

Safe Kids Indiana

FALL 2013

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

Fire Prevention Week
October 6 - 12, 2013

International Walk to
School Day
October 9, 2013

Did You Know?



Fire Safety

Fire prevention should start in the home. In the US, on average, seven people die in home fires per day.

In 2011, U.S. fire departments responded to 370,000 home fires. Those fires caused 13,910 injuries, 2,520 deaths and \$6.9 billion in direct damage.

Fire Prevention week is October 6-12, and here are some valuable safety tips for parents:

- A properly working smoke alarm can reduce the chances of dying in a fire by nearly 50%.

- Use Daylight Savings Time as a reminder to check your smoke alarms.
- Create and practice a home fire escape plan with two ways out of your house.
- In the event of a fire, grab your family and leave your home immediately and call 911 after you are safely outside.
- Smoke rises. If there is smoke when you are leaving the home, get low to the floor.
- Feel the door, doorknob and cracks around the door with the back of your hand to see if they are too hot.
- Choose a place to meet outside that is a safe distance away from your home.
- If you cannot escape your home, cover all vents and cracks around the door, and call 911 or your fire department as quickly as possible.
- If you are trapped inside your home, signal for help at the window with a light-colored cloth or a flashlight.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet away from anything that can burn.
- Avoid plugging several appliance cords into the same electrical socket.
- Limit distractions when cooking.
- Don't leave a hot oven or stovetop unattended.
- Have a fire extinguisher in the kitchen in case of emergency, and make sure you know how it works.
- If you are using a fireplace or wood stove, make sure you use a safety gate to protect small children.
- Keep candles at least 12 inches away from anything that can burn, and always blow them out when you leave the room or before you go to sleep.

For additional resources, go to:

- 1.) www.safekids.org/tip/fire-safety-tips
- 2.) www.sparky.org/parentpage/fpwkids.htm

**SAFE
KIDS
INDIANA**



Distracted Pedestrians

October 9th is International Walk to School Day. While talking with families about the importance of paying attention to vehicles, street signs, and traffic lights, another area of discussion is distraction from electronic devices.

Because of cell phones, Mp3 players and hand-held games, children and teens are surrounded by distractions every day. This can be especially dangerous for pedestrians.

Safe Kids Worldwide, with the support of FedEx,

recently released a new research report, “Teens and Distraction: An In-Depth Look at Teens’ Walking Behaviors,” an observational study that tracked 34,000 middle-and high-school students crossing the street in a school zone.

According to the report, 1 in 5 high school students and 1 in 8 middle school students were observed crossing the street while distracted by technology.

Here are safety tips for parents and teens:

Parents

- Talk about the dangers of distraction.
- Encourage teens to put down mobile devices while walking.
- Remind teens to look up, listen and make eye contact when crossing the street.
- Set a good example by putting devices down when you are driving or walking around cars.

Teens

- Put devices down, look up, listen, and make eye contact with drivers before crossing the street.
- Watch out for cars that are turning or backing up.

- Walk on sidewalks or paths.
- Cross at street corners with traffic signals and crosswalks.
- Be aware of others who may be distracted.
- Speak up when you see someone who is distracted.
- If you need to use a cell phone, stop on the sidewalk and find a safe area to talk.
- If you are wearing headphones, pull them down or turn off the volume when crossing a street.
- Turn off devices in places where cars are going in unexpected directions, like backing out of a parking spot or turning out of a driveway.

Take the “Moment of Silence” Pledge

Safe Kids Worldwide wants families to take the pledge to put down all electronic devices while crossing the street. It’s a simple pledge that can save lives.

Here are additional pedestrian safety resources:

- 1.) www.safekids.org/walkingsafelytips
- 2.) www.safekids.org/infographic/how-does-teen-cross-road

For questions about Safe Kids Coalitions and Chapters, please contact J.J. Current at 317-274-6712 or jcurrent@iu.edu