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Novelty Lighters:

If grownups can't tell it's a lighter, how can we expect a young child to know?

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, children under 5 cause more than 5,000 residential fires a year playing with lighters. Novelty lighters present a particular danger for children because they look more like toys than regular lighters, and they often lack child-proof safeguards. Novelty lighters can look like toy cars, cell phones, fire extinguishers, magic markers, fishing poles and even a rubber ducky that quacks if you squeeze it. Children often mistake lighters for toys,

especially if they have been encouraged to do so by adults who light them for their amusement. Many lighters are child-proof, and while they are more troublesome to light, they are the best ones to keep around houses with small children.

NH State Fire Marshal J. William Degnan would like to advise parents: "If you smoke, stay away from such novelty lighters and stick with the boring

kind. Keep them out of reach of children when not in use. It's not worth the risk. The added allure could mean the difference between life and death."

Further information:



Children often mistake lighters for toys.

www.cpsc.org

www.safekids.org

Teaching Children about E 9-1-1 Calls:

One of the challenges of being a parent is arming your kids with the skills to handle the obstacles life presents. Teaching them how to use 9-1-1 in an emergency could be one of the simplest and most important lessons you'll ever share. 9-1-1 is the number to call when you have an emergency... any type of emergency. 9-1-1 is for emergencies ONLY.

An emergency is a threat to life or property. For non-emergencies, callers should contact their police or fire departments using a business number (listed online or in the white pages of the phone book). When dialing 9-1-1, an emergency dispatch operator quickly

takes information from the caller and connects them with their local emergency responders. In a medical emergency, the 9-1-1 dispatcher will stay on the line and give pre-arrival and potentially lifesaving medical assistance while the ambulance is on the way. cont. pg 5...



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In the event of an emergency, be sure you and your children know how to use 9-1-1 with the phone you own.



Hotel/Motel Safety

As summer approaches and families begin to travel away from home, hotels and motels become our home away from home. It is just as important to be prepared and know what you would do in a hotel/motel emergency as it is in your own home. The U.S. Fire Administration would like you to review the following safety tips to assist you in preparing for traveling.

Plan Ahead:

- Choose a hotel/motel that is protected by both smoke alarms and a fire sprinkler system.
- When traveling pack a flashlight with you.
- When you check in, ask the front desk what the fire alarms sound like.
- Locate the fire alarms on your



Count the number of doors between your room and the emergency stair exits.

floor.

- When you enter your room, review the escape plan posted in your room. If it is not available contact the front desk immediately.
- Locate two emergency exits, count the number of doors between your room and the exit. Make sure the

exits are unlocked. If they are locked, report it to management right away.

- Keep your room key by your bed and take it with you if there is a fire.
- If the alarm sounds, leave right away, closing all doors behind you. Use the stairs – never use elevators during a fire.

If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your exit.

IF YOU CAN'T ESCAPE:

SHUT off fans and air conditioners.

STUFF wet towels in the crack around the doors.

CALL the fire department and let them know your location.

WAIT at the window and signal with a flashlight or colored cloth.



CAMPFIRE SAFETY

Campfires can be an integral part of outdoor life. Whether you gather around them to tell ghost stories or sing songs, light them for warmth or ambience, or just want to toast marshmallows, a crackling open-air fire can tempt anyone! As beautiful and mesmerizing as the flames are, campfires - or rather the people who light them - are responsible for more than half of all forest fires. Whether you're camping under the stars in the backcountry miles away from anyone or hooking up your RV in a full-amenity trailer park, you can't afford to be careless with fire. Follow these safety tips to help keep your campfires safe and fun this summer.

Check For and Obey Fire Restrictions

Weather conditions (very dry, hot and / or windy weather) can influence whether or not you can light a campfire. Most national, state and provincial parks post warnings, but if you aren't sure, a park ranger or lo-

cal fire department can tell you what the current fire restrictions are. Unless there's an emergency, obey all fire restrictions!

To minimize the impact on the environment and maximize your personal safety:

- Build campfire that is in a pre-existing fire ring or fire pit, if possible:
 - * Ringed with rocks to prevent the fire from spreading
 - * At least 3 yards from all tents, dry grass and foliage.
- Don't allow children and pets near the campfire and never leave them unsupervised. Teach kids how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.
- Keep a bucket of water and a shovel nearby in case you need to extinguish the flames quickly. A fire extinguisher is also a good idea, if

possible

- Stack extra wood upwind and away from the fire.
- Keep the fire small enough to be extinguished quickly and easily.
- Never leave a campfire unattended, not even for a minute.

Lights Out

Totally extinguish the fire before you go to sleep or when you leave the site.

Douse the fire and coals with as much water as possible. Shovel dirt on top if the water doesn't do the trick. Not sure if it's out? Where there's smoke, there's the potential for fire. Smoldering coals can easily reignite. Hold your hand close to the logs or coals to feel if they are still radiating heat. If they are, douse with more water or dirt.



Build campfire in a pre-existing fire ring or fire pit if possible.

[Learn more on campfire safety:](#)

www.nhstateparks.com

www.smokeybear.com

FIREWORKS SAFETY

With warm weather and family events, the Fourth of July can be a fun time with great memories. Fireworks are as American as apple pie, but according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) two out of five fires reported that day are started by fireworks, more than from any other cause. Before your family celebrates, make sure everyone knows about fireworks safety. If not handled properly, fireworks can cause burn and eye injuries in kids and adults. The best way to protect your family is not to use any fireworks at home — period. Attend public fireworks displays, and leave the lighting to the professionals.

NH State Fire Marshal J. William Degan recommends that public displays conducted by trained professionals are the safest way to enjoy fireworks. However, should you decide to use consumer fire-

works he is asking that you use them with extreme caution.

⇒ Check your local fire department to make sure they are permitted in your community.

⇒ Always follow the specific directions for each item.

⇒ Be sure to have an extinguishing device readily accessible i.e. water hose, bucket of water, fire extinguisher.

⇒ Stay the recommended distance away from buildings and viewers and avoid areas with dry brush, grass or debris; flying sparks easily ignite them.

⇒ Light one item at a time and never inside an enclosed container.

⇒ NEVER attempt to relight a non functioning firework.

⇒ NEVER allow children to handle fireworks or to pick up leftover fireworks debris off the ground.

⇒ Fireworks are meant to be en-

joyed, but you'll enjoy them much more knowing your family is safe. Take extra precautions this Fourth of July and your holiday will be a blast! www.nfpa.org/education

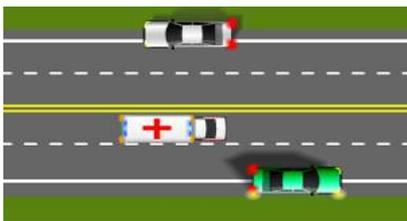


The tip of a sparkler burns at a temperature of more than 1200°F, which is hot enough to cause 3rd degree burns.

www.nfpa.org

Emergency Vehicle Right of Way

www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/nhsp/tsr/tsr100325.html



As the weather gets nicer, we find ourselves getting out enjoying the warmer weather and the traditions that come with it. We hope that everyone's travels are uneventful and that you are able to arrive to your destination safely. However, it is important to remember what to do in the event of encountering an emergency road situation. Emergency vehicles, including police, fire and ambulances, respond to calls throughout the state of New Hampshire every day. While some calls are ordinary, others include life-threatening situations. While responding to calls, emergency vehicles often use emergency lights and sirens. Lights and sirens are used to notify

other vehicles as well as pedestrians of the oncoming emergency vehicle. Notifying other vehicles and pedestrians allows for vehicles to pull over and for pedestrians to be aware of the need to yield.

When emergency vehicles respond to calls, they often respond at a higher speed than the posted speed limit. Driving in normal everyday situations can be dangerous. Responding to emergency calls at high speeds in traffic can be even more dangerous. For this reason, all states require traffic to yield to emergency vehicles.

Remember these points:

- If you are driving and see an approaching emergency vehicle, pull over to the side of the road as quickly, but as safely, as possible.
- Use your turn signal, slow down and pull as far right as possible.
- When the emergency vehicle passes, put your left turn signal on and pull back into traffic. Don't rush to pull back into traffic. It is better to be safe than to

keep your place in the flow of traffic.

● When yielding to emergency vehicles do not pull over and keep your speed at or near the speed limit. This causes the emergency vehicle to take longer to pass you. Also, breakdown lanes or the non-traveled portion of the road are usually strewn with rocks, dust and debris; the faster a vehicle goes, the more dust and debris gets kicked up leading to poor visibility and possible damage.

● If an emergency vehicle approaches on a curve or hill, do not stop in the curve or hill. At a normal speed, get beyond this area to a flat or straight stretch of the road.

● In 2005 the state of New Hampshire's "Move Over" law took effect. It states that upon the approach of any stationary emergency, tow truck or highway vehicle displaying blue, red or amber lights, motorists are required to slow down and give clearance to vehicles at the scene of any emergency or incident.



School is out for the summer and now you'll find many kids wanting to stay cool swimming. But if they aren't careful, a day at the pool/lake could quickly lead to much worst circumstances. Childhood drowning and near-drowning can happen in a matter of seconds. They typically occur when a child is left unattended or during a brief lapse of supervision. Severe and permanent brain damage affects as many as 20 percent of near-drowning victims. Please make sure your family is safe around water by following these safety basics:

Safety basics

- Make sure pools and spas are enclosed on four sides with a fence at least 5 feet high with self-closing and latching gates.
- Drains in pools and spas should have anti-entrapment drain covers.
- Learn infant and child CPR and always have a phone near the pool for emergency use.
- Children should always swim



under the supervision of a grown-up.

- Every child is different, so enroll children in swimming lessons when you feel they are ready. Teach children how to tread water, float and stay by the shore
Children should understand and obey the posted rules.
- Make sure children swim only in areas designated for swimming. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool.

They need to be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.

- Children using air-filled swimming aids should always

be supervised by an adult within arm's reach. They are fun toys not life saving devices. A U.S. Coast guard approved life-jacket should be worn for water

sports such as tubing, skiing or jet skiing. Air-filled aids such as inner tubes, water wings and inflatable rafts are not substitutes for approved lifejacket.

Encourage children to:

- Check with the lifeguard to find out how deep the water is.
- Never go near or in water without an adult present.
- Have a swimming buddy.
- Never jump or dive unless the lifeguard or a grown-up says it is okay to do so.
- Swim in areas designated for swimming. Teach children that swimming in open water is not the same as swimming in a pool. Be aware of uneven surfaces, river currents, ocean undertow and changing weather.
- Never swim at night.
- Get out of the water right away if you hear thunder or see lightning. When on a boat, everyone needs a seat and his or her own U.S. Coast-guard approved lifejacket.

Continue reading to learn how you can keep your kids safe this summer:

www.safekids.org www.nfpa.org



Sing a Song: Dial 9-1-1

Sing to the tune of Twinkle,
Twinkle Little Star

If you're in trouble dial
9-1-1

Dial 9-1-1 and help will come.

Police and fire.

An ambulance too.

They'll all be so proud of you!

If you're in trouble dial 9-1-1
Dial 9-1-1 and help will come.



BICYCLE SAFETY: Use your Head, Wear your Helmet

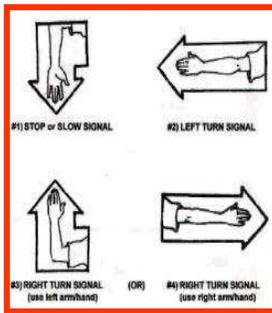


Bike riding is fun, healthy and a great way to be independent and get exercise! We hope that your summer involves as many fun outdoor bike rides as possible. Discuss these safety tips with the family and visit the websites provided for additional information.

◆ Safe Kids Worldwide has a simple saying: "Use your head, wear a helmet." It is the single

most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle crashes. For helmet fitting information please visit www.safekids.org/tip/bike-safety-tips

- ◆ Tell your kids to ride on the right side of the road, with traffic, not against it. Stay as far to the right as possible. Use appropriate hand signals and respect traffic signals, stopping at all stop signs and stoplights.
- ◆ Teach your kids to make eye



contact with drivers. Bikers should make sure drivers are paying attention and are going to stop before they cross the street.

- ◆ **See and Be Seen** – Wear bright colors, preferably neon to make one visible during both day and night time. Be sure to include something reflective such as reflective tape or flashing lights.

◆ Actively supervise children until you're comfortable that they are responsible to ride on their own.

- ◆ When entering a sidewalk, path or driveway, stop completely. Look left, right and left again.

Young children should walk not ride their bike across the street.

For Teens and Adults who ride on the road:

- ◆ Obey all traffic signals and laws when riding in the street.
- ◆ Ride with the flow of traffic, not

against it.

- ◆ Always stop at stop signs and stop lights.
- ◆ Use the correct hand signals when turning to let drivers know your intent.

Practice Makes Perfect

Practice bike safety in your driveway by creating safety scenarios for your children. Set the scene by drawing a street and crosswalks with chalk. Create props for stop signs, motor vehicles and other "obstacles" your children might face while riding their bikes on a real street. Examples:

- ◆ Have your children practice stopping at stop signs and using hand signals when turning.
- ◆ Ask them to cross the "street." When crossing, make sure they walk, not ride, their bikes.

HAVE FUN!

www.safekids.org/tip/bike-safety-tips

Teaching Children about E 9-1-1 Calls continued...

Be sure to:

- Post your address and phone number near each phone in your home as visitors and family members may need to relay this information.
- Remain calm...be precise and tell the dispatcher exactly what is happening...what is the emergency.
- Give the dispatcher the location of the emergency and the phone number.
- Stay on the line and answer all of the dispatcher's questions.
- Don't hang up until the dispatcher tells you it's OK to hang up.

CELL PHONE E9-1-1

In an attempt to cut costs, many households are choosing to cancel their landline telephone service in exchange for wireless

phones. In doing so, the customer forfeits the exact location that landline phones provide; cell phones do not provide precise, accurate location information. For emergencies, it is imperative to teach children the phone numbers and their home address. In addition, they must know how to use each cell phone and/or smartphone in the home. There are many cell phone options available to consumers and each has a unique way to access the dial pad. Emergencies happen. Children must be introduced to the technology available to them in their home and while they travel.

Teach children:

- The proper use of a cell phone in emergency situations; how to use

the cell phones available to them

- Teach children to dial 9-1-1 and then push the "call" or "send" button



- in an emergency.
- Explain the seriousness of making the call and that it will result in a police officer, firefighter or emergency medical technician coming to the scene.
- Discuss landmarks. If a child doesn't know their

location, they should be able to describe their surroundings (i.e. street signs, highway mile markers, buildings, etc.). There are several smart phone apps available to instruct your children on how to dial 9-1-1 in an emergency.

For more information on New Hampshire's 9-1-1 system, visit the website at www.nh.gov/nh911



Safety Educator

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As the 2012-2013 school year comes to a successful end, it is our hope that you find this edition of the New Hampshire State Fire Marshal's newsletter, *Safety Educator*, to be helpful in assuring that the homes and lives of the citizens within the state of NH are kept as safe as possible during the summer months. Please share this information with family, friends and neighbors. Together we can keep our community safe. Should you need any assistance please do not hesitate to contact your local fire department or the NH State Fire Marshal's Office. We look forward to hearing your comments about our Safety Educator Newsletter. May you have the safest of safe summer fun and we look forward to sharing *Safety Educator* with you during the next school year!

Any Questions or Comments please feel free to contact:

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www.nh.gov/safety/divisions/firesafety

Kids Can Be Firefighters Too! (kid friendly websites)



Check
out
these

kid friendly websites re-
lated to fire and life safety



www.smokeybear.com/kids



www.ready.gov/kids



www.sparky.org



www.sesamestreet.org/ready



www.usfa.fema.gov/kids/