



**W. A. T. C. H.**  
world against toys causing harm, inc.

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## **W.A.T.C.H.'S "10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" FOR 2026**

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

**THIS YEAR REUSABLE MAGNETIC WATER BALLOONS, GEL BLASTER AMMUNITION, ABOVE-GROUND POOLS WITH HIDDEN ACCESS RISKS, AND OVERHEATED PLAYGROUND SURFACES ILLUSTRATE SOME OF THE MANY POTENTIAL HAZARDS TO WATCH OUT FOR SO CHILDREN CAN HAVE A SAFER SUMMER**

### **AS MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND APPROACHES**

AND FAMILIES BEGIN SPENDING MORE TIME SWIMMING, RIDING, CLIMBING, BOUNCING, AND PLAYING OUTDOORS, PREVENTABLE INJURIES INCREASE. W.A.T.C.H. EMPHASIZES THAT KNOWING THE FACTS ABOUT RECURRING SAFETY TRAPS, MANY LINKED TO SERIOUS INJURIES OR DEATHS IN PAST SUMMERS, CAN HELP REDUCE RISKS TO CHILDREN.

W.A.T.C.H.'S LIST OF "10 SUMMER SAFETY TRAPS" HIGHLIGHTS OFTEN-OVERLOOKED HAZARDS, SOME HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT, THAT CHILDREN MAY ENCOUNTER DURING THIS HIGH-RISK SEASON. POTENTIAL HAZARDS LIKE SMALL MAGNETS INSIDE REUSABLE WATER BALLOONS, GEL BEADS USED AS OUTDOOR "AMMUNITION," HIDDEN FOOTHOLDS ON ABOVE-GROUND POOLS, BOUNCE HOUSES LIFTED BY WIND, AND HOT PLAYGROUND SURFACES THAT CAN BURN A CHILD'S SKIN ARE JUST A FEW OF THE TRAPS THAT COULD LEAD TO PREVENTABLE INJURIES OR TRAGEDIES.

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TRAP #1

HIDDEN PULL: REUSABLE MAGNETIC WATER BALLOONS



<p><b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b></p>	<p>What looks like harmless summer fun may hide a life-threatening danger. <b>Some reusable magnetic water balloons use small magnetic closures that can become hazardous if they detach and are swallowed.</b> While parents may recognize the choking risks of traditional balloons, some reusable versions may introduce a different and unexpected hazard: magnets that can attract inside a child’s body, causing catastrophic internal injuries.</p>
<p><b>HAZARD:</b></p>	<p><b><i>Potential for serious internal injuries or death if small, high-powered magnets detach and are swallowed.</i></b></p>
<p><b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In December 2023, the CPSC<sup>i</sup> warned consumers to stop using SplishSplashFun’s reusable magnetic water balloons because they contained dangerous high-powered magnets that posed a risk of serious injury or death if swallowed.<sup>ii</sup> Multiple magnets can attract through intestinal walls, causing blockages, perforations, infection, sepsis, emergency surgery, and death.</li> <li>• Hazardous magnet ingestions continue to send children to emergency rooms and have been linked to deaths and catastrophic internal injuries.<sup>iii</sup> A 2025 review found that thousands of children worldwide are still swallowing magnets despite increased safety measures.<sup>iv</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> “Reusable” or “eco-friendly” does not automatically mean safer. <b>Different products may pose varying risks</b>, including detachable small parts, choking hazards, or dangerous magnets.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A 7-year-old nearly died after swallowing magnets from a magnetic toy and required emergency surgery. (2025)<sup>v</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>An 8-year-old was treated after reportedly swallowing magnets believed to have come from reusable magnetic water balloons during summer water play. (2023)<sup>vi</sup></b></li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Know the potential risks associated with some versions of reusable water balloons and other toys containing high-powered magnets, especially in homes with young children.</li> <li>• A recall or safety alert does not mean the product is gone. Certain recalled reusable magnetic water balloons and other dangerous toys may still be in toy boxes, camps, day care settings, or friends’ homes. Check CPSC recalls and safety alerts and know what children may be playing with.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**TRAP #2**

**NO LADDER NEEDED: HIDDEN ACCESS RISKS IN ABOVE-GROUND POOLS**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	Parents may assume an above-ground pool is secure once the ladder is removed, but toddlers are natural climbers and some pools may still give them a way in.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<i>Drowning from hidden access points into above-ground pools.</i>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>The danger is not only that water is present; parts of the pool itself can create an unexpected way for children to climb in.</b></li> <li>• Exterior straps on some above-ground pools can create hidden footholds, allowing children to climb in even after the ladder has been removed.</li> <li>• In July 2025, the CPSC recalled <b>about 5 million above-ground pools</b> after toddlers reportedly climbed in using exterior compression straps.<sup>vii</sup></li> <li>• Nearby chairs, tables, toys, coolers, or other climbable objects can create another unintended path into an above-ground pool.</li> <li>• National data from 2025 shows an average of 357 children under 15 drown each year in pool- or spa-related incidents, with toddlers ages 1–3 accounting for more than two-thirds of those deaths.<sup>viii</sup></li> <li>• The 2025 report reveals about 6,300 children under 15 were treated in emergency rooms annually for pool- or spa-related submersion injuries from 2022–2024.<sup>ix</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Shallow above-ground pools can cause devastating head, neck, and spinal injuries if children dive in.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<b>Nine children, ages 22 months to 3 years old, reportedly drowned after gaining access to certain above-ground pools. (2007 to 2022)<sup>x</sup></b>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check whether your above-ground pool is subject to recall.</li> <li>• Do not rely on ladder removal alone: inspect the outside of the pool for anything a child could use as a foothold.</li> <li>• Use barriers, alarms, self-closing gates and active supervision.</li> <li>• Keep tables, chairs, toys, coolers, and other climbable objects away from the pool.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**TRAP #3**

**TOO HOT TO HANDLE: OVERHEATED SLIDES & PLAYGROUND SURFACES**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<b>A playground can be too hot to play on even when the weather does not feel extreme.</b> Slides, swings, rubber mats, dark plastic, and other playground surfaces can heat up quickly in direct sun and burn a child’s skin before a parent realizes there is a problem.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<b><i>Burn injuries from hot playground equipment and surfaces.</i></b>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CPSC warns that playground equipment and surfacing can cause thermal burns.<sup>xi</sup></li> <li>• <b>Hot playground surfaces are not always obvious and can burn a child even when the day does not feel dangerously hot.</b></li> <li>• Metal is not the only concern. Plastic, rubber, artificial turf, and other nonmetal surfaces can also get hot enough to burn a child’s skin.<sup>xii</sup></li> <li>• Direct sun, surface material, color, and how long the equipment has been exposed to heat can all affect how hot a playground surface becomes.</li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Other playground hazards can include falls, entrapment, helmet-strap strangulation, and impact injuries.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A parent reported their toddler received second-degree burns after using a school playground slide. (2025)<sup>xiii</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A child suffered serious second-degree burns from a plastic slide on a 74°F day—parents and caregivers cannot rely on air temperature alone to judge whether a playground is safe. (CPSC Fact Sheet)<sup>xiv</sup></b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Check slides, swings and surfacing before letting children play.</li> <li>• Avoid playgrounds during peak sun and heat when surfaces may be hottest.</li> <li>• Other safety checks: Remove helmets before playground play to reduce strap entanglement risk.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**TRAP #4**

**SMALL BEADS, BIG RISKS: GEL BLASTERS & WATER BEAD AMMO**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	As outdoor play ramps up, <b>gel beads</b> (also known as water beads) used as “ammo” in gel blaster toy guns and in other recreational products <b>can be left behind and hidden in grass, on patios, or in driveways – where younger siblings or curious toddlers may find them later</b> . If swallowed, inhaled, or inserted into the nose or ear, they can expand and cause serious internal injuries.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<b><i>Risk of choking, aspiration, internal injury, or death if loose gel beads from gel blasters or other recreational products are swallowed or inhaled.</i></b>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>While they may look harmless at first glance, bright-colored water beads can attract young children and, once wet, can swell dramatically (up to 100 times their original size) creating a serious risk of injury or death if swallowed.</b></li> <li>• Poison control data show more than 20,000 reports of water bead ingestion among children age 6 and younger from 2019–2024, with toddlers ages 1–2 at greatest risk.<sup>xvi</sup> CPSC has also reported thousands of emergency room-treated ingestion injuries and at least one infant death linked to water beads.<sup>xvii</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Some high-powered projectiles have been linked to serious, sometimes permanent, eye injuries.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A 10-month-old baby died after ingesting a water bead from an activity set. (2023)<sup>xviii</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A 9-month-old required surgery to remove water beads that caused an intestinal obstruction. (2023)<sup>xix</sup></b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you have little ones at home, skip water beads altogether. These tiny beads may look harmless but can be deadly if swallowed.</li> <li>• If older children are permitted to use gel blasters or other projectile toys, require eye protection, supervise closely, and beware – loose gel beads and other “ammunition” can be hard to find once scattered and may later be discovered by younger children.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

TRAP #5

INFLATED CONFIDENCE: SWIM RINGS & OTHER INFLATABLE POOL TOYS



<p><b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b></p>	<p><b>Floating is not the same as safety.</b> W.A.T.C.H. warned last summer that swim rings can flip over and trap a child underwater, and that swim rings, floaties, and other <b>inflatables can create a dangerous false sense of security.</b> This year, that warning is especially timely: <b>CPSC reported a drowning death involving a 2-year-old</b> using “Relaxing Baby” swim floats, which the agency warned could flip over or submerge children underwater.<sup>xx</sup></p>
<p><b>HAZARD:</b></p>	<p><b><i>Drowning risk if swim floats or inflatable pool toys flip, slip, deflate, drift, trap a child, or block an adult’s view of a struggling swimmer.</i></b></p>
<p><b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Inflatables</b> (i.e. floaties, arm bands, swim rings) <b>are made for fun, not safety.</b></li> <li>• <b>From 2019-2024, CPSC received reports of 115 incidents involving infant neck floats, including two reported deaths, in babies 17 days to 12 months old.</b><sup>xxi</sup></li> <li>• Drowning is the leading cause of unintentional death among children ages 1 to 4.<sup>xxii</sup></li> <li>• Some swim floats may have design risks that allow them to flip over or submerge a child, turning a product meant for fun into a drowning hazard.</li> <li>• CPSC approved a new federal safety standard for neck floats in 2025 to address infant deaths and serious injuries involving flotation products.<sup>xxiii</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Large inflatables can drift into deeper water, flip in wind, or block a clear view of a struggling child beneath or behind them– even in shallow water.</li> </ul>
<p><b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A two-year-old child drowned while using a hazardous float. (CPSC Warning, 2026)</b><sup>xxiv</sup></li> <li>• <b>A 3-year-old girl, wearing a pool float around her waist, nearly drowned after she was trapped upside down in the pool. (2019)</b><sup>xxv</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Drownings can happen in the time it takes to answer a text.</b> Keep young children within arm’s reach and never depend on inflatable toys to keep them safe.</li> <li>• After swim time, remove pool toys from the water so children are not tempted to reach for them.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**TRAP #6**

**BOUNCING BACKFIRES: BACKYARD TRAMPOLINES AND INFLATABLE BOUNCE HOUSES**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<p><b>Trampolines and bounce houses might be staples of backyard birthdays and summer celebrations, but popularity doesn't equal safety.</b> A moment of fun can turn tragic when a bounce house is swept into the air by a sudden gust of wind or when a child jumps on a trampoline and suffers life-altering harm.</p>
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<p><b><i>Potential for serious injuries, including broken bones, head trauma, paralysis, and death.</i></b></p>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Trampolines are not toys</b>, and the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) strongly discourages home use.<sup>xxvi</sup> More than <b>85%</b> of trampoline injuries happen at home.<sup>xxvii</sup></li> <li>• Trampoline Injuries include fractures, head injuries and spinal/neck injuries. In 2024, there were <b>118,179 trampoline-related injuries</b>, 71,613 to children ages 5-14.<sup>xxviii</sup></li> <li>• <b>In the last few years, fatal incidents show that a bounce house can go from party attraction to airborne hazard almost instantly.</b></li> <li>• From 2000–2021, nearly 10,000 U.S. emergency visits involved bounce houses<sup>xxix</sup> ; worldwide, wind-related incidents alone caused 28 deaths and 479 injuries.<sup>xxx</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Padding, netting, and adult supervision do not eliminate the risks of broken bones, head injuries, falls, suffocation, entrapment, or catastrophic wind-related incidents.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A 3-year-old died after a wind gust lifted a backyard trampoline into the air. (2025)<sup>xxxi</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A 5-year-old-boy died after a bounce house flew 15 to 20 ft. into the air. (2024)<sup>xxxii</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A 2-year-old boy died after a bounce house reportedly became airborne in strong winds, highlighting how quickly inflatable play can turn catastrophic. (2024)<sup>xxxiii</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A boy was paralyzed after severing his spinal cord doing a flip at a trampoline park. (2019)<sup>xxxiv</sup></b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Awareness is key to prevention: bounce houses and trampolines can cause life-changing injuries or death.</li> <li>• Past tragedies, including wind-blown inflatables and devastating trampoline injuries, are reminders to understand the risks and know the facts before choosing to allow children to participate in recreational activities.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a>.</i></p>

**TRAP #7**

**NO DEEP END REQUIRED: HIDDEN BACKYARD SHALLOW WATER TRAPS (KIDDIE POOLS, POOL COVERS)**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	A backyard water hazard does not have to look like a pool. <b>Shallow water in kiddie pools, buckets, coolers, water tables, decorative features, containers, and sagging pool covers filled with rainwater can all create deadly safety traps for young children.</b>
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<b><i>Drowning risk from shallow water or standing water accessible to young children.</i></b>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Backyards can hide unexpected dangers. Children can drown in shallow water, quietly and in a matter of seconds, highlighting the urgency of awareness.<sup>xxxv</sup></li> <li>• Even just a few inches of water in a bucket or a dog bowl, enough to cover a child’s nose and mouth, can become a safety trap for a crawling baby.<sup>xxxvi</sup></li> <li>• <b>Vigilance is crucial, as most drowning incidents are preventable.</b> Among toddlers and preschoolers, drowning is the top cause of accidental death.<sup>xxxvii</sup></li> <li>• <b>Most fatal drownings occur at homes (children ages 1-3)<sup>xxxviii</sup> during the summer.</b><sup>xxxix</sup></li> <li>• Shallow backyard water may seem less dangerous, but portable, easy-to-assemble baby pools can quickly become deadly traps—<b>especially since they often lack the fences and barriers found around larger pools.</b></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Pool covers can appear to be a false solid surface that may tempt a child to walk or crawl onto them, posing both entrapment and drowning risks.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A 16-month-old reportedly drowned in a container of water on the porch. (2025)<sup>xl</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A 1-year-old girl drowned after her dog knocked her into the partially emptied backyard baby pool that still held 9 inches of water. (2023)<sup>xli</sup></b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Stay alert: Drowning can happen in seconds, even in shallow water.</b> Always supervise children closely around water.</li> <li>• Empty kiddie pools, buckets and water tables immediately after use.</li> <li>• Store containers upside down and away from children.</li> <li>• Watch for rainwater collecting in unexpected places like sagging pool covers.</li> <li>• Treat all standing water as a drowning hazard: Keep backyard water features fenced, covered or inaccessible using multiple barriers to block access to water.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**CHARGING INTO DANGER: E-BIKES & E-SCOOTERS**



<p><b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b></p>	<p>School’s out, and older children may be spending more time on e-bikes and e-scooters— but <b>these are motorized vehicles, not toys</b>. The risks go beyond speed: crashes can cause serious, sometimes life-threatening injuries, and lithium-ion batteries can overheat, ignite, or explode.</p>
<p><b>HAZARD:</b></p>	<p><b><i>Potential for battery fires, burns, explosions, crashes, head trauma, fractures, and death.</i></b></p>
<p><b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fun summer rides can quickly turn, ending in a crash or a fire emergency. In a 2026 CPSC report, injuries and deaths for e-bikes and e-scooters rose sharply in recent years.<sup>xlii</sup></li> <li>• In 2024 alone, there were an estimated <b>79,300 e-scooter injuries</b>.<sup>xliii</sup></li> <li>• From 2017–2024, CPSC documented <b>533 micromobility-related deaths</b>, including <b>311 involving e-bikes</b> and <b>207 involving e-scooters</b>.<sup>xliv</sup></li> <li>• <b>Motorized bikes and scooters may be trendy, but they demand adult-level judgment and coordination.</b> The American Academy of Pediatrics advises that children under 16 should not operate e-scooters.</li> <li>• CPSC identifies lithium-ion battery <b>overheating as a distinct safety hazard linked to fires, explosions, serious burns, and deaths</b>. Battery fires can occur during charging, while in use, or even while stored indoors.<sup>xlv</sup></li> <li>• In 2025, Walmart recalled nearly <b>18,000 electric scooters</b> for defective batteries.<sup>xlvi</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Ion-lithium battery concerns have been associated with other toys and recreational products over the years (e.g., hoverboards).</li> </ul>
<p><b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Three fires were prior to the 2025 recall of Santa Cruz electric bicycles due to battery overheating concerns. (CPSC, 2025)</b><sup>xlvii</sup></li> <li>• <b>A 9-year-old suffered life-threatening injuries after riding an e-scooter into traffic. (2025)</b><sup>xlviii</sup></li> <li>• <b>Recently, a Princeton middle schooler died after colliding an e-bike with a car.</b><sup>xlix</sup></li> </ul>
<p><b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remember that e-bikes and e-scooters are motorized vehicles, not toys.</li> <li>• <b>Know the history of injuries before deciding if e-scooters or e-bikes are appropriate for your child.</b></li> <li>• If allowing older teens to ride after considering the associated risks, require helmets and understand age restrictions and local laws.</li> <li>• Consider where these products are charged— battery fires can spread rapidly indoors.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**TOWED INTO TROUBLE: TUBES, TOWABLES & BOAT PROPELLER RISKS**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<b>Towable tubes may look like classic summer fun, but recent incidents show how quickly fun can turn dangerous.</b> Children can be seriously injured when a tube is pulled too fast, turns sharply, collides with a dock or object, or throws riders into the water near boats, ropes, or propellers. The danger is not just falling off the tube—it is what happens next.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<b><i>Risk of drowning, head injuries, traumatic impacts, rope entanglement, collisions, and propeller-related injuries during tubing and other towed water activities.</i></b>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2024, the U.S. Coast Guard counted 3,887 recreational boating incidents, 556 deaths, and 2,170 injuries. Nonfatal injuries increased 2.1% from 2023.<sup>i</sup></li> <li>• Kids are especially vulnerable— they may be harder to see in the water and less able to react quickly.</li> <li>• A child in the water behind a boat should never be near an engaged propeller.</li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Poorly fitted life jackets can ride up, slip off, or fail to keep a child properly positioned in the water.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>An 8-year-old died and two children, ages 10 and 11, were injured after a tube being pulled by a jet ski reportedly hit a dock and threw the children off. (2025)<sup>ii</sup></b></li> <li>• <b>A father was indicted after his 11-year-old daughter died in a 2023 boating incident. Reports indicate she was struck by the family boat’s propeller. (2025)<sup>iii</sup></b></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep towing speeds conservative and appropriate for the child’s age, size, and ability.</li> <li>• Do not tow near docks, shorelines, swimmers, other boats, or fixed objects.</li> <li>• Avoid sharp turns, crowded areas, rough water, and reduced visibility.</li> <li>• Shut off the engine before a child approaches the boat, ladder, or swim platform.</li> <li>• Keep children away from the propeller area and tow ropes.</li> <li>• Before water sports begin each season, review the basics: properly fitted U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jackets, safe towing speeds, active spotting, and safe pickup/retrieval after a child falls off.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>

**KID-SIZED RIDERS, ADULT-SIZED RISKS: ATVs**



<b>W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b>	<b>ATVs may be a popular summer activity</b> , but these powerful vehicles can turn dangerous in seconds. <b>Kid-sized does not mean kid-safe</b> : even youth models can roll, crash, overheat, or reach speeds beyond a child’s ability to control. Children are seriously injured or killed riding as passengers on adult ATVs.
<b>HAZARD:</b>	<b><i>Potential for fractures, crush injuries, burns, head trauma, internal injuries, and death.</i></b>
<b>KNOW THE FACTS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) warns that children often lack the judgment, coordination, and reaction time needed to safely operate ATVs.<sup>liii</sup></li> <li>• ATVs are associated with thousands of serious injuries nationwide. Children and teens account for a significant share of injuries and deaths.<sup>liv</sup></li> <li>• Of 2,577 off-highway vehicle-related deaths from <b>2019–2021, 1,728 involved ATVs.</b><sup>lv</sup></li> <li>• Adding to the risk of injuries, <b>numerous youth and adult ATVs have been recalled</b> over the years due to serious safety defects. In April 2026, a youth ATV was recalled for exceeding speed limits intended for children ages 6+; its footwell surfaces could also reach temperatures high enough to cause severe burns.<sup>lvi</sup></li> <li>• <b>Also, W.A.T.C.H. OUT!</b> Paved roads can increase rollover and crash risks because ATVs are not designed for those surfaces.</li> </ul>
<b>BEHIND THE NUMBERS:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>A 6-year-old boy died in a crash while riding as a passenger on a youth ATV. (2025)</b><sup>lvii</sup></li> <li>• <b>A 6-year-old died while riding as a passenger on an ATV after a 12-year-old driver reportedly ran a stop sign. (2025)</b><sup>lviii</sup></li> </ul>
<b>WHAT YOU CAN DO:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider avoiding ATV use by children altogether due to the inherent crash, rollover, and serious injury risks associated with them.</li> <li>• Children should <b>not operate</b> adult ATVs. State laws may limit youth ATV operation.</li> <li>• Families should understand the serious injuries associated with ATV use before deciding whether to allow kids to operate youth ATVs or ride adult ATVs as passengers.</li> <li>• 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.</li> </ul> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For more summer safety tips, visit <a href="http://www.toysafety.org">www.toysafety.org</a></i></p>



**World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. (W.A.T.C.H.)**, is a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization working to educate the public about child safety. W.A.T.C.H. helps raise awareness about the potential dangers in many toys, children’s products, and recreational activities. Consumer advocates, Joan Siff, James Swartz, Edward Swartz (19342010), and W.A.T.C.H., have been responsible for the “**10 WORST TOYS**” nominees for over 53 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](http://www.toysafety.org) or follow @WATCHsafety on Facebook.



**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.

**Photos/ Visual Representations:** Regarding toy/recreational activity photos available on the W.A.T.C.H., Inc.'s website ([www.toysafety.org](http://www.toysafety.org)), please note: The photos and images relating to the summer safety press release and press conference are used for visual aid purposes only, and are not intended to focus on a specific manufacturer, distributor, retailer or product. Rather, these images and photos represent categories of potential summer safety traps. The Summer Safety list of hazards differs from W.A.T.C.H.'s annual "10 Worst Toys" List released in November for the holiday season, which identifies specific products that are representative of types of potential hazards in the marketplace. **Products:** 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.

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