly riding his tricycle while playing by the pool with his father.^{ix}

TO DO:

The number of injuries from non-motorized scooters may be a compelling reason to avoid these toys altogether. But if your child is allowed to use non-motorized scooters, never let the child ride near traffic or without the proper safety gear. Low-profile riding toys should not be used near driveways and roads where motorists may not be able to see them or on pool patios where there is a risk of drowning. Always wear helmets and appropriate protective gear when using wheeled toys.

TRAP: 7**ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATVs)****HAZARD:****Potential For Head, Bone and Other Impact Injuries****W.A.T.C.H. OUT!**

The high number of ATV-related incidents keeps this category among the top safety traps to take into account when planning your summer activities. 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:

- According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children lack the coordination, reflexes

and judgment to avoid crashes while operating ATVs and other motorized vehicles. Many states have passed regulations prohibiting children from driving ATVs. In MA, children under 14-years-of-age are prohibited from operating ATVs (with exceptions for some situations relating to a sanctioned rally or race).

- While the CPSC notes a downward trend in injuries reported, the numbers remain staggering. From 1982 through 2017, 3,315 children under 16-years-old reportedly died in ATV-related incidents (representing 22 percent of the total number of reported ATV-related fatalities). In 2017, an estimated 93,800 people were treated at hospital emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries in the United States (an estimated 26 percent involved children under 16 years of age).^x
- 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.
- Over Memorial Day weekend in Pennsylvania, three people died in accidents involving all-terrain vehicles.^{xi} Last year, 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.^{xii}

TO DO: *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 avoid ATVs altogether. Recommended safety precautions, such as wearing helmets and not driving ATVs on paved roads, could minimize the risk of some injuries, but may not prevent all injuries.*

TRAP: 8

TOYS WITH SMALL PARTS



HAZARD: *Potential for choking injuries*

W.A.T.C.H. OUT!

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 production and recalls of these types of toys. The above-pictured Wooden Train Cart was recalled (April 2019) because the steam dome on the toy train’s engine car can come loose, posing a choking hazard.^{xiii} Recently, a doll was purchased with a decorative ribbon headband that if detached could present a potential choking hazard. Despite W.A.T.C.H.’s sustained efforts over the years, toys with small parts continue to put young children in danger.

FACTS:

- Every three minutes, a child sustains a toy-related injury^{xiv}.
- Recent recalls of toys due to choking hazards are evidence of the continued problem of toys with small parts sold to young children. As W.A.T.C.H. previously reported at its conference announcing the 2018 nominees for the “10 Worst Toys”, in a 22-month period between January 2017 and October 2018, an estimated 3.5 million units of toys were recalled in the U.S. and Canada.

TO DO: *Become familiar with the types of choking and ingestion hazards associated with toy injuries and deaths in the past. Check toys for pieces that could easily break off, long slender parts, and soft materials that could be ingested and block a young child’s airway.*

TRAP: 9

SHALLOW WATER: BABY POOLS, 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. **Gaps in pool covers** as well as sagging pool covers that can collect water may put children at risk of drowning. **Baby pools** 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 **buckets and fountains**, 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.
- Backyards present many hidden hazards. In a 2019 report, the CPSC re-confirmed that the majority of drownings occur at residential locations (victim’s home, a family or friend’s house, or a neighbor’s house)^{xv}. 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-old from non-pool and non-spa related submersions. 92% of these injuries and deaths occurred at home.^{xvi}
- Water safety procedures are important to saving lives and should be revisited regularly: Approximately 10 people die in the U.S. every day from accidental drowning.

TO DO:

Never leave baby pools and other containers with water unattended in your backyard. Empty baby pools and other containers after each use and turn upside down so they cannot collect rainwater. When it comes to water safety, always supervise children, use multiple barriers of protection to prevent access to pool areas and guard against accidental drowning, and remove toys from the water that could attract children to the area.

TRAP: 10

LAWN SLIP AND SLIDES



HAZARD:

Potential for neck, spine, head and other life-threatening injuries

W.A.T.C.H. OUT!

Lawn slip and slides (aka on-ground water slides) may seem like an inviting way to cool down when set up at parties on hot summer days; however, many teens and adults may not know that serious neck injury and paralysis have resulted from using backyard water slides designed for use by children under a certain height and weight.

FACTS:

- 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 teenagers due to the risk of neck injury and paralysis.
- In 2012, Liquid Motion waterslides were recalled after a man injured his neck.
- A father of two was paralyzed after using a Slip N' Slide at a family barbecue in 2017^{xvii}.
- The *Wham-O Slip 'N Slide* pictured above contains cautions including "Because of the weight and height, older children and adults risk spine, neck, head or other life-threatening injuries from using this slide."
- Because of their weight and height, adults and teenagers who dive onto Slip and Slide type water slides could potentially 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 could drive the body into the neck compressing the spinal cord.

TO DO:

Know the risks: serious injuries have been associated with lawn slip and slides, including paralysis. Read all instructions and warnings, including specifications about a participant's height and weight.

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.^{xviii}

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 46 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 or follow us @WATCH safety on Twitter and Facebook.

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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

i <https://www.cnn.com/videos/us/2019/06/03/girl-saves-sister-from-drowning-mxp-vpx.hln/video/playlists/atv-trending-videos/>

ii <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trampoline-park-dangers-lawmakers-call-for-action-senator-richard-blumenthal/>

iii <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/trampoline-parks-rising-in-popularity-expert-warns-of-catastrophic-injuries/>

iv https://www.cpsc.gov/s3fs-public/2017-Neiss-data-highlights.pdf?3i3POG9cN.rlyu2ggrsUkD1XU_zoiFRP

v Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries Calendar Year 2017 (CPSC, November 2018)

vi 2014–2018 Reported Circulation/Suction Entrapment Incidents Associated with Pools, Spas, and Whirlpool Bathtubs, 2019 Report (CPSC, May 2019)

vii 2012-2016 Reported Circulation/Suction Entrapment Incidents Associated with Pools, Spas, and Whirlpool Bathtubs, 2019 Report (CPSC, May 2017)

viii 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.

ix Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries Calendar Year 2017 (CPSC, November 2018)

x 2017 Annual Report of ATV-Related Deaths and Injuries (CPSC, February 2019)

xi <https://pittsburgh.cbslocal.com/2019/05/28/fatal-atv-accidents-holiday-weekend/>

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

xiii <https://www.cpsc.gov/Recalls/2019/flying-tiger-copenhagen-recalls-toy-train-carts-due-to-choking-hazard>

xiv <https://www.nationwidechildrens.org/newsroom/news-releases/2014/12/new-study-finds-a-child-treated-in-a-us-emergency-department-every-3-minutes-for-a-toy-related>

xv Pool and Spa Submersion: Estimated Nonfatal Drowning Injuries and Reported Drownings, 2019 Report (CPSC, May 2019)

xvi Submersions related to Non-Pool and Non-Spa Products, 2012 report (CPSC, September 2012).

xvii <https://www.aol.com/article/news/2017/07/14/slip-n-slide-incident-leaves-assistant-vice-principal-paralyzed/23030038/>

xviii Other Sources: * Toys That Kill by Edward M. Swartz, American Academy of Pediatrics (healthychildren.org). 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). 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.