



# **CONSUMER NEWS**

## **Office of Consumer Affairs**

**For Immediate Release June 10, 2011**

Contact: Cynthia Sich, Director  
330-643-2470 or 330-643-2879

### **Summertime Safety Tips**

Swimming pools are open, the barbecue grill is back and the lawn mower does not seem to be getting a rest! Yes, the long awaited summer is here! "Summertime should be a time for fun and making happy memories," said Cynthia Sich, Director of the Office of Consumer Affairs. "Remembering safety first will help everyone have a safe summer."

#### **Pool and Spa Safety**

- NEVER use a pool or spa with a missing or broken drain cover. Children and adults can get sucked in by a drain, trapping them underwater. Make sure to use a newer safer dome shaped drain cover.
- 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.
- 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 or pet 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.