

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 | TRUTH: ONE BARRIER IS NOT ENOUGH BETWEEN A CHILD AND WATER | DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE | DEATHS: 379 (AVG. PER YEAR 2015-2017) (UNDER 15 YEARS) INJURIES: 6,700 (EST. PER YEAR 2017-2019) (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 | TRUTH: CHILDREN CAN DROWN IN AS LITTLE AS 2 INCHES OF WATER/ EVERY 5 DAYS: 1 CHILD DIES IN PORTABLE POOLS IN WARM WEATHER MONTHS | DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE | DEATHS: 434 REPORTED NON-POOL & NON-SPA (I.E., BUCKETS, DECORATIVE YARD EQUIPMENT) (UNDER 5 YEARS, 2006-2010) | DO NOT OVERLOOK SMALLER WATER HAZARDS (I.E., BABY POOLS, FOUNTAINS) /USE SAME PRECAUTIONS AS ABOVE/ EMPTY BUCKETS, BABY POOLS AFTER USE/ WATCH OUT FOR RAINWATER THAT COULD COLLECT IN CONTAINERS |
| 3. | MYTH: FLOTATION DEVICES ARE SAFETY DEVICES (I.E., WATER WINGS, RAFTS) | TRUTH: 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 | TRUTH: DROWNING CAN BE QUICK AND SILENT | DROWNING- DEATH, BRAIN DAMAGE | LEADING CAUSE OF UNINTENTIONAL DEATH: DROWNING (AGES 1 TO 4) | 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 THE DRIVEWAY | TRUTH: 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 | TRUTH: PLAYGROUND HAZARDS CAN INCLUDE INADEQUATE EQUIPMENT, IMPROPER SURFACING, AND MORE | DEATH, STRANGULATION, FRACTURES, OTHER SEVERE INJURIES | DEATHS: 34 (2009-2014) INJURIES: 222,527 (EST. 2019) (PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT) | NO STRINGS/CORDS: 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 | TRUTH: GOALS CAN BE IMPROPERLY ANCHORED AND POORLY DESIGNED-22 LBS: ALL THAT'S NEEDED TO TIP A 400 LB. GOAL | SOCCER GOALS CAN TIP OVER AND CRUSH CHILDREN- SEVERE INJURY, DEATH | DEATHS: 42 (1979-2017) INJURIES: 59 (1979-2017) | GOALS SHOULD BE ANCHORED: RE-ANCHOR AFTER MOWING OR STORAGE REDESIGN: MANUFACTURERS SHOULD REDESIGN GOALS TO BE TIP-RESISTANT |
| 8. | MYTH: RECREATIONAL TRAMPOLINES ARE POPULAR SO MUST BE SAFE | TRUTH: CATASTROPHIC INJURIES ASSOCIATED WITH TRAMPOLINE USE | DEATH, PARALYSIS, BACK INJURIES, FRACTURES | DEATHS: 22 (ALL TRAMPOLINES, 2000-2009) INJURIES: 123,029 (ALL TRAMPOLINES, EST. 2019) | REMEMBER POPULARITY DOES NOT GUARANTEE SAFETY-- KNOW THE SERIOUS POTENTIAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES |
| 9. | MYTH: WINDOW SCREENS PROTECT AGAINST FALLS | TRUTH: OPEN WINDOWS POSE A RISK TO CHILDREN; SCREENS DO NOT PREVENT WINDOW FALLS | FALLING- DEATH AND SEVERE INJURY | FROM WINDOW FALLS EACH YEAR DEATHS: 15-20 INJURIES: 15,000 (EST. FOR CHILDREN UNDER 11) | INSTALL WINDOW GUARDS & WINDOW STOPS/ NEVER RELY ON SCREENS TO STOP FALLS |
| 10. | MYTH: PRODUCTS DESIGNED FOR KIDS ARE SAFE | TRUTH: CHILDREN'S TOYS AND RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS CAN HAVE HIDDEN HAZARDS | INJURIES OR DEATH | TOY DEATHS: 17 (CHILDREN UNDER 15, 2018) TOY INJURIES: 224,086 (ESTIMATED, 2019) | DEMAND SAFER DESIGN & MANUFACTURE FOR CHILDREN'S PRODUCTS/ READ INSTRUCTIONS & WARNINGS/INSPECT PRODUCTS |

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