



Connection

A newsletter for
Child & Youth Injury Prevention Advocates
March 2009/Issue 13



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Poison Awareness & HOUSEHOLD THREATS

Recent data from the IWK Regional Poison Centre indicate that approximately 20 percent of all calls received are related to household cleaners. This represents all age groups and means of exposure, including ingestion and inhalation.

“The most concerning of these calls is the improper mixing of cleaning products that can immediately generate a chlorine-like gas that causes severe respiratory symptoms,” says Ruth Bona, Interim Clinical Leader, IWK Regional Poison Centre. “This sometimes happens inadvertently. For example, when toilet bowl cleaners that dispense automatically are mixed with another cleaner added to scrub the bowl.”

Child Safety Link and the IWK Regional Poison Centre highlighted poisoning prevention, and the importance of labels and hazard symbols during National Poison Awareness Week, March 15 - 21. This year, the theme of National Poison Awareness Week was “Aim for Safety, Target the Label.” Health Canada’s resource of the same name teaches children about hazard symbols on poisonous products.

“Poisoning by household cleaners occurs most often when a product is in use,” says Sarah Blades, Health Promotion Specialist with Child Safety Link. “Children should be closely supervised to reduce the likelihood they will gain access to a cleaning product that could be harmful.”

For important tips on how to avoid household poisonings, see page 3



Adapted Bikes to be demo'ed on March 31, as part of HRM Bike Week

The IWK's Recreation Therapy Service will be participating in this year's HRM Bike Week by hosting an Adapted Bike Demonstration at the Halifax Commons on Sunday, May 31st from 1–2 p.m. They will also have several adapted bikes and trikes available for families to borrow to participate in a Family Bike Ride around the commons from 2–5p.m.

The adapted bikes are all part of the Equipment Loan Program established by the Recreation Therapy Service to ensure that children and youth with disabilities have access to specialized recreation equipment to support their participation in community programs. The Equipment Loan Program recently received a generous \$50,000 grant from the IWK's Auxiliary to purchase new equipment, including several new bikes for loan to families throughout Nova Scotia.

For more information on this event, please contact Noreen Guptill, IWK Recreation Therapy Services, at (902) 470-6865. For more information on other events taking place during HRM's Bike Week (May 29 – June 6), contact www.halifax.ca/bikeweek



Please Join Us...

...For a networking meeting to discuss car seat and booster seat use in the South West Health District, NS

April 27, 2009

9:30 am-12:30 pm

Nova Scotia Community College,
Burrige Campus

372 Pleasant Street, Yarmouth, Nova Scotia

Lunch provided 11:30-12:30

Car crashes are a serious risk to children, leading to injury and sometimes death.

What can we do as a community to ensure that:

- All families have the information they need to correctly choose and use a car seat?
- All children have a car seat or booster seat?
- All families can get assistance with installing their car seats if they need it?

Kim Mundle, coordinator of the provincial Child Safety Seat Strategy, will facilitate a discussion about promotion of correct car seat use in the South West Health District.

Please RSVP to: Child Safety Link, c/o Kim Mundle, 1-866-288-1388 extension 1 (car seats) or 902-470-7324. Please leave your name and contact phone number on the answering service.



Tips to Preventing Poisonings in the Home (cont'd from page 1)

Several steps can be taken to prevent incidents with common household cleaning products, such as laundry and hand soaps, and all-purpose toilet bowl, drain and oven cleaners. Child Safety Link and the Poison Centre would like to emphasize the following safety tips:

- ✓ Read labels to ensure products are used properly.
- ✓ Never mix cleaners.
- ✓ Ensure that poisonous cleaners are kept in their original containers, in a high locked cupboard, to reduce the chances that a child will be poisoned.
- ✓ Remember that child-resistant does not mean child proof: Children should not be allowed to play with child-resistant containers. These containers are only meant to slow access to the product inside and many children will be able to open them if given enough time to do so.
- ✓ Teach older children to recognize hazard symbols.



For more information about preventing poisoning in children, please visit Child Safety Link at www.childsafetylink.ca for a copy of the booklet “Keep Kids Safe: A Parent’s Guide to Poison Prevention” (available in French or English) and a link to Health Canada’s “Aim for Safety, Target the Label.” In case of a real or suspected poisoning, call 911 and ask to speak to the Poison Centre, or call 1-800-565-8161.



IFNS seeks Board of Directors

Injury Free Nova Scotia (IFNS) is a coalition that mandates advocacy and awareness as priorities to further injury prevention initiatives in Nova Scotia. To date, IFNS has successfully helped enable legislative support for mandatory helmet use, booster seats, driver-restricted cell phone use, and photo radar.

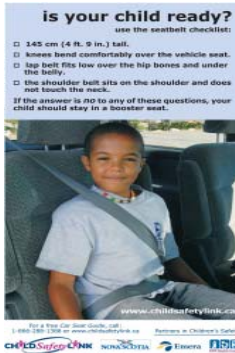
IFNS is currently looking for a strong, effective board of directors to help continue its future success. If you are interested in getting involved as a board member with IFNS, please contact Executive Director Susan Brushett at (902) 240-6527 or email susanbrushett@eastlink.ca. Please visit our website at injuryfreesns.ca.

PEI hosts Injury Prevention Conference

Sarah Blades, Health Promotion Specialist, was in PEI this month when March arrived on the island “like a lion.” She was invited to speak at the annual gathering of Community Action Program for Children (CAPC)/ Canadian Prenatal Nutrition Program (CPNP) and Family Resource Professionals on PEI. Sarah gave two workshops on the topic of injury prevention at the conference. These focused on collecting feedback from individuals on two tools that Child Safety Link has been developing. One tool will support Family Resource Centres to deliver Home Safety Workshops in their communities, and the other is a template for car seat group education sessions for parents. Despite the freezing rain, the conference was still a success and a great networking event. Thanks to Laura Quinn Graham and staff at the Family Place in Summerside for inviting us and organizing this years conference!



Announcements



CSL has a new Car Seat Poster series in French/English. To view the six different posters, please go to the CSL website and click on "Resources."

Please note: the Canadian Injury Prevention conference has been rescheduled to 2011 in Vancouver. Stay tuned!

Jennifer Brittain has left CSL's New Brunswick office. Thanks, Jennifer, & best of luck!

Special thanks to our partners in children's safety.



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This newsletter is published in March, June, September and December.

Upcoming Events

Networking meeting re. car seat and booster seat use in South West Health District

April 27, 2009, 9:30 am-12:30 pm, Nova Scotia Community College, Burrige Campus, Yarmouth, NS.
RSVP to: Child Safety Link, c/o Kim Mundle, 1-866-288-1388 extension 1 (car seats) or 902-470-7324.

6th Atlantic Summer Institute on Healthy and Safe Communities (ASI 2009)

June 3-5, 2009. University of PEI, Charlottetown. This year's theme is "Innovation and Collaboration: Building Resilient Communities." For more information, please visit <http://www.upei.ca/si/si2009/en/registration>

ACIP AGM



The Atlantic Collaborative on Injury Prevention (ACIP) will be hosting its first AGM during the Atlantic Summer Institute (ASI) on June 3, at 4:30 p.m. at the University of PEI, Charlottetown. For more info about ACIP or joining the listserv, please contact jheatley@acip.ca.

19th Canadian Multidisciplinary Road Safety Conference

June 7 -10, 2009. Saskatoon, Saskatchewan
For more information, please visit www.carsp.ca/cmrcs.htm

Later this Spring, stay tuned for:

- the **National Economic Burden of Injuries report** from Smartrisk-a national report with provincial breakdowns of the cost of all injuries
- **Report on Child & Youth Injuries in NS**, from NS Health Promotion & Protection, highlighting intentional and unintentional injuries
- **NS Injury Prevention Strategy Renewal** from the NS Department of Health Promotion & Protection.
- **Atlantic Report on Children's Injuries**, from Safe Kids Canada and partners, highlighting a provincial breakdown of unintentional injuries