June 2014

Have a Safe Kids summer

Are you ready for summer camp?
Summer camps encourage children to grow, take chances and experience new things. Before sending your kids on their summer adventure, go over these basic topics and tips with them.

Stay safe in the water:
- Learn how to swim before participating in more advanced water activities.
- Never swim alone.
- Always wear a life jacket while boating or canoeing.

Pack appropriate clothing and gear:
- Follow the packing list suggested by camps.
- The right gear will help your camper stay warm, dry and safe.

Be aware of the weather:
- Wear sunscreen, even on cloudy days.
- Pack a water bottle, and stay hydrated by drinking water often.
- Go indoors if there is lightening.

Learn first aid basics such as:
- Correctly using a bandage.
- Identifying a tick.
- Spotting poison ivy.

Use the buddy system by exploring with a friend or in a group.

Asking Saves Kids: June 21 is National ASK Day
The ASK (Asking Saves Kids) Campaign promotes a simple idea with the potential to help keep kids safe. It encourages parents to ASK if there is an unlocked gun in the homes where their children play.

Why asking matters:
- 80 percent of unintentional firearms deaths of children under the age of 15 occur in a home.
- One in three homes with children have guns, many left unlocked or loaded.
- Nine children and teens are shot each day in gun accidents.

Safe gun storage means:
- Guns are always kept unloaded, and ammunition is kept locked up in a separate place.
- Guns are locked away in a safe or lock box, or fitted with a trigger lock.
- Keys, or combinations to gun locks and ammo boxes, are stored out of reach of children.
- BB guns, pellet guns and other nonpowder guns should be stored the same way as firearms.
- Both gun locks and load indicators – two safety devices that could eliminate more than 30 percent of all unintentional firearm deaths – should be used.
Safety tidbit: Lawnmower safety

Yard upkeep is essential in the warm weather months, but it can also be the cause of a visit to the emergency room. In 2010, more than 253,000 people were treated for lawn mower-related injuries; nearly 17,000 of them were under the age of 19.

Many children will mow lawns this summer. Children should be at least 12 years old before operating a push mower and 16 years old before operating a driving mower.

Protect kids from injury by following these easy tips:

- Teach your child how to properly operate the mower and follow safety instructions.
- Your child should wear eye protection, appropriate clothes and sturdy shoes. No sandals or flip flops.
- Make sure the area to be mowed is clear of objects such as rocks, sticks and toys.
- Keep young children and pets away from the area.
- Tell kids to turn off mower and wait for blades to stop before:
  - Removing the grass catcher.
  - Unclogging the discharge chute.
  - Inspecting or repairing the mower.
  - Crossing gravel paths.

Safety tidbit: Safe cookouts

Hot dogs on a grill and s’mores on a campfire – sure signs that summer is here.

Here are some quick reminders to keep the outdoor cooking season enjoyable for all.

- Grills are for outdoor use only.
- Grills pose both a fire hazard and carbon monoxide poisoning risk if used in any enclosed space, such as a garage or tent.
- Position grills and fire pits away from siding, deck railings, out from under eaves and overhanging branches and a safe distance from play areas and foot traffic.
- Use long-handled grilling tools.
- Prevent fire flare ups by removing grease or fat buildup.
- Adding lighter fluid to an already lit fire can cause flashback into the container and explode.

For more information, contact Safe Kids at 859-323-1153 or visit www.safekidsfayetecounty.com.