

## **June 2003 Injury Prevention Newsletter**

### **Alaska News & Resources**

1. Smoke Alarms Save Lives in Fort Yukon and Soldotna
2. Rebroadcast About the Aniak Dragon Slayers on Oprah, July 3<sup>rd</sup>
3. Kids Don't Float Boards

### **National News & Resources**

4. Fourth of July Celebrations
5. July is Eye Injury Prevention Month, Take a fireworks safety quiz
6. Summertime Hypothermia

### **Miscellaneous News and Resources**

7. Burn Hazard Prompts Recall of 233,000 Crib Mobiles: Product Recalls & Safety Information.

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1. We may never know how often smoke alarms save lives since many people are alerted with enough time to take care of the potential harm. However, in the last few months we have become aware of at least two incidences when the smoke alarm works as it is meant to, as "our nose at night." Last spring a Fort Yukon family of three was woken by their smoke alarm to a home filling with smoke from a malfunctioning oil furnace. On June 26<sup>th</sup> the Peninsula Clarion reported on another life saved when a man was woken by his alarm at 3:00 AM to a fire in his attached garage that jeopardized his home. Simply put, smoke alarms save lives. Remember to check your smoke alarms monthly and practice your home escape plan.
  2. The Oprah Winfrey show had a program about "awesome teens and their mentors" that aired a while back. Fire Chief Pete Brown and the Dragon Slayers of the Aniak Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) were one of the groups recognized. Watch the replay of these wonderful Alaskan citizens on July 3<sup>rd</sup>. For more information on the Dragon Slayers check out Aniak School's site <http://www.kuspuk.org> and click on Dragon Slayers found in the side bar.
  3. Around Alaska you will see Kids Don't Float boards where people generally enter the water by boat. These personal floatation devices are used when people come to the water and don't have a PFD for children in the boat. To find out more about the program check out the information on the website [http://www.chems.alaska.org/kids\\_don't\\_float.htm](http://www.chems.alaska.org/kids_don't_float.htm) or e-mail [KDF@health.state.ak.us](mailto:KDF@health.state.ak.us).
  4. Fourth of July celebrations are coming up soon. It is estimated that 9,500 injuries were reported to hospital emergency departments in 2001 from fireworks.

- Leading health and safety advocates are urging a ban on consumer fireworks. To read more go to <http://www.aa.org/aa/news/release/20030627c.cfm>
5. The eye folks are busy. If you look at the monthly health themes on [healthfinder.gov](http://healthfinder.gov) you will find many eye injury weeks and months with just a bit of a turn...like sports or women's injuries. However, July is an appropriate month with 4<sup>th</sup> of July risks. The information in # 4 is from the American Academy of Ophthalmology and the following is from the Prevent Blindness America site. To take the quiz, Fireworks Eye Injury Safety Quiz, go to [http://www.preventblindness.org/safe\\_summer.html](http://www.preventblindness.org/safe_summer.html) and click on the "take the fireworks safety quiz."
  6. Summer does not mean chances for suffering hypothermia are over...especially in Alaska. Remember to wear or carry layers of clothing as you enjoy the outdoors this summer. To learn more visit the following site. [http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/winter/health/hypothermia\\_b-p.htm](http://www.inquiry.net/outdoor/winter/health/hypothermia_b-p.htm)
  7. Fisher-Price is recalling 233,000 mobile crib toys due to the risk of burns from leaking batteries. To find out more about this and other products...the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission tracks injuries or deaths in over 15,000 consumer products. To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at 800-638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at 800-638-8270. Other information and product recalls are available on their website: [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).
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This message has been compiled by the Section of Community Health and EMS (CHEMS), Alaska Division of Public Health and sent to subscribers of the AK-Prev and AHELP list-serves. It has also been sent as a "bcc" to others in Alaska including Public Health Centers, SAFE KIDS coalitions, Native Health Organizations, and regional EMS Councils and Coordinators who may be interested and active in injury prevention and health promotion. The purpose is to share resources, breaking news, training opportunities, product recalls, and opinions to help prevent injuries to Alaskans. Feedback and contributions are encouraged. Contributions can be directed to Karen Lawfer, [Karen\\_lawfer@health.state.ak.us](mailto:Karen_lawfer@health.state.ak.us)

Link for the AK-Prev and AK-EMSC list serve:

[http://chems.alaska.gov/ems\\_list\\_servers.htm](http://chems.alaska.gov/ems_list_servers.htm)

Link for AHELP list serve: <http://www.auroraweb.com/ahec>