Summer Safety Tips

Trampoline Safety

- There are an estimated 3 million trampolines in use today. Since 1995, the number of trampoline related injuries has increased approximately 45%. 10% of all injuries are to the head/neck while 40% of all injuries are to the leg/foot area. Nearly 2/3 of injuries are to children aged 6-14.

Trampoline Tips:
- Only 1 person on trampoline at a time
- Should have adult spotter
- Do not have ladder or chair access to trampoline as this gives small children access
- Trampoline should have net enclosure to help prevent people falling off trampoline
- Trampoline should not be placed next to fences, pools or overhangs

Pool Safety

- Each year over 3,500 people drown by accident. This equates to an average of 10 preventable deaths every day and more than 1 in four of these victims are children under 14. In fact, for every child who drowns, four more survive but with serious injuries that require hospitalization.

Pool Tips:
- For in-ground pools, make sure the yard or pool is completely fenced in with working gates. Also, make sure the gates have automatic door locks or alarms to prevent access or notify you if someone enters the pool area. For above ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured or removed when the pool is not in use.
- Remove floats, balls and other toys from the pool and pool area after use so that children are not encouraged to enter the area.
- Post warning signs advising the water depth
- Always use pool with adequate supervision

Clothes Dryer Fire Prevention

- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there are an estimated 15,500 annual fires, 10 deaths and 10 injuries per year. Lint accumulation and reduced airflow feed on each other to provide conditions ripe for a fire. Most people assume their lint traps catch all the lint, and that all they need to do is clean them out after each load. However, a significant amount of this lint is not caught by the lint trap and builds up inside the dryer-even on the heating element!
Dyer Safety Tips:

- 1. Dryer vents usually are too long and/or have too many bends. When it comes to dryer vents, shorter and straighter is better.
- 2. Use of flammable, flimsy plastic or foil duct extenders is common. Only metal vents should be used, which is what most manufacturers specify. Metal vents also resist crushing better than plastic and foil, which allows the air and lint to be carried out of the system.
- 3. Inadequate clearance space between dryer and wall. Many people create problems by putting their dryer right against the wall, crushing the venting material in the process.
- 4. Failure to clean the dryer duct.
- 5. Disconnect, clean and inspect the dryer duct run on a regular basis, or hire a professional company to clean the dryer duct. This will reduce the fire hazard, increase the dryer's efficiency and increase its lifespan.
- 6. Never let your clothes dryer run while you are out of the house or when you are asleep.

Sparkler Safety

- The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that over 10,000 people are treated in emergency rooms each year for injuries associated with fireworks. Almost half of these injuries are to children under 15. Firecrackers cause the most injuries, followed by rockets and sparklers. The National Council on Fireworks Safety urges these guidelines for sparkler safety.

Sparkler Safety:

- Obey all local laws
- Always read and follow instructions
- Always have an adult present
- Keep burning sparklers away from clothing and flammable objects
- Only use sparklers outdoors, away from buildings and vehicles
- Light one sparkler at a time
- Do not point or throw sparklers at another person
- Children under the age of 12 should not handle sparklers
- When finished, place used sparklers in bucket of water
Dog Bite Safety

- Man’s best friend is sinking its teeth into homeowner’s insurance costs. Dog bites now account for one-third of all homeowner’s insurance liability claims, costing $356.2 million in 2007, up 10.5 percent from the previous year, according to the Insurance Information Institute (I.I.I.). An analysis of homeowner’s insurance data by the I.I.I. found that the average cost of dog bite claims increased by 11.5 percent in 2007 to $24,511. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 4.7 million people are bitten by dogs annually, resulting in an estimated 800,000 injuries that require medical attention. Most dogs are friendly, loving members of the family. But even normally docile dogs may bite when they are frightened or when protecting their puppies, owners, or food. Ultimately, the responsibility for properly training and controlling a dog rests with the owner.

Dog Safety Tips:

- Consult with a professional (e.g., veterinarian, animal behaviorist, or responsible breeder) to learn about suitable breeds of dogs for your household and neighborhood
- Spend time with a dog before buying or adopting it. Use caution when bringing a dog into a home of with an infant or toddler. Dogs with histories of aggression are inappropriate in households with children
- Be sensitive to cues that a child is fearful or apprehensive about a dog and, if so, delay acquiring a dog. Never leave infants or young children alone with any dog
- Have your dog spayed or neutered. Studies show that dogs are three times more likely to bite if they are not neutered
- Socialize your dog so that it knows how to act with other people and animals
- Never approach a strange dog, and always avoid eye contact with a dog that appears threatening
- Discourage children from disturbing a dog that is eating or sleeping