

Summer Safety

Power Lawn Mower:

With summer, out comes the power lawn mower. We are concerned that many parents are unaware of the frequency of catastrophic injuries to children by power lawn mowers. It is potentially one of the most dangerous tools in the household. Power mowers may cause severe, disabling injury both by direct contact and by hurling stones, wire, nails, and other debris. We strongly recommend that children not be allowed in the yard when the mower is in use. Other measures helpful in preventing mower injuries include wearing boots, wearing goggles, clearing the yard of debris, using a grass catcher, and not mowing wet grass. Never allow a child to mow on an incline.

Bicycles, Roller Blades, Skateboards:

Multiple and sometimes catastrophic injuries are seen using recreational sporting equipment, especially in the summer months. In addition to appropriate use and safety training, an approved helmet is strongly recommended at all times. Hand, elbow, and knee guards are also important gear. Headphones may block the sound of traffic or danger signals and should not be used.

Pools:

Backyard and neighborhood pools are frequent sites for drownings. All pools should have childproof mechanical barriers. A fence must be put around all four sides of the pool. This fence should completely separate the pool from the house and other areas of the yard. A pool alarm may also be helpful. Keep lifesaving equipment and a phone near the pool. Take pool toys out of the pool after children are done playing. Teach all children and caregivers pool safety. Adults trained in CPR should be present during pool use. CPR classes are inexpensive and taught regularly in the community.