

June 2007

RM News & Notes



Vacation Home Checklist

- ✓ Make sure pull-cord loops on older window blinds and drapes have been eliminated or secured.
- ✓ Hand-test hot water temperature. Many rental homes do not have anti-scald devices and a child can suffer third degree burns in seconds if exposed to water above 120 degrees.
- ✓ Inspect rental cribs to ensure proper assembly and good condition. Make certain slats are close enough to prevent a baby from becoming trapped. Verify all support hardware is in place and there are no areas of peeling paint.
- ✓ Pay attention to windows. Avoid placing cribs or other low furniture near windows.
- ✓ Check bunk beds for proper installation and support of mattresses. Check for guardrails, support slats and avoid allowing anyone under the age of six to sleep in the top bunk.
- ✓ Check all cabinets and closets for any cleaners, solvents or other potentially harmful chemicals and store them in a single, secure location out of the reach of children.
- ✓ Check for secure hand and guard rails along all stairways and decks or balconies.
- ✓ Learn location of all exits.
- ✓ Car Rental? Reserve appropriate child restraint seat or bring your own.

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Web Page

<http://www.columbiacountyga.gov/home/index.asp?page=2440>

Message from the Risk Manager

Schools are out and summer is here again. This means that there are a lot more children playing in the parks, neighborhoods, yards and unfortunately sometimes in the streets. These same children may also be playing around our work areas. While you may consider your job duties routine and sometimes even unpleasant, a child may find it new and exciting. Remember that anything out of the ordinary (loud sounds, strange smells, large equipment, flashing lights, etc), even things that adults might want to avoid, can be a huge enticement to a child. Plus, children are naturally curious and want to be up close and personal with whatever holds their attention at any given moment. They will walk right past warning signs and into the middle of a hazardous area if they aren't stopped. We don't want our county operations to pose a hazard to anyone, let alone a curious, innocent child. Whether you're simply driving through the neighborhood, cutting grass in the park, digging up the street or anything in between, let's all make the extra effort to watch out for the children and keep them out of harms way.

Darlene

Safety Officer News and Notes

DON'T TAKE A VACATION FROM SAFETY

Children are out of school. They are out playing in the neighborhoods, parks, playgrounds and unfortunately, sometimes in the streets. They often may be present in and around your work area. We all have jobs to do. We must remember that children also have a job to do. Their job is to “be a kid,” to be curious, to observe and follow and ask questions.

The routine job duties that you perform on a regular basis may be new and exciting to a child. The caution tape, reflective cones and other visible, cautionary barriers may provide little deterrent for a curious child. So, what can you do?

- Every employee should make a conscious effort to watch for any children around the work area and make sure they stay out of any hazardous areas.
- Caution children to stay away from the “danger zone” but don’t assume they will obey, especially on the first warning.
- Watch for any nearby activities involving balls, frisbees, remote control vehicles or anything that involves rapid movement. The object or child chasing the object could suddenly enter the work area which may create a hazard for employees as well as the child.
- Never allow the excitement, pleading and pure joy of a child to overcome your common sense of safety. No, they can’t ride the lawnmower, tractor... with you. No, they can’t help you push limbs into the chipper. No, you don’t race them to the end of the street (or driveway) in your vehicle, etc.
- Use extra caution when moving a vehicle. Your vehicle may provide shade for their play area or a good hiding place for unsuspecting children. Take the time to walk around your vehicle and/or have another employee guide you, especially when backing.
- If you need to leave an uncompleted job site, even for only a few minutes, take the time to secure it properly. Go beyond “warning” signs and prevent entry whenever reasonably possible: close and lock gates or covers, cover an open hole or entry point, remove and secure tools, etc.
- If necessary, try to find a responsible adult in the area to alert them to your activity and ask that they keep the children away from the work area.
- Slow down and take a minute to look at your activity and work area through the eyes of a child. Take the extra time and make the effort to create a safer area for all the real kids who may be around.

In short, it doesn’t take a lot of thought to prevent an accident involving children or other members of the public around work sites. All it takes is applying a little “common sense” and judgment to working around other people and never assuming that they are aware of the dangers present. Remember, they have “jobs” to do as well as you. Part of your job is to assure that they are protected against accidental injury.

A helmet is the single most effective safety device for reducing the severity of head injuries and the likelihood of death following a bicycle crash.

Wheel Safe!

Toddlers are at risk from window related falls, while older children tend to suffer from falls associated with playground equipment.

Play Safe!

Never leave children unattended while near the water and swim only in designated areas or where a lifeguard is present. In a pool, stay away from drains and water jets. Small fingers and toes can easily become stuck in these fixtures, creating a dangerous situation.

Swim Safe!

Down the Drain

Safety Stories

I remember a while back, we had a problem with the sewer line in my neighborhood. When I went home for lunch, Water Works employees were in front of my house with the manhole open, several trucks, hoses and lines all over. I stopped to speak with the crew for a minute. One of my boys was home from school that day and he came outside to see what was going on. Personally, I don’t think you could pay me enough to willingly go through a manhole into an active sewer line and I was unprepared that my child was enthralled by this activity and thought it was totally “cool”. He kept trying to look down the manhole and would have gone right down to check things out for himself if given the opportunity. I decided very quickly that I needed to take him and go in the house so that they could finish their work without any “assistance” from an overeager 10 year old.

Up Coming Events

Each program is advertised by Risk Management and is available to each employee of Columbia County and the city employees of Grovetown and Harlem. Additionally, the Defensive Driving Courses may be attended by immediate family members of employees, on a space available basis, for a nominal fee.

Pre-registration is required.

For additional information or to register contact Risk Management. 706-312-7475

Safety Review Board July 12, 2007

Defensive Driving

Course – 8 hour
June 5, 2007
July 19, 2007
August 14, 2007

Defensive Driving

Course – 4 hour June 14, 2007

CPR/AED/First Aid August 23, 2007

County Office Closed July 4, 2007

JUNE 2007

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JULY 2007

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AUGUST 2007

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Handy Hints

Overlooked Hazards

As little as half a teaspoon of table salt ingested by an infant or a tablespoon by a toddler can cause damage to her or her nervous system.

WISHING
 YOU
 A

Happy
 Father's Day

