

Summer Safety Tips

It's hard to believe we are into the month of June already! For most of us, the sound of the final school bell is still ringing in our ears as children exuberantly left classrooms to embark on a summer filled with adventure. However, nothing puts a halt on summer fun like an injury that sidelines you or your children from their favorite activities. Here are a few reminders to help you have a safe and happy summer:

Swimming Safety: Closely supervise your children in and near the water. Kids cannot wait until the weather warms enough to spend the day splashing in their neighborhood pool. While lifeguards are on duty at pools, it is imperative that parents also keep watch as their children play in the water. Caution them about the dangers of running on a wet deck and horseplay while in the water. Around other water sources, such as the river and lakes, be sure everyone has a life jacket before entering the water. If you do not have one, please borrow those provided free of charge by local fire stations, or recently added to five new life jacket stations along the river.

Pedestrian/Bicycling Safety: Drivers, please be aware of children walking and biking within neighborhoods. Children do not always cross streets within crosswalks, and are often distracted as they make their way to neighborhood parks and friends' houses. Watch for children who may dart out from behind parked cars. Parents, remind your children to walk in groups, to always use crosswalks, to be aware of their surroundings as they walk or bicycle near traffic, and to always wear an approved bicycle helmet.

Unsupervised Children: It's common for older children to be left alone at home while parents work during the summer. Before you do that, however, be sure to review safety rules and handling emergency situations. Do a safety review of your house. Check to be sure medications and weapons are locked away out of sight and reach. Never leave a child in a car while you run errands inside a store. Even if your car is running, there are dangers that go beyond a child sitting in a hot vehicle. Saving a few minutes by leaving kids in the car is not worth the risks.

Dog Bites: Children are often bitten by dogs they assume are friendly. Remind children to always ask the owner before petting a dog they do not know. Caution children about teasing dogs, even those they know well.

Grilling/Campfire Safety: 'Tis the season of summer grilling and sitting around campfires roasting marshmallows. Nothing smells better in the summer months than a

neighborhood filled with the smoky fragrance of supper on the grill. Memories are made around campfires while sticky fingers pull gooey marshmallows off sticks, and S'mores are generously passed around. Remind children to keep a safe distance from the grill and campfire to avoid burns.

We wish you a safe and adventurous summer, enjoying all the wonderful things this season brings and all the beauty of Casper and Wyoming!

Nothing in this article should be construed as legal advice. You must consult with an attorney for the application of the law to your specific circumstances.

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