

W.A.T.C.H.'s Annual 2023 Summer Safety Report

W.A.T.C.H. ANNOUNCES ITS 2023 SUMMER SAFETY TIPS: WHAT PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS NEED TO KNOW TO KEEP KIDS SAFE WARM WEATHER HAZARDS ASSOCIATED WITH OUTDOOR RECREATIONAL PRODUCTS

ON W.A.T.C.H.'S LIST OF 10 POTENTIAL SUMMER SAFETY CONCERNS FOR KIDS:
WATER BALLOONS CATAPULTED BY SLINGSHOT LAUNCHERS, STRAPS THAT CAN BECOME
ENTANGLED ON PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT, BACKYARD KIDDIE POOLS WITH RAINWATER,
FIREWORKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN, HOVERBOARDS WITH LITHIUM BATTERIES
THAT CAN OVERHEAT AND BURST INTO FLAMES, AND MORE

Boston, MA (JUNE 14, 2023) With children's injuries typically doubling over the summer months,ⁱ **World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. (W.A.T.C.H.)** releases its **2023 Summer Safety Report**, including "10 Summer Safety Tips," and shares important information to help parents and caregivers navigate the summer safely. **Today's urgent and timely message: staying informed and sharing safety information with family, friends, and caregivers could help save a child's life this summer.**

The official start of summer is one week away, and during a time when children have more time to play and enjoy the outdoors, there will be a significant increase in injuries. W.A.T.C.H.'s Summer Safety Report provides practical information so families can have a safer summer. Many hazards, whether year-round or warm-weather-related, are linked with serious injuries to children each year. Reducing preventable injuries is critical. **This report spotlights some safety traps to raise awareness about products with hazards that are lesser known, that have been associated with recent injuries, or that have the potential to cause injuries in the future.**

Consumer Advocates Joan E. Siff, President of W.A.T.C.H., and James A. Swartz, Director of W.A.T.C.H., showcase "10 Summer Safety Traps" as representative of some of the many different types of hazards families can avoid to safeguard children during the summer when kids will be spending more hours swimming, riding, and playing backyard games. Most preventable injuries take place near homes and communities, including an estimated 78% (175,500) of injury-related deaths in 2021. ⁱⁱ Swartz cautions, "One concern is that a surge in certain popular activities will translate into a surge in injuries in those categories, so it remains critical to know how to identify potential safety traps." **Swartz and Siff addressed potential summer hazards as well as recent recalls of children's recreational products and the implications on children's safety. The 2023 list of "10 Summer Safety Traps" representing some potential summer hazards includes:**

- **Hoverboards:** Potential for burn, head, and other impact injuries
- **Inflatable Bounce Houses & Backyard Trampolines:** Potential for broken bones, head injuries, paralysis, death
- **Calico Critters Animal Figures & Sets:** Potential for choking, death
- **Non-motorized & Motorized Scooters:** Potential for fall and impact injuries
- **Projectile Toys:** Potential for eye and choking injuries
- **Helmet Straps & Recalled Swings:** Potential for strangulation, impact injury and bodily harm
- **Baby Pools & Pool Covers:** Potential for Drowning
- **ATV Hazards:** Risk of serious injury or death
- **Fireworks/Sparklers:** Potential for serious eye and hand injuries, burns, death
- **Recalled or Damaged Bicycle Helmets:** Potential for head and impact injuries

Layers of Concern: Inherent Risks, Defects, and Recalls

W.A.T.C.H. alerts families and caregivers to remain vigilant and beware that some products and recreational activities may present multiple safety concerns but only some of which may be the subject of a recall. For instance, while ATV's have been recalled for defects including faulty fuel pumps, pedals, and shock absorbers, the inherent dangers of collisions, overturns and occupant ejections associated with off-road riding expose consumers to further possibility of injury. **This summer, know the risks associated with products and activities, check for recalls, and be familiar with the type of defects that have been associated with injuries in the past.** Other potential hazards from W.A.T.C.H.'s "10 Summer Traps" include:

- **Hoverboards:** Some hoverboards have been recalled because of burn hazards adding another layer of concern for an activity that has the potential for head and other impact injuries from falls. W.A.T.C.H. first cautioned consumers in 2015 about fires connected to hoverboards with lithium batteries. Although marketed as an entertaining way to enjoy time outside, hoverboards (aka self-balancing scooters) continue to be associated with burn injuries and deaths. **The lithium-ion battery packs in hoverboards can overheat, posing a fire hazard and putting consumers at serious risk.** In March 2023, a hoverboard was recalled. At the time of the recall, two sisters had already tragically died in a fire that originated with the hoverboard.ⁱⁱⁱ This recall involved 53,000 units of defective products that may already be in homes putting children at risk of injury. Consumers have a right to expect that the products their children use have been adequately tested and manufactured to guard against fire hazards. There were an estimated 121,300 ED hoverboard-related visits from 2017 through 2021.^{iv} Recent deaths and fires associated with hoverboards emphasize the urgent need for change when it comes to protecting children from unsafe products.
- **Bicycle Helmets:** While many families are aware of the importance of bicycle helmets to keep kids safe, they might not be aware that there have been numerous bicycle helmet recalls over the years. Wearing bike helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by 60% and brain injury by 58%.^v W.A.T.C.H. is alerting families to the importance of making sure a child's helmet has not been recalled and that it is not damaged.
- **Bounce Houses:** In addition to the potential risk of impact injuries from jumping inside a bounce house or from falling if a gust of wind sweeps the bounce house into the air, a recent recall of a bounce house with a hoop highlights the concerns of entrapment and strangulation.^{vi} A four-year-old boy died of strangulation when the hoop from "My Bouncer Little Castle" became entangled around his throat and constricted his airway.^{vii} Injuries from defectively designed, manufactured, or marketed products can be permanent and devastating for both children and their families.
- **Toys - Calico Critters:** Schools are out for the summer and kids have more time to play; families are depending on toys and other recreational products marketed for children to be safe. Despite W.A.T.C.H.'s sustained efforts over the years, unsafe toys continue to put children in danger. In its 2020 nominees for the "10 Worst Toys List", W.A.T.C.H. highlighted the potential safety risks associated with Calico Critters Nursery Friends with parts, such as a pacifier, that could be potential choking hazards for young children. In March of this year, a recall was announced for over 3.2 million Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets because the bottle and pacifier accessories pose a choking hazard to children. The recall noted that the importer, Epoch Everlasting Play LLC, was aware of two deaths (a 2-year-old in 2018 and a 9-month-old in 2015) relating to oral-age children who died in incidents involving the pacifier accessory.^{viii} There have been numerous other 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.
- **Playground Equipment:** When enjoying time at the playground or at a neighbor's swing set with children this summer, W.A.T.C.H. cautions families and caregivers to beware of safety traps that have been associated with past injuries (such as hot surfaces, sharp edges, and fall hazards) as well as recalled playground equipment which can increase the risk of harm. In March, over 43,000 2-in-1 Outdoor Kids Swings were recalled because the straps could break posing a fall hazard to children.^{ix}
- **Scooters:** As the weather gets warmer, scooters are dusted off for outdoor play. Families may be lulled into a false sense of security that a toy or recreational product is safe because it is popular or marketed to children – unfortunately, this is not always the case. Scooters continue to lead the pack as both a popular way to stay active outdoors and as the leading cause of toy-related injuries to children. In 2021, an estimated 37,100 children under 15 years old were treated in emergency rooms for injuries associated with non-motorized scooters.^x In addition to the inherent risk of falls that may accompany riding a scooter, scooters have been recalled for defects. This past June, a children's scooter was recalled because a wheel could loosen or fall off posing a fall hazard to children.^{xi}

Recalls

Informing families about the dangers of certain recreational activities and toy hazards is one of the many ways W.A.T.C.H. works year-round to reduce preventable injuries to children. W.A.T.C.H. encourages safer manufacture, design, and marketing of products before they enter the channels of commerce and promotes increased transparency and reporting by manufacturers when safety issues arise. Nonetheless, Siff and Swartz noted every year there are often millions of units of toys and other children's products recalled for hazards such as choking, strangulation, burns, blunt force trauma, and poisoning, after they have been available for sale. Recalls are important safety measures, but often occur only after the product is in the hands of unsuspecting children who may suffer serious, even life-threatening injuries. The difficulty in purging the market of goods that have been recalled shows that, while recalls are necessary, they are not a cure-all. Although intended for fun and entertainment, many toys and recreational products contain hidden hazards unnecessarily putting children at risk of injury or death. Swartz cautioned, "Unfortunately, we see

recalls with potential hazards that should be well known by the industry and prevented by more stringent pre-market testing and design practices.” Swartz and Siff addressed recent recalls of children’s recreational products and toys and the implications on children’s safety. W.A.T.C.H. advises parents in addition to being familiar with the types of hazards to avoid, to remember to regularly check for recalls and examine toys and other products played with by children.

Water Safety

W.A.T.C.H.’s “10 Summer Traps” alerts parents and caregivers to other potential hazards, including shallow water traps in backyards for young children. Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related deaths to children ages 1 to 4.^{xii} Most fatal drownings take place at **homes during the summer.**^{xiii} Beware of some of the lesser-known backyard water safety traps to help keep kids safe. Baby pools are portable and convenient to assemble but beware of hazards associated with water left in portable pools for young children. Although baby pools are shallower than standard pools, W.A.T.C.H. reminds **families that young children can drown in as little as two inches of water. A few shallow water safety traps include** baby pools and other water games left filled with water without barriers to prevent access, **gaps in pool covers**, or sagging pool covers that can collect water and may put children at risk of drowning. Drownings are often silent, and it takes just moments for an accident to happen. Siff said, **“One of our goals today is to be proactive and raise awareness about water safety, including those hazards that may not be widely known such as backyard shallow water.** Checking water safety measures at home is an important way to kick off the summer.”

Raising Awareness

Although intended for fun and entertainment, many toys and recreational products contain hidden hazards unnecessarily putting children at risk of injury or death. Continued injuries to and deaths of children from popular warm weather activities and toys reveal the urgent need for increased awareness, safer products, better pre-market testing, and a more responsible market to help prevent injuries. In the meantime, **Siff advised, “Parents can avoid many hazards at home relating to popular toys and recreational activities by remaining vigilant, knowing the facts, and identifying safety red flags.”**

W.A.T.C.H. emphasizes the importance of sharing information and raising awareness about products with a track record of injuries and deaths to save lives and reduce preventable injuries. The 2023 Summer Safety report, part of W.A.T.C.H.’S 2023 #ShoutSafety campaign, encourages families and caregivers to **proactively spread the word about safety so that avoiding potential hazards is top of mind for families and caregivers as children enjoy the summer.** Increased dissemination of timely and detailed information about safety issues allows more consumers to make informed decisions when choosing children’s products and activities. Some safety traps the 2023 Summer Report addresses are the potential hazards associated with **motorized and non-motorized scooters, bounce houses that can fly away, and bicycle helmet straps that can become entrapped on playground equipment leading to strangulation.** While parents and caregivers must guard against many other warm weather hazards so kids can avoid injuries and have fun, W.A.T.C.H. highlights ten potential hazards **to begin the summer safety conversation with families.** The **practical and concrete information provided in W.A.T.C.H.’s 2023 Summer Safety Report can increase awareness and help keep your kids safe.**

(See Attached **“10 Summer Safety Traps”** For More Information)



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W.A.T.C.H.'S "10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" FOR 2023

Tips to Keep Kids Safe - 10 Summer Safety Traps Associated with Toys and Outdoor Recreational Products

**THIS YEAR WATER BALLOON LAUNCHERS,
BOUNCE HOUSES, AND BACKYARD KIDDIE POOLS, ILLUSTRATE
SOME OF THE MANY POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO WATCH OUT FOR SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER.**

THE OFFICIAL START TO SUMMER IS ONE WEEK AWAY, AND DURING A TIME WHEN CHILDREN HAVE MORE TIME TO PLAY AND ENJOY THE OUTDOORS, THERE WILL BE A SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN INJURIES. W.A.T.C.H. EMPHASIZES THAT RAISING AWARENESS ABOUT SAFETY TRAPS THAT HAVE BEEN ASSOCIATED WITH INJURIES AND DEATHS IN THE PAST CAN PREVENT HISTORY FROM REPEATING ITSELF AND SAVE LIVES. WATER BALLOONS CATAPULTED BY SLINGSHOT LAUNCHERS, STRAPS THAT CAN BECOME ENTANGLED ON PLAYGROUNDS EQUIPMENT, POOL COVERS FILLED WITH RAINWATER, SWINGS WITH DEFECTIVE PARTS, FIREWORKS IN THE HANDS OF CHILDREN, AND HOVERBOARDS WITH LITHIUM BATTERIES THAT CAN OVERHEAT AND BURST INTO FLAMES ARE SOME OF THE POTENTIAL HAZARDS THAT COULD LEAD TO DEVASTATING CONSEQUENCES.

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TRAP #1

REPEAT OFFENDER: HOVERBOARDS (AKA SELF-BALANCING SCOOTERS)



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Since 2015 when hoverboards first made headlines, children and adults continue to die from fires associated with hoverboards and lithium batteries.</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for burn, head, and other impact injuries</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>W.A.T.C.H. first cautioned consumers in 2015 about fires connected to hoverboards with lithium batteries. Although marketed as an entertaining way to enjoy time outside, hoverboards (aka self-balancing scooters) continue to be associated with burn injuries and deaths. The lithium-ion battery packs in hoverboards can overheat, posing a fire hazard and putting consumers at serious risk. Consumers have a right to expect that the products their children use have been adequately tested and manufactured to guard against fire hazards. In addition to the risk of burn injuries, beware of the potential for head or other impact injuries from falls while riding on hoverboards or other toys with wheels. Some of these toys are marketed without the proper protective gear or with inconsistent safety messages.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Two sisters, 10-years-old and 15-years-old, died in a fire that originated with a Hoverboard (Hellertown, Pennsylvania, April 2022)^{xiv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recent deaths and fires associated with hoverboards emphasize the urgent need for change when it comes to protecting children from unsafe products. • MARCH 30, 2023: Recall of about 53,000 42-volt Jetson Rogue self-balancing scooters/hoverboards after two reported deaths to children and multiple other reports of burning and sparking or melting, several of which involved reports of flames.^{xv} • There were an estimated 121,300 ED hoverboard-related visits from 2017 through 2021.^{xvi} • From January 1, 2021, to November 28, 2022, there were at least 208 micromobility fire or overheating incidents reported for e-scooters, e-bikes and hoverboards-- at least 19 people died (11 of which died from hoverboard-associated incidents)^{xvii} • Emergency department visits for injuries associated with scooters, skateboards and hoverboards jumped to 140,465 between March and September 2020, as compared to 100,797 visits the same time the previous year. Young children, 0-9 years old, accounted for a large portion of the injuries, tallying a 149% increase in reported emergency department visits. ^{xviii}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>Know the history of injuries associated with hoverboards and children’s products with lithium batteries. The high number of incidents and injuries associated with hoverboards may be a compelling reason to avoid these toys altogether. If children are allowed to use hoverboards, they should wear helmets, protective gear, and be supervised at all times; additionally, adults should always be present when charging, only use the supplied chargers, and immediately stop using a recalled hoverboard or other recalled micromobility devices. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org</i></p>

TRAP #2

STAYING GROUNDED: INFLATABLE BOUNCE HOUSES & BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Netting, padding and adult supervision have not prevented the numerous injuries relating to trampoline use and may provide a false sense of security.</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for broken bones, head injuries, paralysis, death</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>Beware of unexpected, hidden hazards that may accompany products designed for children to jump and bounce, such as bounce houses and trampolines. Colorful, inflatable bounce houses, or jumping castles, are frequent staples at backyard birthday parties during the summer months but have the potential to be an invitation for injury. There have been numerous reports of bounce houses falling over or being blown away. In addition to the potential risk of impact injuries from jumping inside a bounce house or from falling if a gust of wind sweeps the bounce house into the air, a recent recall of a bounce house with a hoop highlights the concerns of entrapment and strangulation.^{xxix} At-home trampolines, popular among children and a fixture in many backyards, have been associated with potentially catastrophic injuries. Injuries associated with trampolines have skyrocketed in recent years. Incidents include fractures, cervical spine injuries and paralysis. Injuries can be permanent and devastating for both children and their families.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A FOUR-YEAR OLD BOY DIED AFTER THE HOOP IN A BOUNCE HOUSE BECAME ENTANGLED AND TWISTED AROUND HIS NECK.(CPSC Recall, 2023) ^{xx}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">AT A SCHOOL EVENT, 5 CHILDREN DIED AND 4 WERE CRITICALLY INJURED FALLING 30 FEET OUT OF A BOUNCE HOUSE AFTER A GUST OF WIND CARRIED THE BOUNCE HOUSE INTO THE AIR. (AUSTRALIA, 2021)^{xxi}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Bounce houses</u> have a history of associated injuries and deaths: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Worldwide, there have been at least 28 deaths and 479 injuries from 132 wind-related bounce house incidents—and researchers indicate these numbers are underestimated. ^{xxii} ○ In the U.S., between 2000 and 2021, there were nearly 10,000 emergency department visits for injuries like concussions, broken bones, and muscle sprains.^{xxiii} • A four-year-old boy died of strangulation when the hoop from “My Bouncer Little Castle” became entangled around his throat and constricted his airway.^{xxiv} • Bounce houses and other inflatable amusements for children have led to injuries and deaths over the years: In April 2017, 5 children in South Carolina went to the hospital with injuries after a bounce house became airborne. (Taylors, South Carolina).^{xxv} A girl died after a bounce house blew away (2016, England) .^{xxvi}After falling from a bounce house that was lifted by a strong gust of wind, a girl died. (2015, China) ^{xxvii} • In 2021, there were an estimated 117,492 trampoline-related injuries.^{xxviii} • The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) warns that home use of trampolines is dangerous for children and should be strongly discouraged^{xxix} • Over 85% of trampoline injuries take place at home.^{xxx}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>Do not have a false sense of security that a recreational product is safe because it is popular. Trampolines are not toys and home-use is strongly discouraged by the AAP. Bounce houses are a popular rental item for birthday parties, but past injuries and deaths when bounce houses have blown away and the inherent potential danger of an activity that invites children to jump and bounce in close proximity to each other may be a reason to avoid these products. Know the facts and what injuries may have been reported before choosing toys and activities for children. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

WHAT'S IN YOUR TOYBOX:
CALICO CRITTERS ANIMAL FIGURES AND SETS



DID YOU KNOW?	Not all unsafe toys are necessarily recalled—know what safety traps to look for!
HAZARD:	Potential for choking, death
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	<p>Schools out for the summer and kids have more time to play; families are depending on toys and other recreational products marketed for children to be safe. 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. 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. In March, Epoch Everlasting Play recalled over 3.2 million Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets, noting the bottle and pacifier accessories pose a choking hazard to children. Two deaths were reported.^{xxxii}</p>
KNOW THE FACTS:	<p style="text-align: center;">Both a 2-year-old child (New Mexico, 2018) and a 9-month-old child (Japan, 2015) died in incidents involving the pacifier accessory in the Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets that was later recalled.^{xxxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every three minutes, a child sustains a toy-related injury.^{xxxiii} • There were an estimated 206,400 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments in 2021.^{xxxiv} • Choking is one of the most significant contributors to toy-related injuries and deaths.^{xxxv} • Despite W.A.T.C.H.'s sustained efforts over the years, unsafe toys continue to put children in danger. In its 2020 nominees for the "10 Worst Toys List", W.A.T.C.H. highlighted the potential safety risks associated with Calico Critters Nursery Friends with parts, such as a pacifier, that could be potential choking hazards for young children. Shockingly, classic toy dangers, such as small parts, strings, projectiles, toxic substances, rigid materials, and inaccurate warnings and labels, continue to reappear in new generations of toys putting children at risk. • March 2023: After 3 incidents, including 2 child deaths, 3.2 million units of Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets sold with bottle and pacifier accessories were recalled because the bottles and pacifiers could pose a choking hazard.^{xxxvi} • Recent recalls of toys due to choking hazards, such as Calico Critters Animal Figures and Sets Sold with bottle and pacifier accessories, are evidence of the continued problem of toys with small parts sold to young children. • Not including the Calico Critter recall of 3.2 million units of playthings, in the seventeen months since January 2022, there have been at least forty (40) toy recalls representing almost two million (1,995,520) additional units of toys and other children's products polluting the market in the U.S.^{xxxvii} Recalls were issued for hazards including fall, choking, lead poisonings, and intestinal obstruction.
TO DO:	<p>Check toyboxes regularly for recalled and unsafe toys. W.A.T.C.H. urges families and caregivers to know how to identify toy safety hazards as potentially unsafe toys may be available for purchase long before a recall is issued or may not be recalled at all. The recall involving Calico Critters Figures and Sets instructs consumers to take the recalled bottle and pacifier accessories away from children (for details of the full recall, go to https://bit.ly/3Thr3aw). Become familiar with the types of choking and ingestion hazards associated with toy injuries and deaths in the past. Examine 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. With all children's toys and products, research the item's safety history and check for recalls and reviews at www.cpsc.gov and www.saferproducts.gov. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</p>

TRAP #4

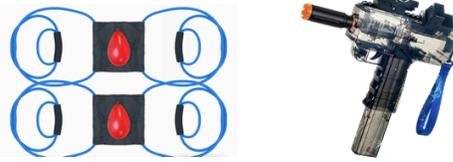
ON THE GO: NON-MOTORIZED AND MOTORIZED SCOOTERS



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children under 16 should not operate or ride on motorized or e-scooters that can go up to 15 miles per hour. ^{xxxviii}</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for fall and impact injuries</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>Scooters continue to lead the pack as both a popular way to stay active outdoors and as the leading cause of toy-related injuries to children. For non-motorized toy scooters, make sure to consider whether a scooter is right for your child. One way to keep kids safe and entertained is to know what toys have been associated with injuries in the past. Although e-scooters are used by millions of people of all ages, they are not toys and should not be used by children.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A 12-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS RIDING HIS ELECTRIC SCOOTER IN A PARKING LOT AND COLLIDED WITH A CAR. THE BOY WAS TAKEN TO THE HOSPITAL WITH SERIOUS INJURIES, INCLUDING A BROKEN LEG AND A CONCUSSION. (San Francisco, CA, March 2023)^{xxxix}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN 2019, FIVE CHILDREN, 2- TO 13-YEARS OLD, DIED IN NONMOTORIZED SCOOTER-ASSOCIATED INCIDENTS. FOUR WERE STRUCK AND KILLED BY MOTOR VEHICLES WHILE RIDING NONMOTORIZED SCOOTERS, AND ONE DIED AFTER FALLING FROM A NONMOTORIZED SCOOTER^{xl}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • JUNE 1, 2023: Children’s Scooter Recalled-- Rear wheel can loosen or fall off the scooter posing a fall hazard to children. One child injured their face and there were 12 reports of wheels loosening or falling off (Jetson Nova and Star 3-Wheel Kick Scooters, 15,300 units). ^{xli} • Non-Motorized Scooters: Nonmotorized scooters continue year-to-year to be associated with the most estimated toy-related injuries for children 14 and under.^{xlii} In 2021, an estimated 37,100 children under 15 years old were treated in emergency rooms for injuries associated with non-motorized scooters.^{xliii} • The popularity of wheeled toys, including scooters, has soared since COVID-19: March to September 2020, estimated injuries for scooters, skateboards and hoverboards increased significantly by 39% from the previous year.^{xliv} • E-Scooters are not toys: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • From 2017 to 2021, there were an estimated 117,600 e-scooter-related injuries treated in hospital emergency departments.^{xlv} • A recent study reveals a continuing increase in E-scooter-associated injuries from an estimated 7,700 in 2017 to 42,200 in 2021.^{xlvi} • A study conducted in Los Angeles found that 10.8 percent of patients in e-scooter-related incidents were 18 years old or younger. ^{xlvii} • E-scooter apps do not necessarily require parental consent. • Furthermore, safety regulations have been slow to catch up with the exponential growth in e-scooter use ^{xlviii} and one study reported only 1% of riders wore helmets.^{xlix}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>Know the history of injuries associated with wheeled activities and, if you decide that an activity is suitable for your child, be familiar with all appropriate safety measures. The number of injuries from certain wheeled activities, such as nonmotorized scooters, may be a compelling reason to avoid these toys altogether. But if your child is allowed to use non-motorized scooters, skateboards, or hoverboards, never let the child ride near traffic or without the proper safety gear approved for that particular activity (such as helmets and other protective padding). Remember, e-scooters are not toys and children should not operate or ride on them. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

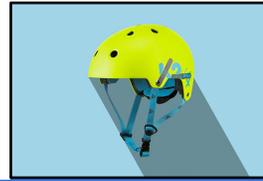
TRAP #5

TOYS THAT TAKE AIM: PROJECTILE TOYS (WATER BALLOON LAUNCHERS, HIGH-POWERED WATER GUNS)



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Even pieces of a broken balloon can be a serious potential choking hazard for young children.ⁱ</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for eye injuries and choking injuries.</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>Water balloon launchers (potential for eye and choking injury), popular during warm weather play, may seem like a carefree way for kids to stay cool and stay active— but beware, they pose the potential dual threat for projectile eye injuries and small-part hazards for young children. High-powered water guns (potential for eye injury) can turn summer outdoor play into a serious matter. Some high-powered water guns have water streams that can shoot with enough force to potentially lead to contusions and other serious eye injuries. Additionally, water guns may be sold with inadequate or no warnings and may not provide protective eye gear. There are multiple safety traps to be aware of before considering toy guns for children, including the issue of realistic-looking toy weaponry.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">A CHILD RIDING HIS BIKE WAS HIT AND BLOODIED AFTER TEENS SHOT AT HIM WITH A GEL-BALL GUN. (PEACHTREE CITY, GA, MARCH 2022)ⁱⁱ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 10-MONTH-OLD CHOKED TO DEATH AFTER SWALLOWING PIECES OF A TORN BALLOON. (INDIA, SEPT. 2022)ⁱⁱⁱ</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN APRIL, A 16-YEAR-OLD BOY WAS ARRESTED AFTER ALLEGEDLY FIRING A SPLATBALL TOY GUN INTO THE FACE OF A TEEN GIRL, INJURING HER EYE. (PORT ST. LUCIE, FLA, APRIL 2022)ⁱⁱⁱ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Over the past 21 years, the rate of foreign-body ingestions by children younger than 6 increased by 91.5%.^{liv} • Forty-six percent of the estimated 206,400 toy-related injuries in 2021 occurred to the head and face area.^{lv} • Beware that some high-powered toy guns capable of forcibly firing ammunition, such as gel beads, water balloons, or foam darts, that may have enough force to injure an eye. Children have been treated for eye and other impact injuries from projectile toy guns. Children were treated for more than 6,600 eye injuries from projectile toy guns between 2010 and 2019.^{lvi} • Warnings and cautions, such as “do not aim at eyes or face,” on some projectile toys may be unrealistic to follow during play. • One online description for a water balloon launcher states “use water balloon slingshot to launch promotional materials, splash balls, t-shirts, snowballs, pumpkins, and more” as far as “300 yards.” • Balloons left behind could be a potential hazard for young children. Children have died from injuries associated with uninflated toy balloons and pieces of broken balloons. The CPSC has reported that of all children’s products, balloons are the leading cause of suffocation death.^{lvii} • Balloons are well-known by the toy industry to pose a significant risk of choking. Nevertheless, some water balloon launchers and other toys with potential choking hazards have been marketed to children as young as 6 months to 2 years old. • Slingshots can shoot ammunition with great force. Some state regulations prohibit the sale of weaponry such as slingshots.^{lviii}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>When it comes to protecting kids from potentially serious eye injuries, beware of launchers and slingshots capable of forcibly firing water balloons and high-powered water guns or other projectile toys that may have enough force to injure an eye. Watch out for balloons and other toy “ammunition” left behind that could be choking hazards for young children. Read all instructions and warnings before giving a toy to a child; stay clear of games with instructions and warnings that may be unrealistic to follow in the real world. Know that realistic looking toy guns have been mistaken for real weapons leading to devastating consequences. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

DANGLING DANGERS ON PLAYGROUNDS: HELMET STRAPS & RECALLED SWINGS



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Playground injuries are one of the leading causes of unintentional injury to children.^{lix}</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for strangulation, impact injury and bodily harm</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>Falls and entanglement are two of the many hazards to beware of when enjoying time with children at a neighborhood playground or a backyard swing set. Beware of defectively designed or broken playground equipment and dangling dangers, such as straps on bicycle helmets, that could lead to falls or entrapment. While helmets are a must when it comes to biking, W.A.T.C.H. reminds parents and caregivers that straps from bicycle helmets worn on playgrounds can get caught on equipment leading to death or near strangulation. Similarly, drawstrings, typically on the neck or waist of children’s clothing, can catch on slides and equipment leading to entanglement and other serious consequences. Beware of defective playground equipment, such as playsets with gaps or recalled swings, that could be a hazard for children at play.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AFTER SEVEN REPORTS OF SWING SEAT RESTRAINT STRAPS BREAKING, A SWING WAS RECALLED ON MARCH 30, 2023</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ON MAY 10, 2021, A 3-YEAR-OLD WAS KILLED WHEN A ROPE BECAME TANGLED AROUND HER NECK ON A PLAYGROUND AT A DAYCARE, ACCORDING TO REPORTS. THE CT SCAN AT THE HOSPITAL SHOWED A BRAIN INJURY WITH NO POSSIBLE CHANCE OF RECOVERY. THE CHILD DIED TWO DAYS AFTER THE INCIDENT. (SIOUX FALLS, SD)^{lx}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Playgrounds are a welcome outdoor destination during the warm weather months for children and parents.^{lxi} Beware, playground entanglement is a risk whether at a public playground or a home playground. • The CPSC has reported deaths when straps from children’s helmets snag on playground equipment or other objects. There were 43 playground equipment-related deaths reported from 2014 to 2021 and there are more than 206,700 playground-related injuries to children under 16 each year.^{lxii} • Falls are the most common cause of injuries on playgrounds, but entanglements are the major cause of death and debilitating injuries.^{lxiii} • From 2009 to 2014 out of 34 playground-related deaths, there were 19 reported deaths were from hanging or asphyxiation, 12 of which involved a second product such as a jump rope, drawstring, or helmet.^{lxiv} • Drawstrings from children’s clothing and playgrounds can be a hazardous combination. There have been 26 reports (January 1985-June 2019) of children who died when drawstrings from their clothing became entangled on playground slides and other objects.^{lxv} There have been many recalls of children’s clothing with drawstrings due to the risk of strangulation; however, clothes with similar hazards may be found in stores and online.^{lxvi} • W.A.T.C.H. cautions parents and caregivers to regularly check playground equipment for recalls. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • March 30, 2023: Recall of 2-in-1 Outdoor Kids Swings with silhouette of Mickey Mouse, Minnie Mouse, or PAW Patrol. About 43,380 recalled because the swing seat restraint straps can break, posing a fall hazard to young children • NOVEMBER 4, 2021: Recall of outdoor playsets because children could get trapped in the gap between the lower part of the roof structure and the bottom of the gable decoration.
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>To avoid the hidden traps of playground equipment entanglement and strangulation, be sure to check children for dangling dangers such as shoelaces, straps, jewelry, and clothing with drawstrings. Remember to remove bicycle helmets when playing on playground equipment. Helmet straps can become entangled on slides and other equipment. In addition to checking for toy recalls, check outdoor playsets and other recreational products for defects and recalls. Beware of many other playground safety traps such as improper ground covering, hot surfaces, and tripping hazards to name a few. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org</i></p>

SHALLOW WATER TRAPS: BABY POOLS & POOL COVERS



lxvii

<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Drownings can happen silently in a matter of seconds - even in shallow water.</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for Drowning</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>There are many overlooked and unexpected shallow water traps in backyards for young children. Portable and convenient to assemble, baby pools are a hot item this summer.^{lxviii} Although these pools are shallower than standard pools, W.A.T.C.H. reminds families that young children can drown in as little as two inches of water. A few shallow water safety traps include baby pools and other water games left filled with water without barriers to prevent access, buckets that contain water, and gaps in pool covers or sagging pool covers that can collect water and may put children at risk of drowning.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">AN INFANT DROWNS IN A BATHTUB (HOUSTON, TX, MAY 2023)^{lxix}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 2-YEAR-OLD GIRL DROWNS IN A BACKYARD POOL (TAMPA, FLA, MAY 2023)^{lxx}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 2-YEAR-OLD GIRL TRAGICALLY DROWNS IN A BACKYARD KIDDIE POOL (PORT NECHES, TEXAS, MAY 2022)^{lxxi}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 2-YEAR-OLD GIRL IS FOUND AFTER DROWNING IN A BUILDER’S BUCKET IN A GARDEN (DAGENHAM, LONDON, JANUARY 2021)^{lxxii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional injury-related death among children ages 1 to 4.^{lxxiii} • In the U.S., an average of 11 people die from drowning each day (4,000 fatal unintentional drownings per year)^{lxxiv} • Most fatal drownings take place at homes (victim’s home, a family or friend’s house, or a neighbor’s house) ^{lxxv}during the summer.^{lxxvi} • Backyards are filled with unexpected hidden water hazards. Water as shallow as two inches can be a drowning hazard for young children. • Watch out for baby pools, buckets and saggy pool covers filled with rainwater. • A 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.^{lxxvii}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>Water safety procedures are important, can save lives, and should be revisited regularly. Drowning can happen in seconds, even in shallow water— so remain vigilant. Always supervise children closely when they are in or near the water. Never leave baby pools and other containers with water unattended in your backyard and empty after each use. Beware of rainwater that can collect in baby pools and other containers. Check water safety procedures regularly, , 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. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

OFF-ROAD OR OFF-LIMITS: ATV HAZARDS



DID YOU KNOW?	Multiple states have passed regulations prohibiting children from driving ATVs.
HAZARD:	Risk of serious injury or death
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	This year, a series of ATV recalls for failure to meet mandatory safety requirements elevates the potential risk of serious injury or death for an activity that some believe is already inherently unsafe for kids. Off-road riding has been associated with often devastating injuries including chest, head, and internal traumas. Nevertheless, ATVs continue to rise in popularity with outdoor enthusiasts. After considering the rising number of ATV-related incidents and the recent recalls of ATVs, families may decide off-road may mean off-limits to children.
KNOW THE FACTS:	<p>AN 11-YEAR-OLD BOY IS KILLED IN AN ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLE ACCIDENT. (MISSISSIPPI, MAY 2023) ^{lxxxviii}</p> <p>IN ONE WEEKEND, TWO TEN-YEAR-OLD GIRLS AND A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY DIED IN TWO SEPARATE ATV ACCIDENTS. THE GIRLS WERE FOUND TRAPPED UNDER AN ATV AND THE BOY WAS FATALLY INJURED AFTER AN ATV ROLLOVER.(MINNESOTA, APRIL 2023) ^{lxxxix}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • According to the American Academy of Pediatrics, children lack the coordination, reflexes, and judgment to avoid crashes while operating ATVs and other motorized vehicles. ^{lxxx} • Recalls and Defective design/ manufacturing: In addition to the inherent risks involved during off-road riding, faulty manufacturing and design practices expose consumers to further risk of injury. ATVs have been recalled for defects including faulty fuel pumps, pedals, and shock absorbers. • RECENT ATV RECALLS-- There were 16 recalls January 1, 2022, to May 4, 2023. Already in 2023, January to May 4th, in the U.S., there were 5 recalls involving over 92,000 units of ATVs flagged for safety hazards: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAY 4, 2023: ATV Recall-- The ATV failed to meet mandatory safety requirements for ATVs intended for children 10 years or older and for brakes. ATVs that don't meet the mandatory safety standards "pose a risk of serious injury or death (Ricky Powersports Youth ATVs, 570 units)."^{lxxxix} • APRIL 27, 2023: ATV Recall-- Violation of Federal ATV Safety Standard; Risk of Serious Injury or Death (EGL Motor ACE-branded Youth ATVs, 4000 units).^{lxxxii} • MARCH 23, 2023: ATV Recall-- A defect could cause the loss of steering control, posing a crash and injury hazard (Textron Specialized Vehicles Arctic Cat Alterra 600 and Tracker 600 ATVs, 3,800 units).^{lxxxiii} • MARCH 16, 2023: A defect could result in a loss of the use of the front brakes and/or fire, posing fire and crash hazards. There were five reports fires (two indicated a loss of front brakes) and three reports of damaged wires (Polaris Sportsman ATVs, 80,000 units). ^{lxxxiv} • JANUARY 5, 2023: ATV Recall-- Defect involving the fuel tank can ignite fuel spills while refueling, posing a fire hazard. 16 fires reported, including one report of personal injury and one report of property damage, outside the U.S. (Polaris Sportsman and Scrambler 1000 S ATVs, 3,800 unit). ^{lxxxv} • The effect of the pandemic on ATV-related injuries was significant: From March to September 2020, there was a 149% increase in injuries for children 0 to 9 years old for the category "ATVs, mopeds, minibikes, etc."^{lxxxvi} • Overturns and collisions (i.e., with trees, other vehicles) are the most common hazards associated with deaths. Overturns are responsible for the most ATV fatalities (38%). ^{lxxxvii} 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. ^{lxxxviii} • Many children have died or been injured in accidents involving ATVs and other OHVs:^{lxxxix} <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injuries- From 2017 through 2021, there were an estimated 517,700 treated injuries for ROV, UTV and ATVs (505,300 specifically for ATVs).^{xc} In 2021, there were an estimated 238,404 injuries related to "ATVs, mopeds, minibikes, etc.," 44,933 of these injuries were to children under 15 years old.^{xcii} • Deaths-From January 1, 2023, to May 3, 2023, already 126 OHV deaths reported consisting mostly of ATVs and UTVs.^{xcii}
TO DO:	Children should not drive ATVs and families should know the history of serious injuries associated with ATV use before deciding whether to allow children to ride as passengers. ATVs have been associated with high crash rates and have been prone to overturning. 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. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.

HOT HAZARD: FIREWORKS/SPARKLERS



<p>DID YOU KNOW?</p>	<p>Fireworks topped the list for the largest increase in product-related injuries during the first seven months of the onset of the pandemic, increasing an estimated 56%.^{xciii}</p>
<p>HAZARD:</p>	<p>Potential for serious eye and hand injuries, burns, death</p>
<p>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</p>	<p>For many, fireworks are synonymous with summer and 4th of July celebrations; but for thousands of people every year, using fireworks at home can potentially involve pain and lasting damage from injuries.</p>
<p>KNOW THE FACTS:</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">FIREWORKS INJURIES CAN BE SERIOUS, INCLUDING BURN AND EYE INJURIES:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 10-YEAR-OLD BOY HAD TO BE AIRLIFTED AFTER PLAYING WITH FIREWORKS.(MIAMI, FLA, JANUARY 2023)^{xciv}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 5-YEAR-OLD BOY LOST HIS RIGHT EYE WHEN A ROCKET-STYLE FIREWORK DEVICE THAT HIS MOTHER LIT MALFUNCTIONED. (JULY 2020) ^{xcv}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 13-YEAR-OLD BOY SUFFERED BURNS TO 10% OF HIS BODY SURFACE AREA FROM ILLEGAL FIREWORKS. (RANDOLPH, MA, JULY 2020) ^{xcvi}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A 4-YEAR-OLD GIRL RECEIVED BURNS TO HER LEFT HAND WHEN SHE GRABBED A BURNING SPARKLER THAT SOMEONE ELSE WAS HOLDING. (BOSTON, MA, JULY 2019) ^{xcvii}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An estimated 11,500 people were treated in U.S. emergency rooms for firework-related injuries in 2021.^{xcviii} • Injuries from fireworks increase during the summer: In a one-month period between June 18 and July 18, 2021, about 74% of firework-related injuries occurred.^{xcix} • Children are at special risk of injury from fireworks: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 29% of injuries between June 18 and July 18, 2021, involved children under 15.^c • Parents don't realize that young children suffer injuries from sparklers that can burn at about 2,000 degrees (hot enough to melt some metals).^{ci} • Sparklers were the number one cause of firework-related injury to children under 5 years, accounting for over half (63%) of emergency room visits for that age group. ^{cii}
<p>TO DO:</p>	<p><i>Fireworks can cause serious injuries, including burns, eye injuries, and even death. Never allow children to handle or play with fireworks. At-home use of fireworks has been associated with many injuries and requires permits in many states. If you do choose to use fireworks at home, keep children well away from them and follow recommended safety practices. Know the facts before allowing children to use sparklers-- and decide whether the risk of injury is too great. If you do allow your older children to use sparklers, only let them do so under close adult supervision following all safety precautions. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

TRAP #10

HEAD FIRST: RECALLED OR DAMAGED BICYCLE HELMETS



DID YOU KNOW?	A helmet that is cracked or has been in a crash should be replaced.
HAZARD:	Potential for head and impact injuries
W.A.T.C.H. OUT!	A fun, outdoor activity for families of all ages, biking surged in popularity after the onset of COVID. With more biking activity came more injuries. In one seven-month period in 2020, injuries climbed an estimated 39% for bikes and accessories from the previous year. ^{ciii} Help keep kids safe and make sure they adhere to appropriate safety measures when biking, such as always wearing a properly fitted helmet and replacing damaged helmets.
KNOW THE FACTS:	<p style="text-align: center;">A CHILD WAS INJURED IN A CAR CRASH WHILE RIDING A BIKE. (MORGANTON, NC, MARCH 2023)^{civ}</p> <p style="text-align: center;">IN MAY, A BOY, THROWN FROM HIS BICYCLE AFTER HE WAS STRUCK BY A HIT-AND-RUN DRIVER, CREDITS HIS HELMET WITH SAVING HIM FROM SIGNIFICANT INJURIES. (MOUNTAIN BROOK, AL)^{cv}</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There were an estimated 375,797 injuries related to bicycles and bicycle accessories in the U.S. in 2021. 12,425 injuries were to children under 5-years-old.^{cvi} • Keep kids away from cars and other traffic while biking. In 2020, preventable deaths from bicycle transportation incidents rose 16% and in the last 10 years spiked 44%. There were 1,260 deaths in 2020. Of the 1,260 bicyclist deaths in 2020, 806 died in motor-vehicle traffic crashes. Bicycle-related deaths are higher in the warmer months. In 2020, the highest number of deaths took place in August.^{cvi} • Wearing bike helmets can reduce the risk of head injury by 60% and brain injury by 58%.^{cvi} • In 2020, there were an estimated 425,910 bicycle and bicycle accessory-related injuries. Children 5 to 14 years old had the highest injury rate.^{cix} • Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes and is the most important determinant of bicycle-related death and permanent disability.^{cx} • Helmets may have an expiration date. The CPSC recommends following the guidance of the manufacturer, but in the absence of guidance, the CPSC suggests replacing a helmet every 5 to 10 years. ^{cx} • Nearly half (47 percent) of children ages 14 and under hospitalized for bicycle-related injuries are diagnosed with traumatic brain injuries.^{cxii} • Head injuries account for more than 60 percent of bicycle-related deaths.^{cxiii}
TO DO:	<p><i>Wearing a properly fitted helmet when biking can reduce the risk of injury from a fall and save lives. Wear a bike helmet even if you're going for a short ride. Never wear a damaged helmet -- it is recommended that you replace your helmet after any fall or crash where you hit your head or if the helmet has been dropped on a hard surface. Make sure to check your helmets expiration date. These are only a few of the safety tips to consider when your children are biking. Adhere to all appropriate safety measures when biking so that everyone can enjoy their ride and avoid injuries. For more information about toy safety, go to www.toysafety.org.</i></p>

