

# Family Safety is No Accident

Sponsored by:



Prevention isn't difficult, it doesn't cost a lot or take much time. But, it does require your attention and some effort. Some simple safety measures will lower the risk of injury to your children. And, it's worth it...both for you and your children. Make safety a habit in your family. Share the information in this newsletter with babysitters and grandparents. Set a good example. Teach your children to "think safety"!

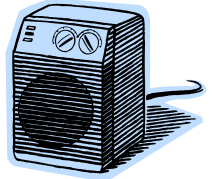
## Fall Clean-up

It is important to supervise children carefully when you become engrossed in your fall projects—especially those that involve fire or poisonous products. Check with your municipality to see if you are allowed to burn yard waste. Keep these safety tips in mind:

- Only burn dried yard waste when there is *no wind*.
  - Keep a hose nearby with the water turned on.
  - Keep a rake handy to collect stray leaves and return them to the pile.
- Burn away from trees, shrubbery and buildings.
- Keep children and pets away when fueling the lawn mower, and do this outdoors only.
- Do not dispose of empty paint cans or aerosol cans in your regular trash. Call your municipality for instructions.
- Do not store piles of paper or cardboard too close to heaters or pilot lights.
- Dispose of unnecessary papers and boxes, leaving a clear, uncluttered passage to all entrances or exits.



## Heating Safety

- Alternative heaters need their space. Keep anything combustible at least 3 feet away.
 
- Make sure alternative heaters have "tip switches" that will automatically turn off the heater if it is tipped over.
- Only use fuel recommended by the manufacturer and follow suggested guidelines.
- Never refill a space heater indoors, or while it is operating or still hot.
- Make sure wood stoves or gas logs are properly installed and at least 3 feet from combustible materials.
- Use a glass or metal screen in front of a fireplace.
- Teach children the "NO ZONE"...an imaginary area at least 36" from anything hot. You can mark off the area with tape until they learn it means "stay away"!
- Use only heavy duty extension cords designed for your heater.

### PARENT TIP!

**Change your clock-change your batteries and clean your smoke detectors!**

## Flame-Throwers: Dangerous Fireplay Trend



What may look like a harmless water pistol or super soaker, may be just that. But, unfortunately a growing number of young people have turned to using these items to “play” with fire. Teens are using gasoline and other flammable liquids to fill the water pistol or super soaker, then with the aid of matches or a lighter, “shoot” the flames within inches of each other, inside closed garages or in fields, unconcerned about the danger of their actions. They practice the same activity using aerosol cans, spraying the contents over a match or lighter. Parents, be aware! Look for: aerosol cans in your child’s room that seem unusual. Is the gas can low for some reason? Are there signs of fire around the house? Is a plastic water gun melted? If you find any of these signs, have a serious talk about fire safety with your teen.

### PARENT TIP!

### STORE MATCHES AND LIGHTERS OUT OF REACH OF YOUNG CHILDREN!

For children ages 3 to 8, curiosity about matches and lighters is normal. But, more than one-third of the burns to these children are the result of playing with matches.

Teach young children that:

- matches and lighters are not toys...they are tools for adults.
- children who play with matches or lighters can be badly burned and can hurt others.
- if they find matches or lighters, tell an adult.

### Toy Recall

CPSC announced the recall of one million Hasbro Easy-Bake ovens, sold between the months of May 2006 and July 2007, due to burns to children. The ovens, sold in retailers nationwide, were recalled after getting 249 reports of children getting hands or fingers stuck in the opening. One 5-year old girl’s finger was burned so severely that she had to have a partial amputation. Model No. 65805 is stamped into the plastic on the back of the oven. Call Easy-Bake at 800-601-8418 for more information.



### Parent / Child Activity—Burn Safety Memory Game

Have fun preparing this game and then playing it with your child, teaching fire and burn safety as you do. You will need 3 x 5 index cards, paste, and clip art pictures (two of each).

Look for the following pictures on Microsoft Word clip art: stove, iron, curling iron, heater, fireplace, grill, matches, lighter, candle, hot beverage in a mug, pot of hot liquid on a stove. Make sure you have two of each picture. Cut them out and let your child help to paste one on each index card. When finished, mix up the cards and place them face down on the floor or a table. Let your child try to find the matching pair. Discuss with your child why the item in the picture can burn them, and teach them how to stay safe from each danger. Try to find pictures of things they are familiar with. But remember, you may not have some of the items in *your* home, but your child may come across these items when visiting others. Depending on the age of your child, you may want to play the game using only a few of the pairs at a time.

