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# Safe Kids NC Reminds Parents Not to Toy with Safety



Targeted News Service

RALEIGH, N.C., Dec. 16 -- The North Carolina Department of Insurance issued the following news release:

Insurance Commissioner and State Fire Marshal Wayne Goodwin is urging parents and caregivers to keep children safe this holiday season by following some simple tips recommended by Safe Kids North Carolina.

"The holiday season is upon us and everyone wants children to have a safe play environment with safe toys," said Goodwin, chair of Safe Kids North Carolina. "It's important to choose age-appropriate toys and to always supervise children at play."

Nationwide, an estimated 181,900 toy-related injuries occur each year in children under five years old. You can prevent toy-related injuries by following these safety tips:

\* Be sure children play with toys that are age-appropriate. Read the warning labels before buying toys for children.

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\* Keep devices with coin-sized button batteries out of sight and out of reach. These batteries are a choking hazard when swallowed by children. Keep loose or spare batteries locked away.

\* Look for well-made toys. Check toys regularly for damage that could create hazards. Repair or discard damaged toys immediately.

\* Make sure that discarded toys are out of children's reach.

\* Supervise children while they play. Be aware of potential dangers like small parts, cords and strings, moving parts, electrical or battery-powered cords, or wheels.

\* Do not allow riding toys near stairs, traffic or swimming pools.

\* Teach children to put toys away after playing. Toys intended for younger children should be stored separately from those suitable for older children.

\* Make sure toy chests are open (have no lid) or have safety hinges.

The latest product safety recalls are listed on the Safe Kids USA website. Parents, grandparents, neighbors, teachers, nurses and others can also sign the Safe Kids Pledge to make injury prevention a priority and receive updates from Safe Kids.

Safe Kids North Carolina reaches out to parents, caregivers and children to prevent childhood injuries through thirty-six Safe Kids Coalitions serving more than 64 counties. For more information, visit the Safe Kids Web site. (<http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/SafeKids/> (<http://www.ncdoi.com/OSFM/SafeKids/>))

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