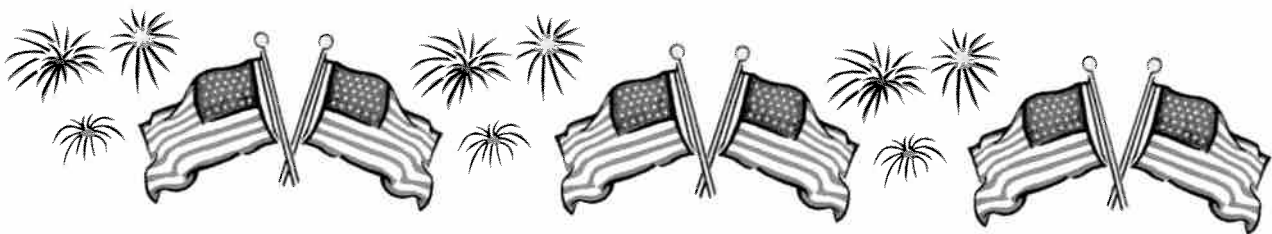


The Keenan's  
Kids Foundation  
4<sup>th</sup> of July  
Safety Project



# Child Predators & Water

## Statistics

- There are 14,149 registered sex offenders living in Georgia – which an increase of nearly 3,000 offenders since 2007.
  - Family Watchdog
- “Child molesters love water. They love bumping into kids in the wave pool. Using goggles to watch kids underwater. Loitering around the changing areas and bathrooms. Taking pictures or videotaping children without permission. Returning day after day to play with unsuspecting toddlers in the kiddie pool.”
  - Praesidium, Inc.  
*(a corporate training company specializing in abuse risk management)*
- Each year, there is an average of 4,000 non-family abductions reported to police, most of which are sexually-motivated cases. About 200 to 300 of these cases make up the most serious situations, where the child is murdered, ransomed or taken with the intent to keep. In serious cases, 45 percent of suspects have previously sexually assaulted a child before, and 31 percent have raped or attempted to rape a child.
  - Amber Alert Registry

## Tips

- Identify places near the water where someone could watch without being noticed and keep an eye out for any suspicious activity.
- Watch for strangers who move within close range of your children.
- Designate an adult to watch the water – most incidents happen while a lot of adults are close by, but everyone assumes that someone else is watching the water or that the adult swimming close to the child is a friend or relative.

## Sources

- Amber Alert Registry:  
<http://www.amberalertregistry.org/child-safety/child-abduction-statistics.html>
- Family Watchdog: <http://www.familywatchdog.us/>
- Praesidium:  
[http://www.praesidiuminc.com/category\\_home.php?category\\_id=13](http://www.praesidiuminc.com/category_home.php?category_id=13)

# Carbon Monoxide Dangers

## Statistics

- There have been 36 CO-related fatalities involving jet skis and cabin cruisers, and 26 CO-related fatalities involving houseboats in the past five years.
- Between 1990 and April 2008, there were 149 CO-related deaths and 661 non-fatal CO-related poisonings involving house boats.
- Since 2004, there have been 101 non-fatal CO-related poisonings involving jet skis and cabin cruisers, including 8 poisonings on Lake Lanier in a single case.
  - Interagency study including National Park Service, the US Department of Interior, and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, April 2007.

## Facts

- Carbon monoxide can accumulate **anywhere** in or around a boat. This includes inadequately ventilated canvas enclosures, blocked exhaust outlets (when anchored close to a dock), additional fumes from another vessel's exhaust anchored close by, back drafting behind the boat, and even at slow or idling speeds. **Remember – CO can remain in and around your boat even if the engine is no longer running!**
- On houseboats, exhaust is routed adjacent to the swim platform, releasing carbon monoxide and endangering anyone sitting on the platform or swimming nearby. Exhaust is routed out the back of the Jet Ski so when idling, passengers or swimmers can be overcome by the CO fumes. It can take only a few breaths of CO-infused air before poisoning starts.

## Tips

- Install CO-detectors and have first aid available (check the first aid kit each summer to ensure it has all the proper items and nothing has expired).
- Know the facts when purchasing a used houseboat or jet ski.
- Beware of nearby houseboats (should be 100 ft from nearest boat), and areas where carbon monoxide build-up.
- Don't allow children to play on the swim platform of a boat and don't allow people to swim anywhere close to the exhaust escaping from a boat of jet ski.

## Sources

- Double Angel Foundation study on boat-related carbon monoxide poisonings, April 2008: <http://www.doubleangel.org/documents/NatlCaseListingBoat-RelatedCOPoisoningsMay2007April2008.pdf>
- USCG Boating Safety: <http://www.uscgboating.org/command/co/accumulate.htm>
- Tips taken from *365 Ways to Keep Kids Safe* by Don Keenan.

# Jet Ski Safety

## Statistics

- In 2003, 200 youth under the age of 14 were injured in Jet Ski accidents and 10 were killed, according to the US Coast Guard. In one study, 12,000 people were treated in hospital ERs in one year and nearly 10 percent of the injuries occurred to children under the age of 16; 38 percent were 15 to 24.
- According to the 2006 Boating Statistics Report published by the U.S. Coast Guard, 90 percent of boaters/jet skiers who drown are not wearing a life jacket.
- Injuries sustained in accidents on personal watercraft devices are more severe than injuries sustained in small boating accidents, and more require surgery and extended hospital stay.
  - University of Florida, Dept of Surgery
- Jet skis are the only recreational watercraft devices for which the leading cause of death is blunt trauma rather than drowning.
  - American Academy of Pediatrics

## Tips

- While each state has different regulations, the general rule is that if you are under the age of 16, you shouldn't be operating a boat or jet ski.
- Floatation devices must be worn at all times and children should wear protective gear inclusive of wet suits, gloves, eye wear and helmets.
- Operators must have a radio or cell phone in case of emergencies.
- Be aware of carbon monoxide for those on the jet ski, and anyone in the surrounding waters.

## Sources

- American Academy of Pediatrics:  
<http://republicans.resourcescommittee.house.gov/archives/ii00/archives/109/testimony/2005/marydowd.pdf>
- University of Florida, Dept of Surgery:  
[http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&list\\_uids=12079135&cmd=Retrieve&indexed=google](http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/sites/entrez?db=pubmed&list_uids=12079135&cmd=Retrieve&indexed=google)

# Life Vests or PFDs (Personal Floatation Devices)

## Statistics

- Boating accidents show that drowning is the single biggest cause of death, making up 70-80 percent of all deaths. But there is still the other 20 percent who were wearing a PFD, but drowned anyway.
  - US Coast Guard, Operation BoatSmart
- Drowning while wearing a PFD can happen for a number of reasons, such as injury leading to unconsciousness, or mouth immersions that cause the person to inhale dangerous quantities of water.
  - US Coast Guard, Operation BoatSmart

## Facts

- Tragically, many children drown every year while wearing a life vest or personal floatation device
- This happens because not all life vests are designed to keep a child's head out of the water. Smaller children wearing PFDs will tip forward in the water, and are then unable to right themselves.

## Tips

- Only Coast Guard rated type 1 life jackets are designed to keep an unconscious swimmer face up in the water. While they are not 100% guaranteed, they are the most desirable. Also stick to Coast Guard rated vests
- Read all instructions included with your child's PFD – test it for proper fit and never leave your child in the water unattended.
- While PFDs do not **always** prevent drowning, they are the **number one most effective way to prevent drowning.**

## Sources

- "The Other 20%" by CDR Kim Pickens, U. S. Coast Guard Reserve Operation BoatSmart Project Officer:  
[http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/files/other\\_20\\_handout.pdf](http://www.usps.org/national/eddept/files/other_20_handout.pdf)
- US Coast Guard: <http://www.ratlines.com/PFDinfo.htm>

# Legal Fireworks

## Statistics

- Eleven fireworks-related deaths happened in 2007 (latest statistics); 5 people died due to injuries sustained by aerial and display fireworks, 3 people died in fires started by fireworks and 3 people were killed as a result of manufacturing or storing illegal fireworks.
- Fireworks caused 9,800 injuries in 2007, up from 9,200 in 2006. Sixty-four percent of those injuries (6,300) happened between June 22 and July 22.
- Every 2 in 5 victims are children under the age of 15, and children/young adults under 20 make up 54 percent of firework injuries. The fireworks dubbed "Safe and Sane" by many states (i.e., sparklers, etc.) caused more injuries than illegal fireworks, primarily to preschool children.

## Facts

- Sparklers:
  - Sparklers burn at temperatures starting at 1,200 degrees Fahrenheit.
  - Sparklers are associated with the greatest number of injuries (1,100). Body parts most often injured include hands, eyes and legs.
  - In 2007, at least 2 preschoolers required amputations resulting from sparkler injuries.
- Bottle/Aerial Rockets:
  - Bottle Rockets can reach speeds of 200 miles per hour, and account for 17 percent of all injuries.
  - They are dangerous because they often ricochet and can end up traveling in any direction; and when detonated, the casing burns for several minutes – plenty of time to start a fire.

## Tips

- Don't allow young children to play with or near any fireworks, including sparklers - they don't understand how hot they burn and their reaction times are slower. Children often drop the sparklers or hold them too close to other children or themselves causing serious burns.
- Avoid using recreational rocket fireworks. If you do decide to use them, make sure children are shielded from any malfunction or change of direction.

## Sources

- Consumer Products Safety Commission's 2007 Firework Report:  
<http://www.cpsc.gov/LIBRARY/2007fwreport.pdf>
- National Fire Protection Association:  
<http://www.nfpa.org/assets/files/pdf/os.fireworks.pdf>

# Illegal Fireworks

## Statistics

- Homemade and illegal fireworks cause 33% of fireworks-related injuries each year, and in 2007, three people died due to illegal fireworks.
- Setting off eight M-80s together is the equivalent of firing off a stick of commercial-grade dynamite.

## Facts

- Illegal fireworks have been banned since 1966, and the laws are enforced by the US Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco & Firearms. Possessing illegal fireworks can result in being federally prosecuted with fines and jail-time attached to convictions.
- Be aware of the fireworks on the federally banned list and don't buy or use them:
  - Ashcans
  - Silver Salutes
  - Cherry Bombs
  - Quarter sticks
  - Quarter pounders
  - M-80s
  - M-100s
  - M-1000s

## Tips

- Never compress or combine fireworks when setting them off; the same principals that apply to commercial and military explosives apply to fireworks: the explosive power can be doubled when combined.
- Buy fireworks from vendors who operate openly and welcome visits by fire departments and police officers. Don't buy fireworks from people who approach you, people who are operating on the street, or from the internet.
- Don't purchase fireworks across state lines, as each state has different permitted and prohibited fireworks.
- While the list of illegal fireworks is banned nationally, other less potent versions are not (such as the M-60). It only takes a few seconds for a fireworks disaster to happen; illegal fireworks only make those odds greater.

## Sources

- Consumer Product Safety Commission:  
[http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi\\_m0JCA/is\\_2\\_10/ai\\_82475641/print](http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0JCA/is_2_10/ai_82475641/print);  
<http://www.articlesbase.com/home-and-family-articles/fireworks-accident-and-injury-statistics-384935.html>

# Grill Safety

## Statistics

- In 2007, 71 percent of people (134 million) celebrated July 4<sup>th</sup> by grilling.
- Each year there are approximately 6,500 grill fires; one-fifth of all gas grill fires occur in the month of July.
- Every year **600** explosions are caused by overfilled propane tanks. Gas leaks, blocked tubes and overfilled propane tanks cause most grill fires and explosions, according to the US Fire Administration.

## Facts

- Overfilled gas tanks can explode violently when exposed to moderate heat.
- All cylinders manufactured before 2002 are potentially dangerous; old cylinders that have not been fitted with overfill protection devices will have 5 prong knobs and should not be used.
- Today all cylinders must have Overfill Protection Devices (OPD). With an OPD, a float valve closes when the propane level reaches 80 percent and the gas flow will not work if the OPD is not connected. Cylinders with new overfill protection valves have a 3 prong, tamper proof hand wheel.

## Tips

- Before using a grill, check the connection between the propane tank and the fuel line. Make sure the tubes where the air and gas mix are not blocked.
- Never light a grill in an enclosed or partially enclosed area where carbon monoxide could accumulate.
- Keep all matches and lighters out of children's reach. Teach them that the grill is a hot and dangerous piece of equipment that should never be touched or played near. Also make sure they know the Stop, Drop and Roll rules.
- Don't allow anyone with loose clothing near the grill while it's lit.
- After a period of storage or disuse, gas grills should be checked for leaks, deterioration, and assembly and burner obstructions before using.
- Never overfill your propane tank or force a gas tank connection – if it doesn't connect easily, the connection may be the wrong size.
- Douse hot coals with water and ensure the fire is out when done using the grill.

## Sources

- U.S. Fire Administration:  
[http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all\\_citizens/home\\_fire\\_prev/holiday-seasonal/summer.shtm](http://www.usfa.dhs.gov/citizens/all_citizens/home_fire_prev/holiday-seasonal/summer.shtm)
- Hearth, Patio and Barbeque Association:  
[http://www.hpba.org/fileadmin/News\\_Releases/BBQ\\_Press\\_Releases/HPBA\\_Fourth\\_of\\_July\\_FINAL1.pdf](http://www.hpba.org/fileadmin/News_Releases/BBQ_Press_Releases/HPBA_Fourth_of_July_FINAL1.pdf)
- About.com: <http://bbq.about.com/cs/suppliespropane/a/aa040602a.htm>

# Other Safety Information

## 4<sup>th</sup> of July Travel

- July 4<sup>th</sup> is the number one most dangerous day to be driving. July 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> are also in the top 10 list of most dangerous days to be on the road.
- In 2008, an estimated 40 million Americans traveled over the holiday weekend – however, this was a slight decrease from 2007, attributed to higher gas prices and increased flight fees.
- On average, 4<sup>th</sup> of July has more motor vehicle fatalities than any other day of the year. There were 200 automobile fatalities in 2007 and of those, 44 percent involved a driver with at least a 0.8 blood alcohol level – the legal limit in all states.

## Tips

- Make sure all passengers are properly buckled in.
- Children under the age of 12 should always ride in the back seat.
- If your child's feet cannot touch the floor, they should be in a booster seat. Check the booster seats directions carefully to ensure your child meets the height and weight requirements and change the seats as your child grows.
- Never drive while intoxicated. If traveling for just a day, make plans for a designated driver and have a backup plan that could involve an overnight stay if necessary.

## Sources

- National Crackdown Campaign: Stop Impaired Driving:  
[http://stopimpaireddriving.org/planners/July4th09/emm/NewsRelease\\_le.docI](http://stopimpaireddriving.org/planners/July4th09/emm/NewsRelease_le.docI)
- CBS national coverage of 4<sup>th</sup> of July Travel, 2008:  
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2008/07/02/earlyshow/living/travel/main4227145.shtml>