

Consumer Alert

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs Provides Summertime Safety Tips for Kids

The County of Summit Office of Consumer Affairs is urging people to use caution and common sense this summer when tending to their yards or using pools and spas. "With summer approaching and the school year coming to an end, children and adults need to be aware of these safety tips," said Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs Cynthia Sich.

Pool and Spa Safety

- NEVER leave children alone in or near the pool, spa or open water, even for a moment.
- ALWAYS swim with a buddy.
- Install a fence at least four-feet high around all four sides of the pool. Fence gates should be self-closing and self-latching.
- NEVER use a pool or spa with a missing or broken drain cover. Make sure a newer safer dome shaped drain cover is in place.
- Do not leave pool toys and floats in the pool or pool area that may attract younger children into the water.
- Keep rescue equipment and a portable telephone near the pool or spa.
- To help prevent hair entrapment in a pool or spa, wear a bathing cap or pin long hair up.
- Spa temperature should be kept at 104 degrees Fahrenheit or below.

Bicycle Safety

- NEVER ride or let a child ride a bike without a helmet. When shopping for a helmet, choose one to fit the head size today. The helmet must fit snugly, but comfortably and should not obstruct the field of vision.
- Check all bikes to ensure brakes are working properly; handlebars are tight and tires are inflated correctly.
- To see and be seen, wear proper clothes and reflectors.
- NEVER ride double on a bike.
- When riding bikes on the streets, always go in the same direction as car traffic and cross at intersections.

Playground Safety

- Check all equipment before using. Make sure the hardware has no sharp points and edges; open S hooks or protruding bolt ends.
- Install and maintain a shock-absorbing surface under and around the play equipment. Use 9 inches of wood chips, mulch or shredded rubber for play equipment up to 7 feet high or 9 inch layer of sand or pea gravel for equipment up to 5 feet high or safety-tested mats.
- NEVER attach or allow children to attach ropes, jump ropes, leashes or similar items to play equipment.
- Measure spaces that could trap children, such as an opening in guardrails or between ladder rungs. These spaces should measure less than 3.5 inches or more than 9 inches.

Lawnmower Safety

- Children should NEVER be passengers on a riding lawn mower.
- Before mowing, pick up stones, toys and debris from the lawn to prevent injuries from flying objects.
- NEVER attempt to unclog or work on a lawnmower while the engine is on.
- Always wear non-slip shoe, eye and hearing protection. NEVER wear sandals or flip flops.

Other Safety Tips

- NEVER, under any circumstances, leave your child unattended in the car.
- If you are going out on a boat, ALWAYS wear a life jacket.
- ALWAYS wear sunscreen to prevent sunburns.
- NEVER approach or try to pet an unfamiliar animal. Be cautious, animals may bite when excited.