

Jackson County Department of Public Health

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SAFE KIDS JACKSON COUNTY PROMOTES BURN AND TIP OVER SAFETY

Safe Kids Jackson County is a community-wide coalition, led by the Jackson County Department of Public Health. The coalition provides dedicated and caring staff, operation support, and other resources to assist in achieving one common goal—keeping the kids of Jackson County safe. Based on the needs of the community, this coalition implements evidence-based programs (such as car-seat checkups, safety workshops and sports clinics, etc.) that help parents and caregivers prevent childhood injuries.

Monthly, Safe Kids Jackson County promotes injury prevention awareness topics to ensure all parents and caregivers are equipped with the knowledge on how to keep their kids safe. In February, the coalition focuses on burn safety and TV/furniture tip-over prevention.

In 2013, over 100,000 children nationwide were injured and treated in an emergency room due to a fire or burn. More than two-thirds of these children were aged 4 years and younger. There is much we can do as parents, caregivers, and community members to keep our kids safe from potential burns, whether in the kitchen, around a fireplace, or in any other part of your home.

- Don't carry or hold a child while cooking on the stove. Instead, move a high chair in the kitchen within reach or sight before you starting cooking.
- To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer's recommended setting.
- Use the back burner on your stove and turn pot handles away from the edge.
- Make a habit of placing matches, gasoline, and lighters in a safe place. Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

TV/furniture tip-overs are another important part of keeping the kids in your life safe. Every three weeks, a child dies from a television tipping over on them. Over the past 10 years, a child visited the emergency room every 45 minutes because of a TV tip-over. Follow these tips to secure the furniture in your home and keep your kids safe.

- Attach flat-panel TVs to the wall to prevent them from toppling off stands using anti-tip straps or mounts.
- If you have a heavier, box-style TV, place it on a low, stable piece of furniture appropriate for the TV's size and weight.
- Consider recycling old TVs that are no longer in use. Visit www.greenergadgets.org for more information.
- Use brackets, braces, or wall straps to secure unstable or top-heavy furniture.

For questions about Safe Kids Jackson County, contact Ruby Lawrence, Safe Kids Coordinator, at 587-8227. The next Safe Kids Jackson County meeting will take place on February 11, 2016 at 2 PM at the Health Department.

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