



Did You Know?

June 2016

The National Safety Council recognizes June as National Safety Month. This month focuses on reducing unintentional injuries, more commonly known as “accidents.”

With warmer temperatures quickly approaching, unintentional injuries will be on the rise. Unintentional injuries can include: car accidents, falls, drug overdoses, other poisonings, choking/suffocation, burns, drownings, and natural or environmental incidents. Rates of unintentional injuries tend to increase during the summer months for several reasons. Unfortunately, young children are often the primary victims of these accidents, however, another reason unintentional injuries increase in adults during the summer is that partying and excessive alcohol consumption are more frequent, leading to an increased number of impaired individuals. When people are impaired, poor decisions are made. This leads to an increase in drunk driving incidents and accidental falls: falls off of high platforms such as decks or balconies; accidental falls into water such as pools or off of a boat into the river or lake, which leads to drownings; and falls into bon fires, causing severe burns.

More facts:

- Accidents are the fourth leading cause of death in the United States
- Alcohol consumption by college students is linked to at least 500,000 unintentional injuries a year
- Unintentional injuries account for 1 in 4 people treated in emergency departments
 - Approximately 31 million people were seen in emergency departments across the United States in 2011 for an unintentional injury
- In 2014, 136,053 people died from unintentional injuries
 - 332 people died from drowning in boating-related incidents
 - Over 30,000 people died from unintentional falls
 - Approximately 34,000 people died from motor vehicle accidents
 - Nearly 40,000 people died from poisonings
 - Alcohol use is implicated in one-third of drownings of college students

What Can You Do?

- Know that accidents are preventable!
- Understand the risks; adults sometimes believe they are invincible to accidents such as falls or drowning, but we know this not to be true, especially when alcohol is involved.
- Do NOT drink and drive.
- Refrain from swimming while impaired on alcohol or other drugs (including certain medications).
- Use extra precautions around water, fire, and high surfaces such as decks and rooftop bars.

Sources: National Safety Council (www.nsc.org), Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (www.cdc.gov), B.R.A.D (www.brad21.org)

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The Erie County Council for the Prevention of Alcohol and Substance Abuse, Inc., publishes Did You Know, a regular update about alcohol & other drugs - - America's #1 public health problem. ECCPASA • 1625 Hertel Ave., Buffalo, NY 14216 • 716-831-2298 • www.eccpasa.org