

SummerSmart

Home Safety Info For The Summer Season



WHAT'S INSIDE:

- BBQ Safety Tips
- Playground Safety
- Amusement Ride Safety
- Fuel-handling Tips for Summer
- Camping Safety
- and much more!

Your Guide to Safety
www.safetyinfo.ca



Thank You to Our Safety Partners



www.tssa.org



www.firesafetycouncil.com

SummerSmart is an annual public safety awareness campaign. It is designed to give people the information they need to reduce risk and prevent incidents associated with summertime activities like barbecuing, camping, cottaging, boating and amusement rides.

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) and the Ontario Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council thank all of its safety partners for participating in this year's *SummerSmart* program.

This Summer, Play It Safe!

Summertime is fun time. We all look forward to barbecuing in the backyard, relaxing at the cottage or campsite, and feeling the exhilaration of a boat ride, waterslide or roller coaster.

But, before the fun begins, take the time to learn some safety basics. You will gain peace of mind, knowing you are protecting yourself and loved ones from many of the common and preventable incidents that can occur every summer.

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For more valuable safety information that can protect your property, the environment and even your life, visit www.safetyinfo.ca.

Play it safe ... and make your summer the best it can be!



www.cooperators.ca



www.duracell.ca



www.esasafe.com



www.kiddecanada.com



www.uniongas.com





SAFETY IN YOUR SIZZLE

Few things can match the fun and enjoyment of a barbecue with family and friends. Practise sensible, safe barbecuing and your summer get-together will be a sizzling success.

Test for Leaks

At the start of the BBQ season, do this three-step safety check of your BBQ:

1. **Clean:** Use a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure burner ports are free of rust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
2. **Check:** Examine the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
3. **Test:** Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection and/or replace the damaged parts and retest.

Light It Right

Take these steps in the right order when igniting a BBQ:

1. Open the hood.
2. Turn gas release valve on tank.

3. Turn on grill controls or heat settings.
4. Take a step back.
5. Push the igniter button. If there is no igniter button, insert a long match or BBQ lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob.

If the burner does not ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the hood open, before repeating the procedure.

Keep It Safe

BBQs are approved for outdoor use only.

They emit carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Propane cylinders may not be used or stored inside any structure.



**NEVER BARBECUE
IN A GARAGE,
TENT OR OTHER
ENCLOSED SPACE.**

Do's and Don'ts for handling a BBQ

DO ...

- keep loose clothing away from a hot BBQ;
- keep children and pets at a safe distance;
- turn gas valve off first when finished, then turn off the burner controls, so no gas is left in the connecting hose; and
- allow the BBQ to cool completely before closing the cover.

DO NOT ...

- leave the BBQ unattended when in use;
- allow grease to build up on the burners or at the base of the BBQ as this could cause a grease fire;
- throw water on a grease fire – this will only spread the flame; and
- position your BBQ too close to wooden fences or walls. Make sure the area behind your BBQ is free of combustible material, since this is where hot gases escape.

BBQ on the Balcony Yes or No?

NO IF ...

- prohibited by the Condominium Act of your building; or
- prohibited by the building owner or property manager of a rental property.

YES, BUT ONLY IF ...

- the balcony is open (no enclosures or walls have been erected);
- a propane cylinder is transported in a service elevator. When there are no service elevators, you may use the passenger elevator, but you must be alone;
- the cylinder is kept on the balcony and connected to the BBQ;
- the BBQ is kept clear of combustible material as listed on the BBQ's rating plate or in the certified instructions; and
- the propane cylinder relief valve is at least one metre horizontally from any building opening below it, and three metres from a building air intake.

**Know Your Fire Department's Phone Number And Keep It
Posted By Every Phone In Your Home.**



Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs

Association canadienne des chefs de pompiers



KEEP YOUR SUMMER CO FREE

In the summertime, carbon monoxide (CO) can build up in your cottage, tent, garage, camper, boat cabin, RV – any enclosed space – under certain conditions.

Know the four steps to CO safety and keep your summer CO free:

1. Ensure all fuel-burning appliances are inspected and maintained annually.

This is the best way to ensure that you and your family are not exposed to CO. Eliminate it at the source. Make the inspection of your fuel-burning appliances, equipment and venting systems an absolute priority.

2. Install CO alarms. Your second line of defense is the installation of certified CO alarms. They will warn you of rising levels of CO, giving you and your family time to escape. Without CO alarms, the only way to know if CO is present is if the physical symptoms of CO poisoning become apparent. Remember to test alarms once

a month and replace alarm batteries and/or alarm units according to manufacturer instructions.

3. Know the enemy. CO is a “silent killer.”

It is an invisible, odourless and poisonous gas that can be produced when you use your furnace, fireplace, gas stove, propane heater, kerosene lantern or other fuel-burning appliances. Poor maintenance, damaged or blocked venting, improper use of appliances, or inadequate air flow can cause dangerous levels of CO to build up inside your home.

4. Know the symptoms of CO poisoning.

The symptoms are similar to the flu – nausea, headache, burning eyes, confusion and drowsiness – except there is no fever. If they appear, it is imperative to get everyone, including pets, outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 or the local fire department.

Beat The Silent Killer

In Ontario, Over **70%** of all carbon monoxide deaths and injuries occur in homes.



TAKE ACTION -
COsafety.ca



Alarm Yourself

This summer, install tested and certified CO alarms in your home-away-from-home.

Where to install CO alarms:

- on every level of your home or cottage;
- in your RV and boat cabin;
- near sleeping areas; and
- according to the manufacturer's instructions.

Do NOT install CO alarms near:

- windows or vents;
- bathrooms; or
- heating or fuel-burning appliances.

Test your alarms monthly.

Remember to test your CO alarms and smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button on the unit.

Change the batteries annually.

Replace batteries once a year, including back up batteries for plug-in alarms.

Replace your CO alarms as recommended by the manufacturer.

Like most things, CO alarms and smoke alarms wear out over time. Check the manufacturer's instructions to find out when your particular unit should be replaced (usually after two to five years for CO alarms and ten years for smoke alarms).



DURACELL WITH
DURALOCK
POWER PRESERVE™ TECHNOLOGY



**10-YEAR
GUARANTEE
IN STORAGE**



**#1 TRUSTED BRAND OF
FIRST RESPONDERS**



CAMPING SAFETY

Check your campsite

Ensure you have a fun and safe camping experience by following these simple tips:

- arrive at your campsite with enough daylight left to check over the area and to set up camp;
- look for a level site with enough room to spread out all your camping gear;
- be sure to check the site thoroughly for glass, sharp objects and branches that could fall or that hang low;
- check for natural hazards such as poison ivy, bees and ants;
- be aware of the types of wildlife in the area;
- dispose of all trash in the proper recycling bins if available; and
- keep your campsite tidy and clean on a daily basis to avoid incidents.

Campfire safety

- before starting a fire, ensure that open-air fires are permitted at the campsite;
- use only paper or kindling, never flammable liquids, to start the fire;
- be sure the fire is in a safe, open area, well away from flammables and other natural combustibles;
- keep simple firefighting equipment, such as shovels, water or sand nearby;
- do not leave the fire unattended;
- when it's time to put out the flames, use water to drown the fire. Be sure to stay on the site until there are no glowing embers;
- children should be under supervision at all times; and
- loose clothing can easily catch fire. No reaching within an open fire to rearrange pieces of wood.

Portable space heater safety

We do not usually think of heating needs during the summer season, but often space heaters are required to provide comfort at the cottage or campsite.

Learn the proper way to use portable space heaters by following these life-saving tips:

For electrical space heaters

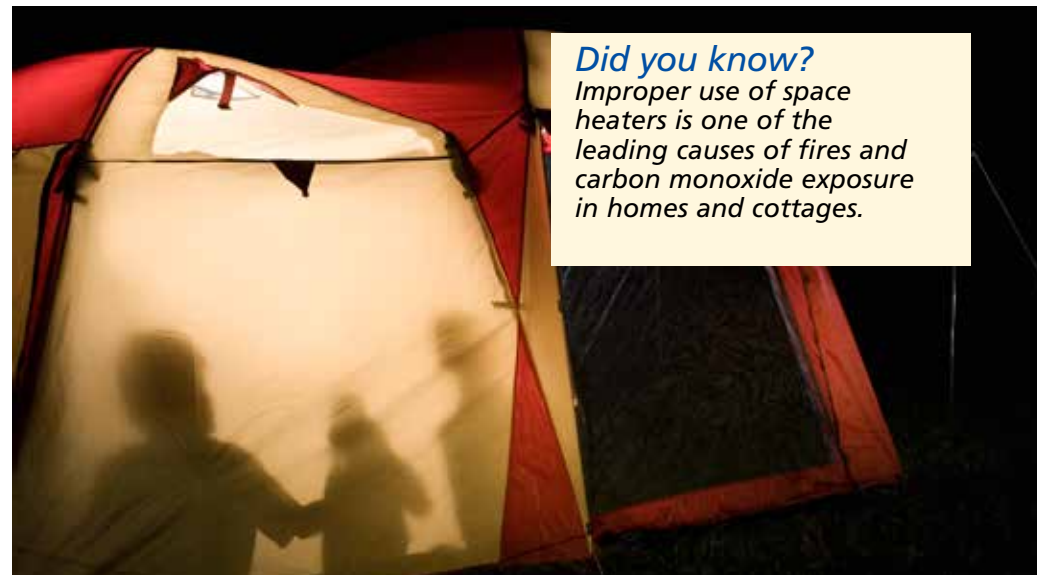
- only use electrical space heaters that have been certified by an accredited certification organization such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC);
- if you use an extension cord, make sure it is the right size and gauge to carry the electrical load being drawn by the space heater; and
- never use an electrical space heater in a wet area or any areas that can be exposed to water.

For fuel-burning space heaters

- only use portable propane space heaters in well-ventilated outdoor areas – never in an enclosed space such as a camper, tent, car, home or cottage. Doing so could cause deadly carbon monoxide exposure.

Other tips

- never leave an operating space heater unattended and always turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep;
- supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use;
- never use space heaters to dry flammable items such as clothing or blankets; and
- keep all flammable objects at least one metre from space heaters.



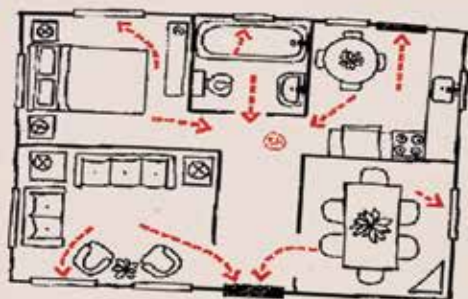
Did you know?

Improper use of space heaters is one of the leading causes of fires and carbon monoxide exposure in homes and cottages.

PRACTISE PROPER

Fire Safety

Plan your Escape



Fire Dept. Emergency Number: _____

Smoke Alarm



As one of Canada's leading home insurers, The Co-operators supports fire safety initiatives and the dedicated men and women employed in fire service across Canada.

the co-operators®
A Better Place For You®

Safety Fund™

TREAT FUEL WITH CARE



Gasoline – Use With Extreme Caution

Gasoline is a common fuel around the home and at the cottage during summer. It powers our lawnmowers, chain saws, weed trimmers, outboard motors, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and more. But, despite its everyday use, do not underestimate the dangers of gasoline. It is an extremely explosive fuel, which must be treated with the utmost care and caution.

When running a gas-powered engine:

- keep a BC Class fire extinguisher handy. Water will only spread the flames of a gasoline-based fire;
- never work or idle in an enclosed space such as a garage, basement or tent; and
- allow equipment to cool down for a few minutes before refuelling.

Storage

Do not leave gasoline in the basement of your home or in the cottage. Store fuel in approved containers in a detached garage or shed, and well away from heat sources including direct sunlight.

Filling Containers

- only use fuel containers that have been certified by an accredited certification organization such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC);
- keep well away from sparks or ignition sources;
- fill only to about 90 per cent of capacity to allow some room for expansion;
- when filling, keep portable containers on the ground, with the dispensing nozzle in full contact with the container in order to prevent buildup and discharge of static electricity – a possible source of ignition;
- when you are finished refilling the container, tighten both the fill and vent caps; and
- never leave the container in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.

Disposal

The best way to dispose of gasoline is to use it up. Small amounts can be left outside to evaporate – leave in an open container away from children and pets. If gasoline must be discarded, be sure to take it to the hazardous waste disposal centre in your area. Never pour gasoline onto the ground, down sewers or into drains.



BOATING SAFETY

Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a beginner on the water, Boating Ontario wants you to enjoy a positive experience on our waterways. Before heading out, consider the following safety messages.

The best fresh water cruising grounds await you.

1. Stay Clear, Stay Safe around dams, hydroelectric stations and surrounding waterways.
2. Choose it and use it! Always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) suitable for the recreational boating activity you are enjoying.
3. Learn the Laws - Take a boating course and get your proof of competency.
4. Be Prepared - Plan ahead and be prepared with all of the proper equipment for you and your vessel.
5. Don't Drink & Boat - The laws have changed. Drinking and driving a boat is illegal and punishable under the Criminal Code of Canada.

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Boating
Ontario

Boat Refueling Safety Checklist

A few basic fuel safety tips will increase your chances of a problem-free summer on the water. Use this helpful checklist the next time you refuel your boat:

- Have a minimum 5BC-rated fire extinguisher on board.**
- Turn off boat engine** as well as all auxiliary power sources and pilot lights on gas appliances before refuelling.
- Make sure everyone leaves the boat.**
- Lift engine cover** to check for leaks and odours.
- If safe, turn on and run bilge blower** for at least four minutes before starting the engine.
- Keep open flame** at least three metres away from fuel source.



INSTALL SMOKE ALARMS
IT'S THE LAW

Every home in Ontario must have
a working smoke alarm on every storey
and outside all sleeping areas.





TAKE THE HIGH ROAD TO SAFETY

Attention RV Enthusiasts!

If you are one of the millions who love to take some of the comforts of home on the road, be aware of the safety guidelines for transporting and using propane to power your interior appliances.

Install a Carbon Monoxide Alarm (CO) and Propane Leak Alarm

Without adequate venting and fresh air, propane appliances can rapidly produce dangerous levels of CO. Because CO is an invisible, odourless and tasteless gas, install a CO detector to alert you if a dangerous concentration of CO is present. It is also a good idea to equip your RV with an electronic propane leak alarm.

Store and Transport Propane With Care

Gas cylinders, relief valves and regulating equipment must be located either outside the vehicle, or in a compartment that is gas tight (or sealed off) from the interior of the RV. This allows any leaks to flow to the outside air.

Also keep cylinders out of harm's way. Do not mount cylinders onto the roof or back of the RV. Use the designated spaces for storage and transportation.

Use a Certified Technician and Approved Appliances

Only a certified fuels technician may legally install or remove propane piping, tubing equipment and appliances in any RV. Be sure to look for tested and certified products bearing the Canadian Gas Association (CGA), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) logos on the rating plate of new appliances.

Refill With Care

When it is time to top up on propane, it is important to shut off all interior burners, pilot lights, appliances and automatic ignition switches. In addition, be sure to shut off the RV motor and have all passengers leave the vehicle during propane refilling.

A Decade of Protection from Fire and Carbon Monoxide Danger

10 YEAR WORRY-FREE FAMILY SAFETY

- ✓ 10-year sealed lithium battery never needs changing
- ✓ Alarm and battery BOTH last 10 years

Hallway LED Escape Light Smoke Alarm



Kitchen Smoke Alarm



Bedroom Talking Smoke Alarm



Living Areas Smoke + CO Alarm



- Intelligent photoelectric smoke-sensing technology detects real fires quickly and reduces false alarms
- Location-based installation recommendation: protection for your entire home



www.safeathome.ca

Smoke Alarms Wear Out: Replace every 10 years whether battery powered or hardwired





SAFETY AT THE PUMP

The next time you stop at a gas station for a fill-up, whether it be for the drive up north to cottage country or just the local store around the corner, remember this: **fuelling vehicles requires your care and attention.** Gasoline is a potentially dangerous product if not handled properly and safely.

Did you know that it is required by law to follow these three rules when at a gas station?

- no smoking within 3 metres (10 feet) of a gasoline pump (including inside a vehicle);
- vehicles must be turned off when refuelling; and
- no forcing or jamming a pump nozzle open when refuelling at a self-serve site.

These additional safety rules are also important whenever close to a gasoline pump:

- do not allow children to play at the pump island or assist you in holding or activating the pump nozzle;
- always stand by the pump while refuelling. Never leave it unattended;
- keep off your cell phone while refuelling. A fill-up takes only a few minutes and requires your full attention. In addition, cell phones

are electrical devices, so they're a potential ignition source for any fumes;

- to carry or store fuel, use only containers that are tested and certified by an accredited certification organization such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC);
- treat all fuels with respect. Store them in well-ventilated places and away from nearby ignition sources. Handle them with great care and use them only as motor fuel;
- make sure to extinguish propane pilot lights in recreational vehicles, campers, motor homes and other vehicles before refuelling; and
- if riding a motorbike, always dismount from your motorbike before fuelling. Fuel spilled onto the hot exhaust or engine could cause a fire, injuring you and others.

Fuel stations are designed with safety in mind. But they only work that way with your cooperation. Remember these rules for safety at the pump, and enjoy a smooth, sweet ride – wherever the road takes you.



Make sure that your vehicle is properly positioned at the pump.



Always dismount from your motorcycle when refuelling.



Always place CSA containers on the ground when filling.

MAKING PEOPLE'S LIVES BETTER By Enhancing Public Safety

www.tssa.org



The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is an innovative, not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety.

Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of: amusement rides; elevators and escalators; ski lifts; fuels, including natural fuel oil, natural gas, petroleum, propane fuels and equipment; boilers and pressure vessels; operating engineers; and upholstered and stuffed articles.

TSSA is there with you each time you ride an elevator, start your backyard barbecue, or even when you ride a roller coaster.

AT TSSA, WE PUT PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST – ALWAYS



TAKE SAFETY TO NEW HEIGHTS

TSSA and the amusement ride industry work together to ensure that rides are well maintained and very safe, but it is very important that everyone follow instructions and take responsibility for their own safety and enjoyment of the rides.

Before the ride

- pay attention to age, height and weight restrictions to determine if the ride is appropriate for you and/or your child;
- read and follow all the rules for each ride. If you are responsible for small children, teach them the proper behaviour; and
- tie up long hair and remove any loose articles, such as sunglasses, hats or jewellery, that have the potential to fall off during the ride.

During the ride

- remain seated, buckled in and be sure to keep your hands and feet inside the ride at all times; and
- use all ride safety equipment, and always listen to and follow the operator's instructions.

After the ride

- remain seated until you come to a complete stop. If you feel tired, stop riding or take a break; and
- if you see any problems with any rides, be sure to report them to the operator immediately.



GO-KARTS: STAY ON TRACK



Safe rider behaviour is especially important at the go-kart track.

Follow these rules to keep your laps around the track safe and exciting:

Before the drive

- wear the approved helmet provided;
- secure long hair (below shoulder length);
- always use the seatbelt provided;
- ensure your head is below the rollover protection;

During the drive

- do not bump another go-kart, swerve or stop on the track;
- stay on the track;
- stay in the go-kart until the ride is over and you are directed by the attendant to unload safely in the pit area;
- report to the attendant anyone who appears to be under the influence of drugs or alcohol.



PLAYGROUND SAFETY

Playgrounds provide a great source of exercise and a place where children can socialize, play creatively, and test their skills. While injuries are often thought of as a normal part of play, some injuries are more serious and can prevent a child from getting the most out of healthy, physical activities.

Here are a few simple tips to help keep your child safe on playgrounds:

- Supervise your child closely and ensure they know how to use equipment safely.
- Teach them playground safety rules: to wait their turn; go down the slide feet first; hold onto railings and sit down on swings or slides. Remember to keep away from moving swings and the bottom of slides.

- Before using the playground, remove helmets, scarves and drawstrings. Avoid playing with skipping ropes around the equipment.
- Check the playground. It should have a deep, soft surface as well as handrails and barriers to prevent falls. Watch out for sharp objects or spaces where your child's head could get stuck.





FUN WITH BOUNCERS

Backyard Inflatables

Bouncy castles and other inflatable devices have become popular items to purchase for summer fun in the comfort of your own backyard.

If you own or plan to purchase one, check out these tips on how to play it safe with inflatable bouncers.

Before Purchasing

- **Verify that the product is flame resistant:** Check the label to confirm if it is made of flame retardant vinyl. Also refer to the manufacturer's website or contact them directly.

Safe Set-Up

- **Choose the right set-up location:** Set up on asphalt, hard compact soil, or a grassy area that is free of large rocks or sharp objects. Be wary of underground sprinkler systems or gas lines. Get permission from your city utilities company prior to hammering any stakes into the ground, as you may damage buried pipelines or similar items. Ample clearance (at least 15 feet) should be maintained from power lines or any other overhead structures or devices.

- **Proper anchoring is a MUST:** This is absolutely critical when setting up outdoors. Even on calm, sunny days, weather can be unpredictable and may change drastically with little or no warning. This can turn a seemingly harmless play device into a dangerous hazard.

Also, do not let the size or weight fool you. Any size inflatable device, without proper anchoring, can become airborne or tip over given the wrong combination of factors.

Inflatable devices from reputable manufacturers are sold with a set of instructions that define, at a minimum, the placement and quantity of anchors required and the proper use tether points provided around the base of the structure.

- **Additional anchoring:** To assist with anchoring, ballast weight may be used given the right arrangement and weight, provided the manufacturer has approved it. Examples of ballast weight include sand bags or concrete curb stones. Some devices are sold with a "Stakes Only" rule, and this should be verified. Tying to vehicles, picnic tables, fences, barbecues, etc. is not a recommended means of anchoring. Stakes are always your best bet.

- **Blowers and Extension Cords:** Blowers or fans must be certified by an accredited certification organization such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).

Blowers must be set up in a dry area, away from water accumulation or sources of moisture, and should be guarded to prevent access to moving parts, especially from children. The cord should also be in good repair and free of nicks or splices. Remember, a "garden variety" extension cord is not acceptable for use with these blowers. Extension cords, where permitted, should be checked to ensure that they, at a minimum:

- are approved for outdoor use;
- have GFI protection;
- are not longer than 50 feet;
- have all 3-prongs present; and
- are rated for the amperage required.

- **Be aware of wind limits:** Wind speed is often difficult to measure and gusts can occur unexpectedly. Therefore, inflatable devices should be deflated and put away on windy days – no exceptions. Even moderate breezes (i.e. dust and loose paper start to rise; small branches begin to move) are subtle – but important – signs telling you to put away that bouncer.

Using the Bouncer

- **Follow minimum height requirements:** Manufacturers will recommend a minimum height for children, as certain devices can pose suffocation or entrapment hazards to small children.
- **Supervision is a must:** Inflatable devices must be supervised by at least one responsible adult at all times; however, the manual supplied with the device will state a minimum number of required attendants.
- **No Overcrowding:** Manufacturers' instructions will specify a maximum capacity for the type of device you own. Bouncy castles generally have a capacity of two to six children. Obstacle courses or "races" are designed for two to four children, one permitted per side. Avoiding person-to-person contact is generally a good rule of thumb.
- **Avoid risky behavior and person-to-person contact:** Never allow back-flips, somersaults or any risky behaviour that could lead to a serious neck or back injury. For slides, users should slide down the slide one at a time, in the seated position. Safety rules are supplied with the manuals and should be reviewed.



WARM UP THE POOL – SAFELY



And your heater can only be examined by someone qualified to do so. Only those professionals with the proper technical certification may install, service and/or relight a pilot light on your fuel-fired pool heater.

To find a registered contractor, visit COSafety.ca. You may also call TSSA toll-free at 1-877-682-TSSA (8772) to confirm that a specific fuels contractor is registered.

Warm up the pool safely this summer by using a certified contractor to ensure your equipment is adequately maintained and proper procedures are followed.



Photo courtesy Zodiac Pool Care, Inc., ©2008

Before squeezing into those swim trunks, let's heat things up – safely. Here's a pre-season pool heater tip for both in-ground and above-ground pools: **only let a certified technician light your fuel-fired pool heater.**

Pool owners frequently request landscapers and uncertified pool installation or maintenance contractors to light up their fuel-fired pool heaters, but did you know such an act is not only unsafe but illegal (under TSSA Fuel Safety regulations)?

Each year, TSSA investigates pool heater fires as a result of improper handling and usage of fuel-fired equipment by uncertified professionals.

Inadequately maintained heaters develop carbon build-up, create deadly carbon monoxide gas and, if exposed to an ignition source, can burst into flames, causing severe injury, property damage or even death.

Periodic inspections, especially at the start of the season, are important to keep your heater running safely and efficiently.





Mission

The Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council is committed to making Ontario the most fire-safe community in North America by developing open, innovative, and creative partnerships between members of the fire safety community and the general public to increase awareness of issues and to help shape policies, strategies, and legislation.

For more information about the Fire Marshal's Public Fire Safety Council, we encourage you to visit us at www.firesafetycouncil.com

Tadeusz (Ted) Wieclawek
Ontario Fire Marshal



A SAFE SPLASHDOWN

Waterslides remain popular attractions at many Ontario vacation spots. Here are some pointers to increase your safety and enjoyment:

- obey all instructions given by the attendant;
- do not dive, run, stand, kneel or rotate in the slide channel;
- keep your hands inside the slide channel;
- if the ride is intended for single riders only, do not double ride with your child or another person;
- do not start down the slide until the splash down area is clear, or when you have been instructed by the attendant;
- clear the splash area promptly; and
- do not bring glass, bottles or food into the waterslide area.





DROWNING PREVENTION

Swimming, bath time, and water play can be a lot of fun for children. Safe Kids Canada wants families to enjoy swimming and water play as a part of a healthy active lifestyle.

Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death for Canadian children. Every year, almost 60 children drown. This is equal to more than two classrooms full of children. Each year, another 140 children must stay in the hospital because they nearly drowned. Near-drowning can result in long-term health effects. It can affect the way a child thinks, learns, and plays.

But there is something you can do to keep children safe. Active supervision of children when they are around or in the water, proper pool fencing, the use of life jackets, adult training in first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and children's swimming lessons can help prevent drowning.

Drowning risks

Among all age groups, boys are more likely to drown than girls. This may be because parents accept more risk-taking in boys than in girls.

Children under five years of age

All children are at risk for drowning, but young children under five years of age are at special risk because:

- they are attracted to water but cannot understand the danger;
- they can walk but they cannot swim;
- their lungs are smaller than adults' and fill quickly with water; and
- they can drown in as little as 2.5 centimetres (one inch) of water.

Children five to 14 years of age

- Older children are at risk because they may overestimate their own skills, underestimate the depth of the water or strength of the current, or respond to a dare from a friend.
- Physical strength develops throughout childhood. Even a good swimmer can get into trouble, especially in unfamiliar water or environments.

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HOME SAFETY

LOOK OUT

Identify electrical risks when renovating or buying a home!



Electrical Safety Authority



For electrical safety information visit:

www.esasafe.com

THE DIGS ON PIPELINE SAFETY

Whether you're starting a garden in your backyard or getting ready to tackle some outside home renovations, contact your local utility first. You could be over a labyrinth of pipe carrying natural gas, countless electrical lines or even cable TV.

While natural gas is safe – when it's sealed tight inside that pipe – it possesses a few fiery properties. Composed primarily of methane, natural gas is extremely flammable. If a leak occurs, even through what may seem to be a minor scrape of a pipe from a shovel or backhoe, it can quickly rise (being lighter than air), gather in concentrated areas and, if near a flame or spark, cause a fire or deadly explosion.

Underground natural gas pipelines are designed to keep the gas safely inside.

In order to stay that way, there are certain rules for digging.

- When excavating, contact your local utility for the location of all nearby pipelines or use Ontario One at 1-800-400-2255. A simple call will quickly and easily get your underground utility lines marked.
- Check the paperwork left by the locator to ensure it covers your dig area, and make sure you understand all the markings. If not, discuss it with the locator.
- Markers only indicate the presence of a pipeline and should not be used or relied upon to determine the exact location of a pipeline. Carefully hand dig within three feet (or one metre) of those markings as required by law under TSSA's Guidelines for Excavations (downloadable from www.safetyinfo.ca).

What to do if you hit a pipe

Even if you happen to cause damage to a buried pipeline that appears to be minor, notify the utility company immediately.

Do not attempt to squeeze off the break or control the flow of gas – you could cause an explosion.

It is imperative that the utility company, and only those qualified to do so, inspect and repair any damage to the line – for everyone's safety. If you become aware of such an incident or potential incident, please contact your local utility immediately.

Pipeline hits as a whole have steadily decreased year over year in Ontario, thanks to the efforts of TSSA, the Ontario



Regional Common Ground Alliance and various industry stakeholders, but there is still a way to go yet.

With your help, we'll keep the gas flowing – safely in the ground where it belongs. You dig?

CALL BEFORE YOU DIG:

Ontario One-Call

To arrange for free natural gas pipe location service at your site, call Ontario One. Call at least five working days in advance.

1-800-400-2255



Safety...

- Hold the handrail.
- Stand in the middle of the stair.

IT'S

UP
TO YOU

- Attend to children and hold their hands.
- Take care when wearing soft-soled /open-toed footwear.



ESCALATORS: WATCH YOUR STEP

When summertime activities take us indoors to shopping centres and entertainment complexes, pay careful attention to escalators. Remember, safety is up to you too!

Statistically, escalators are safer than stairs, but when used inappropriately, the risk of being seriously injured increases.

Be sure to:

- step on and off with care;
- hold onto the handrails;
- always face forward;
- stand in the middle to avoid shoes – especially open-toed and soft-soled ones – from rubbing against the sides; and
- when travelling with a stroller or mobility device use an elevator where available.



Practice Safe-Riding

Myth: The steps will flatten out and all the people will slide down.

Truth: This is impossible. Each step is a full triangular structure consisting of tread and riser supported on a track and cannot flatten out.

Myth: Escalators move too fast.

Truth: Escalators move at only two times walking speed. The misconception is probably due to the visual perception.

Myth: Escalators will stop and restart themselves.

Truth: Escalators only stop if the STOP button is pushed, the safety switch is tripped or an obstruction is encountered. Escalators can only be restarted by a trained professional.

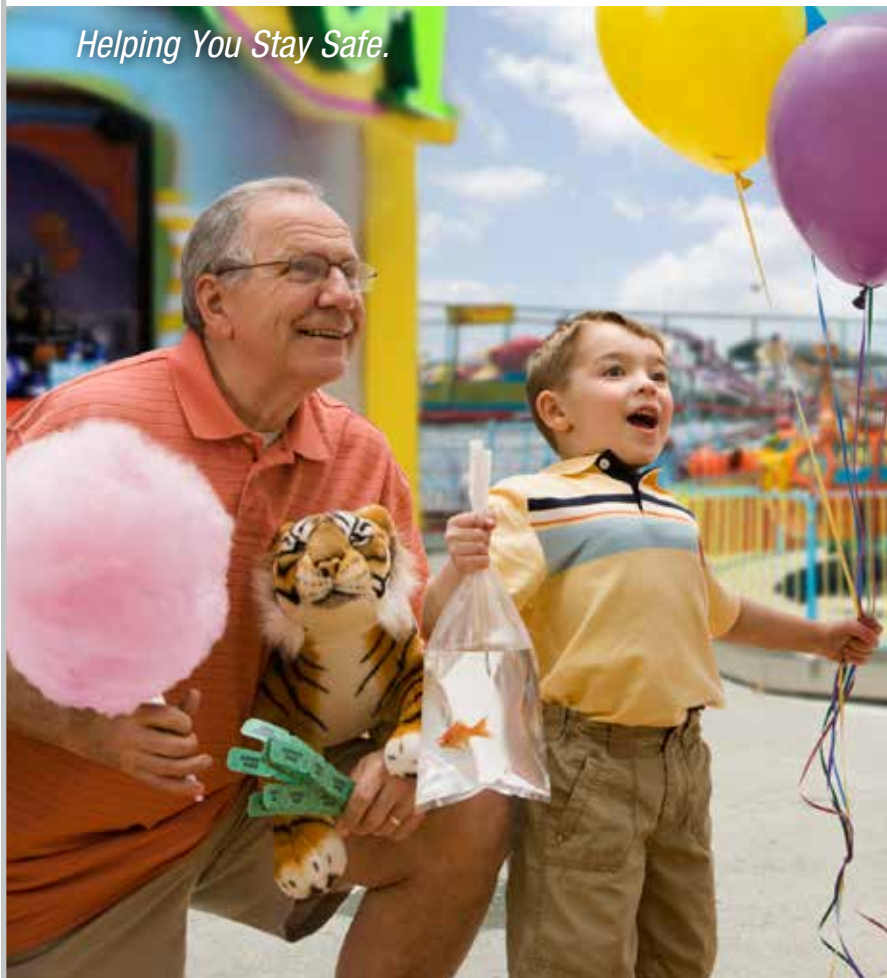
Myth: If an escalator is not in motion, it is just a set of stairs.

Truth: Not at all! Escalators' steps are not the correct height for normal walking and should not be used in that manner. The risk of tripping and falling is greatly increased.

Used by permission from the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation www.eesfc.org

SafetyInfo.ca

Helping You Stay Safe.



Visit www.safetyinfo.ca today!

Get valuable advice on safety issues around your home and at leisure including tips, guides, checklists and links to other safety information.

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