

Safety Sounds

A Monthly Safety Bulletin From SPSG Safety Group

National Safety Month

Today, safety is a way of life. Not just on the job, but at home, in public places, and on the road. People are taking personal responsibility for their own safety, and making plans to keep their families, communities, and workplaces safe.

It's part of a new culture of preparedness addressed by National Safety Council President Alan C. McMillan. It reflects a shift from quick fixes to long-term solutions, as Safety+Health magazine Editor Bob Vavra points out.



The National Safety Council (NSC) and its chapters around the country have designated June 2003 as National Safety Month, an annual observance aimed at promoting preparedness and helping Americans prevent injuries on the roads and in homes, communities and workplaces. During the four weeks of June, NSC will provide tips, articles, and information to help you prepare, raise awareness, and promote safety wherever you are.

Four Words

- *Knowledge.* Know the issues, the risks and the responses.
- *Action.* Make plans. Be prepared to handle any emergency.
- *Dedication.* Be a role model. Make safety a priority.
- *Community.* Engage your co-workers, family and neighbors.

Driving Safety Week

June 1st – 7th

Focus: Driver Distractions. Approximately 12.5 million motor vehicle crashes in 2001 resulted in more than 1.5 million disabling injuries and 42,900 fatalities. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), some form of driver distraction is a factor in 20-30% of all automobile crashes.

During the first week of National Safety Month, the NSC will describe safety measures that will help Americans avoid traffic accidents caused by driver inattention, fatigue, cell phone use and other distractions.

Home and Community Safety Week

June 8th – 14th

Focus: Elderly Falls. Falls account for more than 10,000 deaths each year to people aged 65 and older. From June 8-14, the NSC will provide safety tips and other resources to the elderly and those who care about them to decrease the incidence of these life-threatening accidents.

Preparedness Week

June 15th – 21st

Focus: Emergency Preparedness. Preparedness is not just for disasters, terrorism or weather emergencies. Consider events that don't have widespread impact, but can have huge personal impact: a car accident, a fall in the home, a heart attack. An emergency can happen to anyone at any time. During this week, the NSC will stress the importance to individuals, families and organizations to prepare for emergencies by learning first aid, CPR and AED procedures and by developing emergency plans for homes, buildings and public facilities.

Workplace Safety Week

June 22nd – 30th

Focus: Safety Leadership. The final week of National Safety Month will focus on helping organizational leaders, managers and supervisors to understand the important role they have in protecting the safety and health of their employees and their families on and off the job.

For complete information about National Safety Month, please visit the National Safety Council website at www.nsc.org

Approximately 12.5 Million
Number of motor vehicle crashes in 2001

More than 1.5 Million
Disabling injuries caused by motor vehicle accidents in 2001

42,900
Fatalities caused by motor vehicle accidents in 2001

20-30%
Percentage of automobile crashes that driver distraction is a factor

More than 10,000
Deaths caused by falls each year to people aged 65 and older

5,834
Children ages fourteen and under that died from unintentional injuries in 1999

One Out of Every Four
Number of children who sustain serious injuries that require medical attention each year

39,000
Number of children who sustain serious injuries that require medical attention each day

120,000
Number of children who are permanently disabled as a result of unintentional injuries every year

40%
Percentage of deaths among children fourteen and under that occur at home

50%
Percentage of accidental injury among children fourteen and under that occur at home

From Nation Safety Council and Mothers Against Drunk Driving