

# June is National Safety Month



For many the approach of summer means picnics, fun by the pool, and family vacations. Summer also means kids are out of school and exploring their world. This is a great time to remind parents about safety – after all, children are often affected by injuries that can be prevented. Here are a few tips on how families can keep their kids safe.

## Drowning

It's the #1 cause of death for children ages 1-4. Dive into summer fun keeping these tips in mind:

- Parents should never leave children alone around water.
- Don't underestimate the power of water; even lakes and rivers have undertows.
- Ensure kids wear lifejackets around natural bodies of water, such as lakes or oceans.
- Swim only in areas with a lifeguard on duty.
- Don't depend on the lifeguard. Watch children at all times.
- Get trained in CPR.

## Poisoning

Curious kids get into places they shouldn't. More than 90% of poisonings happen at home. To prevent this:

- Lock up cleaning products and other poisonous items. Keep them out of reach of children.
- Keep the National Poison Control number handy: 1-800-222-1222. In case of poisoning, use it if a child is awake and alert; call 911 if a child has collapsed or is not breathing.
- Discard unused or expired prescription drugs.
- Always read the label and follow directions when giving children medication.

## Motor Vehicle Safety

More children ages 5-19 die from crash-related injuries than any other cause. Here's what parents can do:

- Be sure children are buckled in a size- and age-appropriate car or booster seat (see CDC website for details).
- Watch for children playing around cars. Be sure all is clear before moving.
- Keep vehicles locked so children can't climb in on their own.
- Stop using the phone while driving, slow down, and buckle up!

## Gun Accidents

Gun ownership is on the rise in America. Whether parents own a gun for recreation or protection, they should:

- Remove the ammunition.
- Keep guns locked up and out of children's reach (hiding it is not enough).
- Lock the ammunition apart from the gun.
- Store the keys for the gun and ammunition in separate places and away from where kids can find them.

For more tips, including fire safety, go to the National Security Council website: [www.NSC.org](http://www.NSC.org).



**This message is brought to you, courtesy of CHIP.**

CHIP is short for the Children's Health Insurance Program – Pennsylvania's program to provide health insurance to uninsured children and teens up to age 19 who are not eligible for or enrolled in Medical Assistance. For more information on CHIP go to [CHIPcoversPAkids.com](http://CHIPcoversPAkids.com) or call **1-800-986-KIDS (5437)**.