

December 2022 CCDC SAFETY MESSAGE

December is National Safe Toys and Gifts Month

Many of us will be buying toys this season for children and even ourselves. December is Safe Toys and Gifts Month. The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that over 200,000 children are hurt by toy-related injuries each year.

Parents are not safe from toy-related injuries either. The packaging on some toys is extremely hard to open which can make adults reach for tools to gain access to the contents. Incorrect use of scissors, a utility knife or any tool that is within reach will inevitably cause injuries when trying to open toy packaging. Immediately discard plastic wrapping or other toy packaging before the wrapping and packaging become dangerous playthings.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has created a robust toy safety system, by requiring testing by independent, third-party testing laboratories around the world; enforcing stringent lead and phthalates limits for toys; imposing some of the most stringent toy standards in the world; and stopping violative and dangerous toys at the ports and in the marketplace before they reach children's hands. These combined efforts continue to foster the confidence of American families as they prepare to shop for toys this holiday season.

Below are some simple safety tips to keep in mind this holiday season:

Age Appropriateness

Keep toys appropriate for older children away from younger siblings.

Balloons

Children can choke or suffocate on deflated or broken balloons. Keep deflated balloons away from children younger than eight years old. Discard broken balloons immediately.

Small balls and other toys with small parts

For children younger than age three, avoid toys with small parts, which can cause choking.

Scooters and other riding toys

Riding toys, skateboards and in-line skates go fast, and falls could be deadly. Helmets and safety gear should be always worn properly, and they should be sized to fit.

Magnets

High-powered magnet sets are dangerous and should be kept away from children. Whether marketed for children or adults, small magnets are a swallowing hazard. Building and play sets with small magnets should also be kept away from small children.

Strings and Straps on Toys Can Strangle Young Children

Parents should never give young children toys with cords, strings, or straps that fit around the neck. Only a few pounds of force on the neck's blood vessels can cause strangulation. Most young children cannot untwist a cord or strap.

Batteries and Electrical Charging

Adults should supervise battery charging. Chargers and adapters can pose thermal burn hazards to young children. Pay attention to instructions and warnings on battery chargers. Some chargers lack any mechanism to prevent overcharging.

Have a **SAFE** and enjoyable Holiday Season!

THINK SMART, BE AWARE, BE FLEXIBLE, BE EDUICATED (SAFE**)**