

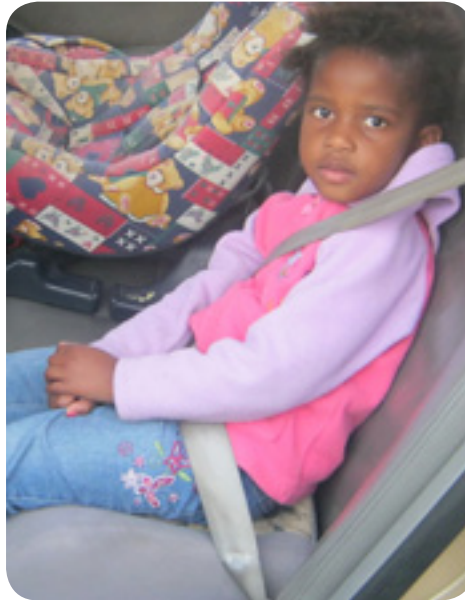
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Restraint Use Of Child Passengers In South Africa

Childsafe Publication in the South African Medical Journal

Motor vehicle crashes are a leading cause of death in children of all ages worldwide, and responsible for 32% of all childhood injury deaths. Restraint devices such as seat belts and child restraint systems, when used correctly, have shown to decrease mortality and serious injuries in children significantly. There have been numerous studies on the use of seatbelts and car safety seats in America, Asia and Europe, however no such research currently exists for African countries.

The Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital in Cape Town annually treats close to 300 children who are passengers in motor vehicle crashes. Of these, 87% have not been restrained adequately within the vehicle. In order to correlate the rate of unrestrained children who presented after accidents with the general rate of restraints in children, Childsafe South Africa performed an observational study at the main gate of the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town, South Africa from the 26th until 30th of March 2008.

We observed the use of restraint in all adult

drivers and passengers as well as in all children, passing through the main gate of the hospital during this period.

A total of 1269 cars entered the premises. Travelling in these vehicles were 2080 people, of which 313 were children. Of the drivers, 50% were restrained. Of the front adult passengers 30% were restrained. Of those adults travelling in the rear 10% were restrained.

A total of 89% of the children observed entering the hospital were unrestrained in the vehicle. Of these 25% were sharing a seat with an adult. Only 8% of the children observed were sitting in a car seat and 3% were adequately restrained.

South Africa is no exception to the rest of the world and motor vehicle crash related trauma is a leading cause of childhood injuries and deaths in our country.

Our study demonstrates that a large majority of the children observed were not adequately restrained within the vehicles. It shows an alarming trend in restraint use in South Africa and demonstrates the need for promotion and education of appropriate restraint use for children.

It is now almost 3 decades ago that paediatric trauma was identified as the number 1 killer of children globally.

Since the efficacy of child's restraint systems in preventing serious injuries and deaths in motor vehicle crashes has been well established, we urge the medical fraternity to pull their weight with regards to the active promotion of child safety restraints.

It will definitely save many children's lives.

Julie Kling, Thomas Nicholls, Pumla Mtambeka, AB (Sebastian) van As

*Childsafe South Africa, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital
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What Does The Law Say?

- Legislation stipulates that everyone in a motor vehicle should wear a seat belt.
- It is the driver's responsibility and legal obligation to ensure that children are buckled up in a car safety seat (child restraint) or seatbelt where available.
- An adult is guilty of a criminal offence if he/she should allow a child younger than 14 years to travel unrestrained in a motor vehicle equipped with seat belts.



CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION
FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA
(CAPFSA)

NEWSLETTER OF THE CHILD ACCIDENT PREVENTION
FOUNDATION OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

ISSN: 1561-9648



Launch of Global Decade Of Action For Road Safety



The World Health Organisation's Decade of Action for Road Safety was launched globally on 11 May 2011. On 19 May 2011 as part of Childsafe's (South Africa) contribution the Buckle-up Banner was hung on the fencing of the Red Cross Children's Hospital's vehicle entrance. Professor Sebastian van As, the head of the trauma unit and of Childsafe, wrote in his editorial

in the World Journal of Paediatrics in November 2010, that traffic accidents account for 32% of child deaths, making it one of the top three factors affecting child mortality.

Annually the hospital treats close to 300 children who were involved in motor vehicle accidents as passengers.

Nearly 90% of those children were not strapped properly in the vehicle.

This message was targeted to patients and staff coming in and out of the hospital. It drew public attention as well as media as we had lots of enquiries thereafter. We are in a process of securing funding/sponsorship for a permanent notice.

NSRI Volunteers Provide Harbour Notices At Kalk Bay

Following the tragic death of 14-year-old boy who fell into the sea while fishing with friends from the Kalk Bay Harbour Wall on 27 April 2011, National Sea Rescue Institute (NSRI) volunteers have erected six notices in Kalk Bay Harbour clearly indicating the hazardous and often dangerous sea conditions there. Included on the notice is the NSRI emergency telephone number. Childsafe is grateful to NSRI Volunteers for this initiative.



childsafE NEWS

Do you have any safety news, information or comments?

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ELECTRONIC NEWSLETTER

The Childsafe News is also available in PDF Format, if you would like to receive an electronic version of the quarterly newsletter please email your details to capfsa@pgwc.gov.za

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DISTRIBUTION

Yumna Abrahams

Travelling Safely

Keep our children safe in traffic



0 - 2 years

- Needs 100% protection
- Sits up
- Takes first steps when holding on
- Turns knobs and handles
- Puts objects into mouth



Keep children safe on the pavement until crossing the street.



Car safety seats for newborns should face backwards.



Plan your journey to consider your child's needs.



Use safety straps on shopping trolleys.



Supervise children at all times.



2 - 4 years

- No idea of danger
- Imitates others
- Quick & unpredictable
- Adventurous
- Very active



Never leave a child alone in the car.



Do not hold child on your lap. Use car seat or seatbelt correctly - even for short trips.



Use child safety door locks.



Keep children away from windows and doors.



Provide entertainment for children while driving.



4 - 6 years

- Fearless
- Explores with no thought of danger
- Moves fast
- Smart/observant



Never let a child stand in the car.



Have a safe play area away from traffic.



Watch and teach children in traffic.



Helmets should be worn on any bike.



Check for children behind vehicles before moving.



6 - 8 years

- Overestimates own abilities
- Unable to judge speed and distance
- Plays away from home
- Less focus on self, shows concern for others
- Still needs supervision



Watch that child near the road.



Stop children chasing vehicles.



Keep skateboards away from traffic areas.



Get out of the car on the pavement side.



Never put small children alone in the back of a taxi.



8 - 10 years

- Takes risks
- Shows-off to friends
- Strongly influenced by friends/dares
- Impatient
- Often travels alone



Always check for traffic.



Cycle in single file.



Walk facing the traffic and wear reflective gear.



Wait for the train to stop before getting on or off.

Fundamental Principles



Set an example - always wear your seatbelt



Drive slowly near children.



Cellphone use when driving causes crashes.



Don't overload!



Everyone watch out for children near traffic.

NEWS REPORTS

DOG BITES

Philippi, Cape Town

A three year old boy was killed by a pack of dogs in Philippi on 29 June. The dogs had apparently dragged the little boy from his home through an open front door.

The SPCA has since collected nearly 150 dogs from Sweet Home Farm. Many of these were strays, disease ridden, and too anti-social to be rehomed.

IOL 5 July 2011

Philippi, Cape Town

Two more children were attacked by a dog on 12 July, prompting renewed calls for the City's hundreds of thousands of strays to be destroyed. The two four-year-olds were attacked minutes apart by a dog in Sweet Home Farm informal settlement, while residents were attending a community meeting on the dog problem.

IOL 12/7/2011

DROWNING



Kalk Bay, Cape Town

14-year-old boy from Lotus River fell into the sea before dawn on 27 April while fishing off the harbour wall with two friends. Police divers searched without success to recover the teenager. The NSRI said they believed that he may have been swept out to sea by ocean currents.

News24 28/4/2011

Kogel Bay, Cape

The body of a teenager who drowned in Steenbras Dam was recovered by rescue workers and SAPS divers. The boy was on a hike with a church group when he fell into the dam. The group arrived at the nature reserve before official opening time, and had not obtained the relevant permit before entering the area said Wilfred Solomon's-Johannes, spokesperson for Cape Town Disaster Risk Management.

News24 1/5/2011

West Rand, Johannesburg

Gauteng Paramedics reported that a three-year-old boy drowned in a swimming pool at a home in Floracliff on 20 June. The child had been noted as missing, and was found floating in the pool, he had been pulled from the water by relatives.

The Citizen 20/6/2011

Johannesburg

A three-year-old girl was found by family members floating in a Johannesburg swimming pool. She had been playing near the pool and went missing. Resuscitation lasted for an hour and the girl was rushed to a hospital, but was declared dead on arrival.

lafrica.com 24/6/2011

CRIME

Vredendal

A little girl's body was discovered in a West Coast vineyard on 9 May 2011. Police say a post mortem indicates that the three-year-old girl was raped either before or after she was bludgeoned to death with a blunt object. A case of child neglect has been opened against the girl's parents.

EWN 11/5/2011

Philippi East, Cape Town

Cape Town police reported that the body of a new born baby boy had been found by children who were playing in the area on 9 July 2011. A preliminary investigation revealed that the baby had died from injuries to the throat, possibly inflicted with a sharp object. A murder docket has been opened.

IOL 11/7/2011

FALLS



Centurion, Gauteng

Gauteng police asked the public for help in the search of a missing 15-year-old boy. He was last spotted in Hammanskraal by a bus driver on 19 March 2011, where police searched for him.

Three days later the body of the boy was found by a wall near his home – he may have died from a head injury after a fall.

EWN 20/3/2011 and 22/3/2011

FIRES



Masiphumelele, Fish Hoek

One man was killed, another injured, and 5000 people were left homeless in Masiphumelele when 1500 shacks were burnt down on 2 May 2011. This is the third major fire in the area in three months.

The Argus 3/5/2011

Khayelitsha, Manenberg, Cape Town

Two people were killed in separate shack fires in Cape Town on 7 May 2011.

One man died and 115 people left homeless after a fire in Khayelitsha. In another incident a man died in Tambo Village near Manenberg. Police and fire authorities are investigating.

IOL 7/5/2011

Soweto, Johannesburg

A twenty-nine-year-old man was burnt to death in Jabulani, Soweto on 31 May 2011.

He had been living in a shack in the back garden and had had an extension cord from the main house for electricity. A loud bang was heard, and the shack was reported to be on fire. Fire fighters suspected that when the electricity power was restored after a power failure, it triggered a power surge explosion.

Alexandra, Johannesburg

A sixty-year-old man was burnt beyond recognition in his Alexandra home on 1 June 2011.

There was a power failure in the area and the man had lit candles. After smelling smoke, family members were not able enter his room as the door was locked. By the time the door was opened the man was already dead.

EMS Johannesburg urged all residents to make sure their electrical appliances were switched off when they went to bed, even if there was a power outage. Also, all candles need to be blown out and kept far away from curtains and anything else that could catch fire.

News24 1/6/2011

Ipeleng, North West

A mother saved her two-month-old-baby girl and seven-year-old son from a burning shack 2/6/2011. The mother had left the children when she went to buy paraffin. She arrived back to find her home in flames, and forced her way into the blaze to rescue her children. The fire was started by a candle.

News24 2/6/2011

Mfuleni, Cape Town

Four toddlers were admitted with severe flame burns to Red Cross Children's Hospital following a fire at their crèche on 15 June.

It was reported later that the fire had been caused by a paraffin stove.

EWN 16/6/2011

Valhalla Park, Cape Town

Two children died in a fire at their home on 9 July. Forensic experts believe that a fire had been made in a drum which had been taken inside for warmth.

IOL 11/7/2011

Orange Farm, Johannesburg

A mother and child died in a shack fire at the back of a house 15 July. Police suspect that a candle had been left burning when the mother fell asleep.

News24 15/7/2011

City of Cape Town

Cape Town Disaster Management officials report at least 39 people have died and more than 7000 displaced in separate fires across the Cape Peninsula since the beginning of March 2011.

Fires in Blackheath, Kraaifontein and Philippi claimed the lives of three people including a child this past weekend.

Disaster Management's Wilfred Solomons-Johannes said "It is important that people keep fire safety a top priority. Disaster Management wished to appeal to all members of the public, particularly those living in informal settlements to be vigilant".

Western Cape Social Development MEC Albert Fritz said "This is very concerning, we are very worried about it. We know a lot of fires are caused by candles that fall over. We need to look at innovative ways that can provide light to our informal settlements".

EWN 18/7/2011

Johannesburg

Johannesburg Emergency Services said on Saturday 30 July that hundreds of people left homeless after a fire in Joe Slovo Park informal settlement will be moved to the Coronationville Recreational Centre.

Families are currently being housed at a local school after 300 shacks burnt down on Friday night, 29 July.

Investigators are trying to establish the exact cause of the fire.

EWN 30/7/2011

Athlone, Cape Town

Hundreds of people were displaced when seventy shacks were left gutted in the Vygieskraal informal settlement in Athlone on 1 August 2011, where a fire raged for hours.

Residents grabbed what they could and ran for cover, while others who returned from work were shocked to see their homes go up in flames. Some residents said that the fire was started when a stove was left unattended in a shack.

Cape Town Fire and Rescue Services reported that three hundred people were displaced and one person was injured. Fifty four fire fighters, three fire engines and two water tanks were sent to the scene.

IOL 2/8/2011

TRANSPORT

Boksburg

A baby died and nine other people were injured when their minibus taxi overturned on the N12 on 4 May 2011. Netcare 911 reported that the fully laden taxi had veered off the road and repeatedly rolled, hitting a brick wall before coming to rest. The injured were taken to hospital.

News24 4/5/2011

Paarl

Two, two-year-old boys were killed when they were hit by a train in the Paarl area on 4 May 2011. This is the second incident in the past few months in which children have died on the Province's tracks.

EWN 4/5/2011

Easter road accidents claimed 203 lives.

Road Traffic Management Corporation investigations found that accidents were being caused by speeding, especially during night time and in bad weather, vehicle faults – particularly tyre failure, defective brakes and dangerous driving such as barrier line and red light infringements. Using cell phones while driving were also causing accidents. There are still many, particularly, rear seat passengers who travel without buckling up.

News24 28/4/2011

Bloemfontein

A ten-month-old boy was killed and four others injured in a head-on collision in Bloemfontein 30 July 2011.

Netcare 911 reported the two bakkies crashed at an intersection. The baby was apparently sitting on his mother's lap during the crash and died shortly after arrival at hospital. The mother was freed from the wreckage with serious injuries but father was uninjured.

News24 30/7/2011

CHILD SAFETY MONTH



City of Cape Town Parks Upgrade

City Parks Director, Chantal Hanslo, has announced a Safety Plan for Recreational Areas to the media. More than one hundred and fifty parks and playgrounds are currently being upgraded across the City. Trees will be planted, new playground facilities, lighting and security fences will be added.

EWN 8/4/2011

Childsafe welcomes this initiative as many children, who present at hospitals in the City, are injured by falls from playground equipment.

Child Safety Month August 2011

- August is Child Safety Month
- Childsafe took part in the Baba Indaba at Cape Town at Cape Town International Convention Centre 5 -7 August
- Safer Candle Project demonstrations will be given weekly to Mothers/Carers in Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital, (RXH) Out Patient waiting areas.
- Information on aspects of Child Accident Prevention will be placed in the Front Foyer, RXH
- Community outreach presentations will be given by Childsafe's Partners
- A Seminar and Childsafe Annual General Meeting will be held on 31 August in the J&J Room, Staff Education Centre, RXH
- Please contact Childsafe/CAPFSA office extension 021 658 5438 and www.childsafe.org.za for more information

Family Strength Expo: Gugulethu Indoor Sports Complex, Cape Town



Marimba dance group –part of entertainment



Members of the public at Childsafe stand

In celebrating the International Year of Families, the Department of Social Development hosted a three days Family Expo from the 20-22 May 2011 at the Gugulethu Indoor Sports complex. Social Development identified the FAMILY as the basic unit of society that needs to be strengthened so that it can continue to play its rightful role in society, namely, the physiological, economic, spiritual, physical and social care and protection of its members.

Childsafe, a campaign of The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA) was one of the organisations that were invited to take part in the Expo. There was a huge interest shown at our exhibition stand with more than two thousand visitors during the three days with parents flocking for resources / educational materials.

It was an Expo worth attending as Childsafe gained a lot of exposure to the public and managed to form a network with a number of government, public and private organisations.

SABC EDUCATION BABA INDABA CAPE TOWN 2011



Childsafe was invited to participate in the August 5, 6, and 7 SABC EDUCATION Baba Indaba Exhibition at the Cape Town International Conference Centre.

The public showed keen interest in our child accident prevention posters and leaflets. Some mothers said they would use the posters at home to train their nannies, and others would

take the posters to their children's schools, crèches and play centres.

The Baba indaba gave us an opportunity to network with other stand holders, especially Safe Laities, who are creating awareness for the importance of car seats, and The Baby Club, who would like to include child safety information for parents in their publications.

Childsafe is grateful for the support of Phoenix Burns Project, and Department of Health at the exhibition, and especially to Teri Kruger, Chiedza Mavengere, Maureen McCrea, May Bleeker-Phelan, and the Dieticians who helped on the Childsafe stand over the three days.

Chidsafe/Safer Candle Project

The Safer Candle Project is five years old, and has become one of Chidsafe's established programmes. The Project was started in response to high numbers of fires in some of Cape Town's informal settlement areas, when fallen candles destroyed thousands of homes. After trials in Site C Khayelitsha, an area of Cape Town where many residents used candles for lighting, the Safer Candle Project was commenced during Child Safety Month, August 2006. Thanks to partnerships with the Medical Research Council, Paraffin Safety, Phoenix Burns Care Programme, and on-going education workshops and demonstrations run by Chidsafe staff, over 4500 jar units have been distributed to communities over a wide area.

At Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital (RXH) mothers/carers in the Out Patient Department waiting areas have consistently showed keen interest in Safer Candle use during demonstrations. Many remember fires in their communities where people have died, and property destroyed as a result of fires caused by fallen candles.

Generous donations during the five-year period were: three thousand six hundred large glass jars from Consol Glass/Rondebosch Boys' High School Public Relations (2008); and donations of candles from Herschel Girls' High School; MRC: Rondebosch Rotary Anns; and SACS Junior Community Programme.

Chidsafe is especially grateful for valuable assistance with the Safer Candle Project given by student volunteers from Friends Association of the Children's Hospital.

**For more information and leaflet about the Safer Candle Project please see Chidsafe website:
www.chidsafe.org.za**



Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital/Chidsafe promotes Safer Candle use during WWF Earth Hour

The entrance to Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital was completely candle lit for Earth Hour – between 8.30pm and 9.30pm - on Saturday March 26. Staff and visitors enjoyed the event, for some it was the first opportunity to learn about Earth Hour.

World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) Earth Hour is the largest mass participation environmental event held worldwide every year; WWF encourages people all over the world to turn off their lights for one hour in a symbolic gesture to pledge their commitment to combating climate change.

However, fires caused by fallen candles, are frequent in Cape Town and other South African communities. Last winter twenty three children and adults died in fires caused by six fallen candles in Manenberg, Khayelitsha, and Kleinmond between July and September. These sad events increased the resolve of Chidsafe, based at Red Cross Children's Hospital to continue Safer Candle Project outreach opportunities, and convey the message that a Safer Candle is essential for all homes.

The Safer Candle project teaches parents how to make a simple, cost efficient candleholder using a large recycled glass jar and dry sand. The candles should be cut in half, so that the flame is lower than the top of the jar. Then, if the jar tips over, the sand extinguishes the flame and prevents the fire from spreading. Chidsafe staff set up twenty four Safer Candles in the Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital's main foyer in celebration of Earth Hour.

The 24 Safer Candles represented 24 hours in the day when all citizens should be aware of energy saving and climate change.

For more information about Earth Hour visit www.wwf.org.za



Congratulations to Prof A B(S)Van As



Professor Sebastian van As

Prof Sebastian Van As delivered the Michael van Vloten Lecture at the Dutch Society for Surgery where he spoke on Paediatric Trauma and Child Abuse in Africa. At the event on 19 May 2011 he was awarded the Michael van Vloten Medal from the President of the Dutch Association of Surgeons.

Teri Kruger bids farewell to Childsafe South Africa

Childsafe South Africa was left in quite a crisis at the end of 2008 when Nelmarie du Toit left us in order to explore green pastures elsewhere in the Southern Hemisphere.

We have been very grateful for Teri Kruger who jumped to our help in the capacity of a private consultant, and to steer the Childsafe ship

through this stormy period. Teri is known for her large amount of energy, and kept the organization on the map. She was the driving force behind a whole new series of educational posters; what once was a single educational poster slowly developed in a process of a diverse educational program.

Teri was also intricately involved with the R300 Highway project and collaboration with SANRAL. She represented Childsafe on a large number of workshops and conferences and oversaw the writing of proposals and reports, the Annual Reports and Board Meetings.



Teri Kruger

She also known for her vision of integrating child safety with sustainable and safe energy in the future, and put Childsafe on the Map with EarthHour 2011. She is presently working with juwi and we hope we continue to collaborate closely with her in the future.

Childsafe Board Member Appointed Professor Extraordinarius



Professor Van Niekerk

Ashley van Niekerk, a valued member of the National Board of the Childsafe/Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, was recently appointed Professor Extraordinarius to the University of South Africa's Institute for Social and Health Sciences. Professor Van Niekerk has represented the Medical Research Council-University of South Africa's Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit on the National Board since 2006. His research interests include childhood injury occurrence and risk factors, and community safety programmes for parents and children, with a focus on burn prevention. Prior to 2006, Professor Van Niekerk conducted child burn safety research with Childsafe and the Red Cross Children's Hospital's Burn Unit. His PhD is based on this research. The Childsafe National Board is delighted with this achievement and extends its warm congratulations to Prof van Niekerk and hopes he will continue to serve on the Childsafe Board in spite of his very hectic work schedule.



Invitation to become a member!

Three good reasons why you as an individual or parent, school or organisation/company should become a member of CHILDSAFE a campaign of The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA)

- Injuries are the biggest killer of children between the ages of 5 and 14 years.
- Your membership will actively contribute towards preventing unnecessary, costly accidents in our country.
- As a member you will be kept up to date on current issues and resources related to child safety

Levels of Membership

Regular	Annual	R100
Bronze	Annual	R500
Silver	2 Years	R5 000

Childsafe has also devised a package for Honourable Membership, for those who wish to become Gold, Diamond or Disa Members of The Foundation. For further information contact us.

I would like to become a "Friend of the Foundation" Minimum R25

I would like to become a member of the Foundation (includes newsletter)

Regular Bronze Silver Gold

- I would like a years subscription to the "Childsafe NEWS" R30 annually
- I would like to receive more information on the activities of the Foundation
- I would like to become a project sponsor, please contact me
- I would like to do voluntary work for the Foundation

Title: Prof/Dr/Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss

Name:

Organisation/Institution/Company:

Postal address:

Telephone: Home:Work:..... Cell:

Fax: E-mail:

Total payment enclosed: R..... Date:

Membership gives you access to:

- CAPFSA's statistical information on child injuries
- Automatic subscription to the Quarterly Newsletter – Childsafe NEWS
- Certificate to confirm Membership
- Safety educational materials such as videos, leaflets and other materials at substantial discount
- Other benefits – safety leaflets and posters on request (When available)

Return this information to Childsafe, a campaign of The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 791, Rondebosch, 7701 or capfsa@pgwc.gov.za

KOVSSA/CAPFSA BANKING DETAILS

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