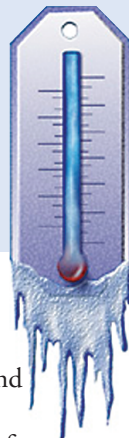


Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

THE ICEMAN COMETH



Dec, Jan, and Feb

The leading months for home fires and associated deaths in the U.S.

About 1,000

Number of home-fire deaths in Dec, Jan, and Feb annually

Heating Equipment

The leading cause of home-fire deaths in the winter

More than 700

Number of people who die of hypothermia each year in the U.S.

More than 200

Number of Americans who die from carbon monoxide poisoning annually

Several Thousand

Number of Americans who are hospitalized by carbon monoxide poisoning annually

Over 130,000

Number of vehicle crashes that occur during sleet and snowy conditions each year

30,000

Number of injuries annually caused by vehicle crashes that occur during sleet and snowy conditions

More than 600

Number of deaths annually caused by vehicle crashes that occur during sleet and snowy conditions

From Centers for Disease Control and The National Safety Council

www.cdc.gov
www.nsc.org

Winter Safety Tips

Winter is an exciting time for kids. It brings great outdoor activities, such as snowboarding and skating, but also cold weather, ice and snow, which can present a danger to children. But that doesn't mean they can't enjoy the winter. Here are some winter safety tips for parents, schools, and children.

In General

- Never allow children to play outside alone. Establish a buddy system with one or more of their friends and have them look out for one another. Children younger than eight years of age should always be well supervised outside.
- Check from time to time to make sure children are warm and dry.

Have younger children take frequent breaks to come inside for a warm drink.

- Never send children outside in extreme weather conditions such as snowstorms.
- Keep children indoors if the temperature falls below -15 degrees F, or if the wind chill is -19 degrees F or greater.
- Tell children not to put their tongues on cold metal. It may sound silly, but some kids still do it.
- Advise children to stay away from snowplows and snowblowers.

Help children choose play areas with a warm shelter nearby such as a friend's home.

- Advise children to play in an area away from roads, fences and water.

Walking in Winter Weather

- Tell children to dress in layers and wear boots with nonskid soles. Wear a bright scarf, hat, or reflective gear so drivers can see you.

- Have children walk on sidewalks if possible. If sidewalks are covered in snow and ice and they must walk in the street, walking against the flow of traffic and as close to the curb is safest.
- Advise children not to wear a hat or scarf that blocks vision or makes it hard to hear traffic.

Advice for Schools

School administrators and principals need to be sensitive to the dangers winter weather can pose to children and be prepared. Winter weather procedures and practices need to be established before the onset of the winter season. When formulating a winter weather safety plan consider the following:

- The best source for the latest information is NOAA Weather Radio. Most counties fall within their coverage area. Commercial radio or television should also be monitored.
- All schools need to have a functional plan in regard to closures due to snow, ice, or extreme cold.
- During the winter months, guidelines need to be established regarding outside recess periods. Temperatures and wind chills need to be monitored and criteria set as to when outside recess will be allowed.
- School bus drivers should receive extra training on driving during winter weather. Snow and ice can often accumulate quickly and unexpectedly on roads creating dangerous driving conditions.

From The National Safety Council
University of Illinois Extension Disaster Resources
and CaringForKids.cps.ca