

Safe Kids Indiana

FALL 2011

PLAN YOUR EVENTS:

International Walk to School Day is Oct. 5, 2011

Fire Prevention Week is Oct. 9-15, 2011

National School Bus Safety Week is Oct. 17-21, 2011

Halloween Walk This Way Events are Oct. 10-31, 2011

For November, many coalitions will focus on Thanksgiving and kitchen safety education.

For December, many coalitions will focus on holiday-related fire prevention education and toy safety.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS:

The 2012 Injury Prevention Conference sponsored by Safe Kids Indiana and the Automotive Safety Program is scheduled for May 3-4, 2012.

Registration materials will be sent via email later in the year.

Did You Know?

New research from Safe Kids USA shows that parents still struggle with proper child safety seat use.

The research shows that proper use of child safety seats has improved slightly with improper or non-use of top tethers as the greatest area of concern.

The study is the largest ever of its kind and used standardized data of 79,000 child safety seat inspections over a full year.

The analysis assesses the individual elements of successful installations, in contrast to previous analyses that focused on gross levels

of misuse in child safety and booster seats.

A key finding of the study was that less than 1/3 of the forward facing child seats arriving at seat check events used a top tether.

A top tether is a strap at the top of the car seat that hooks to a tether anchor in the vehicle, and which provides added protection to children by helping to reduce the forward movement of the child's head in a crash.

Even for those who used a tether on a forward-facing seat, it was used correctly only 59 percent of the time.

The study also found that while parents are doing a better job keeping children in rear-facing seats for a longer period – 41 percent of children greater than 20 pounds and 32 percent of children over age one were still riding in the rear-facing direction – there is a continuing need to educate about the criteria to transition between seat types.

Go to <http://www.safekids.org/assets/docs/safety-basics/safety-tips-by-risk-area/sk-car-seat-report-2011.pdf> for a full version of the report!

Safety-related legislation updates:

Some chapter/coalition coordinators have asked for more information regarding the recent legislation on student athletes who sustain concussions. (Senate Bill 93):

The Department of Educa-

tion is required to disseminate guidelines, information sheets, and forms to school corporations for distribution to schools to inform and educate coaches, student athletes, and parents of student athletes of the

nature and risk of concussions and head injuries. This information must be disseminated to each school corporation before July 1, 2012.

(Continued)



Safe Kids Indiana
Preventing
Injuries:
At Home,
At Play,
And On The Way!

Safety-related legislation updates (Cont.)

It is required that a high school student athlete and the student athlete's parent are given information concerning head injuries and concussions and return an acknowledgment form to the student athlete's coach each year before beginning practice for a sport. High school student athletes suspected of sus-

taining a head injury or concussion must be removed from play at the time of the injury.

A student athlete may not return to play until he or she has been evaluated and receives written clearance from a licensed health care provider trained in the evaluation and management of concussions and head injuries. (There are only a few trained providers in Indiana currently.)

Although the bill specifies only high school athletes, Safe Kids chapters and coalitions may be able to partner with local high schools to help them provide education on sports safety and traumatic brain injury prevention.

Check out www.safekids.org for more information on sports-related injury.



Spot The Tot SM

In 2007 in the United States, there were an estimated 5,000 injuries and 205 deaths to children under age 14 as a result of being hit by a vehicle in a driveway or parking area.

On August 18th, 2011, volunteers from the Safe Kids Indiana Advisory Board and the Automotive Safety Program provided education and brochures to families

about the dangers of vehicle backovers.

The Spot the Tot SM carpet rolls out behind a high clearance vehicle and provides an effective visual for caregivers about the large blind spot behind vehicles.

If you would like to borrow the Spot the Tot SM carpet for your next Safe Kids event, please contact Jamie at smithjak@iupui.edu.

New Safe Kids Checklist Forms

Don't forget to use the latest version of the Safe Kids USA checklist form for all your Safe Kids Buckle Up events!