



## Seat Belts and Car Safety Seats Save Lives – BUCKLE UP

### Always buckle up your children, even for a short trip

#### DID YOU KNOW? ..... SOME FACTS

- National statistics show that 84% of children in South Africa, travel in cars without wearing their seatbelts.
- Passenger deaths in children are the 4th leading cause of unnatural deaths in our country. Not to mention all the injured children that suffer injury or disabilities on a daily basis.
- At the Red Cross Children’s Hospital alone, approximately 20 children per month are treated for injuries sustained in motor vehicle collisions. Eighty percent (80%) of these injured children were not buckled up or restrained in any way at all. Most of these injuries could have been prevented through appropriate restraining.
- Car safety seats (child restraints) reduce the risk of death in passenger cars by 71% for infants, and 54% for toddlers.
- Even in a minor crash, an unrestrained child would be thrown around inside the vehicle, injuring themselves and others. They could be thrown from the car through one of the windows.

#### WHAT DOES THE LAW SAY?

- Legislation stipulates that everyone in a motor vehicle should wear a seatbelt.
- 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 or car safety seats.

#### WHY BUCKLE UP?

- It is not safe to carry your baby in your arms or a child on your lap in the car. Some parents believe they will be able to hold on to the baby or child. Research has shown that passengers have less than half a second to react in a collision or sudden stop.
- When a vehicle collides or suddenly stops at 50-60km per hour the weight of occupants or objects in the vehicle multiply 30 - 60 fold. If a baby weighs 10kg the force at the moment of

impact is equivalent to a weight of 300kg. No adult will be able to hold onto the baby or child. They would be thrown about inside the vehicle, injuring themselves and quite possibly seriously injuring (or even killing) anyone else inside the vehicle. They are also likely to be ejected from the car through one of the windows.

- At 25km an hour a small child sitting or standing next to the driver can be killed in an emergency stop if its head hits the windscreen interior of the car.
- At 40km/hour the blow to a child’s head is the same as dropping him/her from 6 meters onto concrete.

#### DANGEROUS PRACTICES

- Never put your seat belt around yourself and your baby or child. If there is a crash, your baby or child could be crushed to death. The force against your child will be the equivalent to 30 adults, each weighing 50 kg, standing on top of the child. The force is tremendous.
- Never buckle two children up in one seatbelt, this is dangerous and could lead to serious injury. A seat belt has only been tested with one occupant in.
- Traveling unrestrained at the back of a station wagon or “bakkie” is very dangerous.
- Never use a car safety seat/child restraint on the front seat if there is an air bag.
- Always place any loose items in the car boot.

#### HOW CAN I KEEP MY CHILD SAFE IN THE CAR?

- The safest way for children to travel in cars is in an approved car safety seat or seat belt that is suitable for their weight and size and also for your car.
- A properly fitted child restraint keeps the child in their seat, preventing them from being thrown about inside or ejected from the vehicle. This reduces the likelihood of your child being killed or injured in a crash.

*Continued on page 2*



1. Infant car restraint (birth – 9-months/1 year/ 0-10kg)



2. Child car restraint (birth – 4-5 years/0-18kg)



3. Booster Seats (±4-6 years/15-24kg)



4. Booster cushion (±6-11 years/22-36kgs)



5. Seatbelts (±10-11 years/36kgs)

Continued from page 1

- Using a car safety seat correctly makes a big difference.
- All children under twelve years and younger should preferably travel in the back seat, buckled up!
- Putting your child in a seatbelt, instead of in a car safety seat or booster cushion, before he/she is big enough, will put his/her life at risk for serious injury or death in a crash.

## TRAVEL SAFETY – CHILD CAR RESTRAINT/ CAR SAFETY SEAT GUIDE FOR CHILDREN

**The following categories of car child restraints are currently available:**

### 1) INFANT CAR RESTRAINT

**(Birth – 9 months-1 year/0-10 kg)**

- Never use seat where there is an airbag. This can cause serious injury
- Seat must be used facing rearwards at all times. In a collision impact will be on seat and not on baby.
- Install with three point adult seat belt.
- The baby is securely held in the seat by the harness.
- It is safer to fit the seat in the rear of the car but if necessary can be fitted in the front (no airbag).

### 2) CHILD CAR RESTRAINT

**(Birth – 4-5 years/0-18 kg)**

- There are a variety of seats available in this category
- These seats should face the rear of the car until the infant is  $\pm 10$ kg or 9 months old.
- After this the seat can be turned around, facing forward.
- The method of installation may vary from seat to seat. Some could be used with three point adult safety belts, lap belts or special anchorage straps.
- Always follow manufacturers instruction on how to fit the seat.

### 3) BOOSTER SEATS ( $\pm 4-6$ years/15-25 kg)

- These safety seats are light and versatile and can only be secured with a three point adult safety belt.
- Could be used on front or back seat with adult safety belt but preferably on the back seat.

### 4) BOOSTER CUSHION ( $\pm 6-11$ years/22-36 kg)

- These cushions are used when children have outgrown the above-mentioned seats. Use this seat until child is old enough for a seatbelt on its own.
- This seat will help position seat belt and improve view from the car.
- Should always be used with three point adult belt (back or front).
- Should be used until child has grown sufficiently to wear a seat belt, usually at  $\pm 10$  years (36 kg).

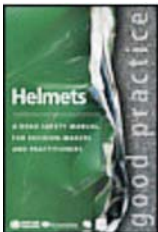
### 5) SEATBELTS ( $\pm 10-11$ years/36 kg's)

- Children are usually big enough to use a seat belt by the age of about 11 years.
- To check that the seat belt fits correctly, the shoulder belt should go over the child's shoulder and then across the middle of his/her chest. The belt should not touch the neck. The lap belt should fit low, over the hipbones, under the child's belly area. The child knees should be comfortable over the edge of the seat.
- Three point seat belts (Lap and diagonal) provide greater protection than lap belts.
- Lap belts are better than no belt at all.

## ALWAYS SET A GOOD EXAMPLE BY WEARING YOUR SEAT BELT!

**For more information on Car Safety Seats contact  
The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of SA  
@ tel (021) 685 5208**

**Website: [www.childsafe.org.za](http://www.childsafe.org.za)**



## Helmet manual finalized and launched

In August 2006 WHO released the first in a series of good practice manuals developed under the auspices of the UN Road Safety Collaboration. The manual is the result of collaboration between WHO, the Global Road Safety Partnership, the FIA Foundation for the Automobile and Society and the World Bank. The manual, *Helmets: a road safety manual for decision makers and practitioners*, follows on from the World report on road traffic injury prevention, which

showed the evidence that setting and enforcing mandatory helmet use is an effective intervention for reducing injuries and fatalities among motorcycle users.

About 20 countries have plans to hold a workshop and implement the document with UN Road Safety Collaboration partner support. For further information, contact Tami Toroyan at [toroyant@who.int](mailto:toroyant@who.int) or visit <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/projects/manuals/en/index.html>



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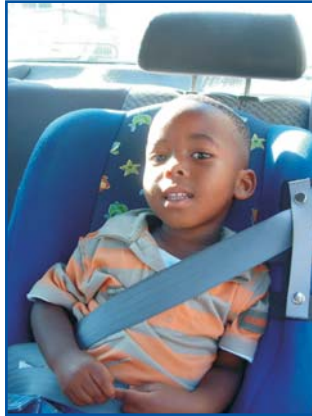
## First United Nations Global Road Safety Week 23 – 29 April 2007

Road Traffic Crashes kill nearly 1.2 million people worldwide every year and injure millions more. They are the second leading cause of death for people age 5 – 25 years, with devastating impact on families and communities.

On the occasion of the First UN Global Road Safety Week, requested by the UN General Assembly, events will take place in countries all over the world. The key global event marking the Week will be a World Youth Assembly for Road Safety. The Assembly will be held on 23-24 April 2007 in Geneva, and will involve delegations of young people from all countries of the world. A number of youth delegates are working to prepare the draft of a “Youth Declaration for Road Safety” which will be adopted during the Assembly. For further information, contact Laura Sminkey at [sminkeyl@who.int](mailto:sminkeyl@who.int) or visit <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/week/en/index.html>



**ROAD SAFETY  
IS NO ACCIDENT**



### Resources

Several resources are currently available for those planning events to mark the First UN Global Road Safety Week. These include the logo and slogan and the toolkit for organizers of events. The

English versions of these may be accessed on the Week's official global web site. Versions in Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian and Spanish will be posted on the web site as they are released. For further information, visit <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/week/en/index.html>

Thousands of Road Safety awareness activities will take place around the world organized by private sector, civil society and government.

**The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of SA will be focusing on the promotion of seatbelt use when traveling with children. Activities and events are planned to take place at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in Cape Town.**

## INTERNATIONAL SAFE SCHOOLS AND COMMUNITIES CONFERENCE *Sedona, Arizona, United States*

Over the last few years there has been an intensifying contact between the Red Cross Children's Hospital, the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa and the International Safe Communities Initiative of the World Health Organisation. This has, among other things, led to the designation of the Nomzamo and Broadlands Park communities as International Designated Safe Communities (only the second of such communities in Africa), as well as the hosting of the 15th International Safe Community Conference in Cape Town on the premises of the University of Cape Town in April 2006.

The Safe Communities initiative is an initiative designed to identify, align and strengthen the existing community resources in order to create a safer environment. Accidents and injuries are the number one killer globally of children between the age of one and eighteen years. As part of the International Safe Community Network, which has existed for more than 2 decades, an initiative arose 8 years ago in the United States, focusing on the Safety at Schools. Since the Red Cross Children's Hospital, in collaboration with Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa had made a written and oral submission to the Human Rights Commission of Southern Africa regarding safety at our schools, we were invited to present this at the 2007 International Safe Schools and Community Conference, held in Sedona.

Professor van As (Head, Red Cross Children's Hospital and Director, Child Accident Prevention Foundation) attended the conference and delivered his plenary keynote speech on school based violence in South Africa.

### Safe Schools Indicators

During the conference a number of indicators and guidelines for safe schools were accepted. It was stated that safe schools in a safe community setting should have:

1. An infrastructure based on partnership and collaboration, governed by a group of teachers, pupils, technical staff and parents, if possible, for safety promotions in schools; the group should be chaired by a School Board Representative, with the Head Teacher as a Co-Chair;
2. Safe schools policies, determined by the School Board and the Community Council in a safe community setting;



3. Long term, sustainable operational programmes covering both genders and all school ages, environments and situations;
4. Programmes that target high risk groups and environments, and ones that promotes safety for members of vulnerable groups;
5. Programmes that document the frequency and causes of injuries – both non-intentional (accidents) and intentional (violence and self-inflicted);
6. Evaluation measures to assist policies, programmes, processes and the affects of change;
7. Ongoing participation in safe schools network – at community, national and international level.

It is envisaged that schools worldwide can become members of the World Health Organisation Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion by adopting these indicators.

### Indicators for Safe Children globally

During the conference, in a number of meetings, the desire arose to establish indicators for safe children, specifically children from low and middle income countries, where 90% of all child injury, morbidity and mortality occur. The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa was asked by a committee to work on these indicators, not only for school going children, but also children from rural areas where no schools are available, as well as for children under the age of six (during preschool age).

This was a wonderful conference, stressing the important role which South Africa can play in creating a safer world for children. South Africa has now become an active participant of this World Health Organisation global initiative. We have also been invited to host the first and “founding” International ISVIP Conference. This will create the possibility of voicing a timely reminder of the importance of safety for children before the Soccer World Cup in 2010. This conference has the potential to be beneficial for all the children of the Red Cross Hospital community, the Western Cape and indeed the rest of South Africa.

**Sebastian van As**

# NEWS REPORTS

## CAR AND ROAD SAFETY

### Baby Left in Baking Car

By Heinz de Boer and Rivonia Naidu

Childcare authorities and medical officials have expressed horror at the near death of a 4-month-old baby, who was left in a searing hot locked car for almost an hour in Durban on Wednesday.

The gasping infant was pulled from the car by her grandfather as police and firefighters were about to break the car window to rescue the baby. The temperature recorded in the car after the door was opened was 41C. Unfazed by his actions, the grandfather, who is a policeman, became abusive and refused to allow paramedics to examine the baby.

It took threats of arrest and confiscation of the child to force the man to hand the dehydrated baby over to medics. Police were called in to intervene when the man tried to drive away with the child clutched in his right arm. The car had been in a no-parking zone outside shops in Prince Edward Street. In October last year, the death of 17-month-old Janosch Wilkinson shocked the country. Janosch was left in his father's car at the University of Cape Town's campus car park.

Some labelled the father irresponsible, while others, like Childline said there should be no "parent bashing in this case". Janosch's father, Dr Andrew Wilkinson was supposed to have taken him to a creche, but apparently forgot he had the sleeping boy in the backseat.

ER 24 paramedic Neil Noble labelled Wednesday's incident as "utterly barbaric". "The grandfather opened the car and took the child out, but refused to allow anybody to assess the child while he returned to the shop to pay for his purchases." Paramedics and police followed him into the shop and only after he was threatened with having the child removed and facing arrest did he reluctantly hand the child over. "The child was extremely hot and very lethargic, indicative of being in an extremely hot environment. Normally children cry when they are uncomfortable, but this poor young thing was so dehydrated that she had no energy to muster a whimper," said Noble.

The incident has been condemned by Childline. Rahial Hoosen, who with a Metro officer discovered the baby lying in the car and was also subject to the grandfather's abusive tirade, said he thought the child would die. He said he saw the car parked in the same spot for more than half an hour. "People didn't know what to do. The baby looked short of breath and was struggling to cry. Her skin was red like a tomato.

"I really thought she would die in the car," Hoosen said. National co-ordinator of Childline Joan van Niekerk, said there was "absolutely no excuse for his behaviour". "Given the circumstances, this man could and should be charged for several reasons including endangering a child's life. He can also be charged under the children's act for refusing appropriate medical attention for the child," said Van Niekerk.

Police spokesperson Superintendent Vincent Mdunge said although the SAPS did not attend to the incident, the grandfather could have faced numerous charges under the act. "It actually amounts to abuse and the probability is that he could have faced attempted murder charges if the child had died," Mdunge said. Superintendent Alec Wright said Metro Police would assist in any child welfare or criminal investigation.

Daily News February 01, 2007

### Couple Charged for Leaving Baby in Hot Car

By Amelia Naidoo

A couple who left a 20-month-old baby locked in the searing heat of their car while they went shopping at Shelly Beach have been charged with child neglect.

Abigail Kinti Ntunja, 42, and her husband, Mandla Sonny, 46, were arrested on Monday and released on a warning after appearing in the Port Shepstone magistrate's court on Tuesday.

The case was adjourned to March 19.

The couple, who are neighbours of the child's parents, had left the child in their car with the windows rolled down about 5cm.

The temperature inside the car rose to a scorching 45°C.

The child was rescued by Port Shepstone police Inspector Leon le Roux after concerned locals reported the matter.

Netcare 911 paramedics gave the child fluids and stabilised her.

The couple seemed unperturbed when they returned 20 minutes later and said that they had not expected to be away for so long.

"We see this offence in a serious light because anything could have happened to the child while there was no supervision," said Superintendent Zandra Hechter.

The Mercury February 21, 2007

### Driver 'did not know toddler was under car'

February 05 2007 at 12:43AM

A one-year-old girl was killed when she was run over by a car at a village near Dutywa, Eastern Cape police said on Sunday.

The incident occurred at the Collywudoble village on Saturday afternoon.

Captain Lingsile Magama said the infant had apparently made her way under the vehicle.

"She made her way under the vehicle, which had been parked in the yard at her house," Magama said.

After a while a 35-year-old man – who was not related to the infant – got into the vehicle.

"He did not notice the child under the car, and rode over her," said Magama.

The little girl died on the way to hospital.

"A case of culpable homicide has been opened," Magama said. – Sapa

IOL

### Dozens of Children Injured as Bus Overtakes

February 22 2007 at 12:10AM

All 117 school children were injured on Wednesday afternoon when an unroadworthy bus they were travelling in overturned on the N2 highway in Pepeni, near Kokstad, Eastern Cape traffic officials said.

"Apparently the brakes of the bus failed and the bus driver lost control of the vehicle and it hit a wall and overturned, injuring the children on board," said Arrive Alive spokesperson Tshepo Machaea.

He said the bus was about to drop off children near the Mount Ayliff area at around 3pm when the incident occurred.

Some of the seriously injured children were still in hospital by 8pm on Wednesday, said Machaea.

He said the unroadworthy bus had been taken off the road three days ago.

The bus driver as well as the owner of the bus were facing charges of negligence and attempted murder.

"Further to the charges, the bus has been impounded," said Machaea. – Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/>

### Baby Seat Saves Toddler in Car Crash

By Miranda Andrew and Mauricio Langa

It took a minute for Caitlyn van der Merw's mother, Jackie, to strap her into the baby seat in her car. And it was that one minute that probably saved the toddler's life.

The Westville mother and her 15-month-old baby girl were travelling along Escombe Road in Pinetown earlier this month when Jackie lost control of her car.

The car hit a lamppost, flew 15m off an embankment, and crashed into a tree. The impact caused the tree to split in two.

Inspector Terence Mhlongo watched in horror as Van der Merwe's vehicle plunged off the embankment.

The policeman rushed to assist and radioed for an ambulance before plucking little Caitlyn out of the baby seat. He was relieved to find that the baby did not even have a scratch on her. Van der Merwe, who was wearing a seat belt, sustained back and leg injuries. Mhlongo assured her that her daughter was safe and that she would soon hold her in her arms again.

Van der Merwe was taken to St Augustine's Hospital where she stayed for a week. Now nearly two weeks later, she is still in a wheelchair.

"I am just thankful that my baby was saved. If anything happened to her I don't know what I'd do – she is my life," Van der Merwe tearfully told the Daily News yesterday. "If we did not have seat belts on, we both would be dead now," she said.

But seat belt safety is not regarded as a priority by parents, according to a recent survey.

The Road Traffic Inspectorate's Colin Govender revealed that over the festive period alone, 4 409 drivers and passengers – including children – were found not wearing seat belts in the province.

"Some parents themselves wear seat belts but do not ensure that their children are protected from serious injuries or even death," Cars member, Robin Emslie, said.

He said of every 10 cars in South Africa, six are occupied by drivers and passengers without seat belts.

Emslie said that children who do not use seat belts become missiles if the driver brakes suddenly or if the car is involved in a collision.

The survey found that it was not uncommon for children to sit on their parents' laps in passenger seats.

He said parents could save themselves a lot of grief by taking one simple safety precaution.

"Ensuring that your child is wearing a seat belt is not only an immediate safety precaution, but it's also an insurance for their lifetime safety in vehicles. They will become so used to wearing a seat belt that it will become a habit with them," Emslie said.

Police and traffic authorities say they have attended many accidents in Durban where children have not been safely strapped with seat belts.

Metro Police report that not wearing a seat belt is so common that at every roadblock they carry out, there is an average of 10 drivers and child passengers found not wearing a seat belt.

This includes children sitting in the front passenger seat or on other people's laps unsecured.



Photo: Jacque Naude, Daily News

Metro police spokesperson, Superintendent Alec Wright said babies and small children need to be strapped into a baby seat.

He said not wearing a seat belt was not only an offence, but also extremely dangerous.

Wright warned that drivers and each passenger 18 years and over found not wearing a seat belt would be fined R500.

**Thankful:** It took a minute for Caitlyn van der Merwe's mother to strap her into the baby seat in her car, and it was that one minute that probably saved the toddlers life.

**Daily News on January 22, 2007**

## DROWNING

### Girl drowns in Pretoria

February 18 2007 at 09:51AM

A four-year-old girl drowned at a townhouse complex in Silver Lakes, Pretoria, on Saturday afternoon, paramedics said.

"There was a fence around the pool and it is believed that a child minder was watching the two children swimming, but when one got out of the pool, the second was missing," said Netcare 911 spokesperson Nick Dollman.

The child was pulled from the water and a doctor in the estate began cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). Paramedics arrived and continued with CPR for about 40 minutes. Several doses of advanced life support medication were administered. Despite these efforts the girl died around 4pm. A trauma councillor was sent to the scene to help the family.

Dollman said it was the fourth drowning Netcare 911 had attended to in the past four days. Most of these victims had been children under the age of 10 and the incidents occurred at unprotected swimming pools.

He reminded parents to be vigilant when their children were near or in water and suggested that child minders be trained in first aid and, ideally, should be able to swim.

Drownings were one of the highest causes of unnatural death amongst children in South Africa. A lack of oxygen to the brain for four minutes could cause permanent and irreversible brain damage, said Dollman. -Sapa

<http://www.iol.co.za/ind>

### Baby Rescued from Jacuzzi

Paramedics resuscitated a baby boy who nearly drowned in a jacuzzi in Florida on the East Rand yesterday, ER24 said.

The boy's mother found him lying face down in the jacuzzi shortly before 10am, ER24 spokesman Werner Vermaak said.

"With the boy's father, they did CPR on him but he did not respond."

The parents then took their son to the Florida fire station to seek help. He was resuscitated and taken to the Garden City clinic for further treatment.

**Source: Cape Argus, 5 March 2007**

## CHOKING

### Toddler Choked to Death

Parents in Alberton are querying whether nursery school teachers have first aid training. A toddler choked to death at tiny bubbles nursery school almost two weeks ago.

Staff members couldn't resuscitate the two-year-old girl and rushed her to hospital, where she was declared dead.

A teacher from another school says several parents asked her this morning if she had taken a first aid course.

The Education Department's Panyaza Lesufi says teachers need to be prepared for any emergency.

**Source: 94.7 Highveld Stereo**

## BURNS

### Kids stranded as crèche burns down



A crèche caught alight in Khayelitsha and was reduced to ashes in broad daylight as the proud principal of the establishment was showing a tourist around.

More than 60 children were left without care after the crèche with mattresses, stoves, fridges, tables, chairs and toys inside – went up in flames at the Masakheni Education Centre in Site C, Khayelitsha, on Saturday.

Yesterday scores of children were turned away and their parents forced to make alternative plans.

The fire is believed to have started accidentally by the principal Gloria Sitshi's four-year-old son Someleze, while playing with a box of matches.

The crèche was built from corrugated iron and wooden frames about two years ago.

Sitshi, who had just arrived from the Eastern Cape on Saturday, said she was showing the crèche to a European tourist who suddenly screamed: "Gloria! Flames!"

Sitshi said "Children like exploring and experimenting.

"I believe that he (her grandson) might have accidentally started the fire in that process (of playing with matches).

"But this has taught me not to allow children to play with flammable objects and I would like to warn other parents not to let their children play with matches and any flammable liquids such as paraffin and benzine."

The crèche was next to Vicky's Bed 'n Breakfast in Kiyane Street.

"We were supposed to have reopened on January 15 but parents called me to start today (yesterday)."

One of the parents, Simphiwe Maphongwana, said he had been forced to leave his five-year-old daughter Ahluma with neighbours.

"It's really difficult leaving your child with new people," Maphongwana said.

Sitshi said she did not know how she was going to rebuild the crèche as the original structure and its contents were donations from foreign tourists visiting Vicky's Bed 'n Breakfast.

**Source: Cape Argus, 9 January 2007.**



# Australia's 'Hidden Dangers' Take Deadly Toll on Tourists

Barbara McMahon in Sydney – Monday February 5, 2007, *Guardian Unlimited*

Australia is one of the most popular holiday destinations in the world, but its beaches, rainforests and deserts take a deadly toll on tourists. According to official statistics, 2,433 overseas visitors, including 25 children, have died in the past seven years with causes of death ranging from drowning to heat stroke and even a jellyfish sting.

The figures released by the Australian bureau of statistics and the national coroners' information system suggest many tourists are taken unawares by the country's harsh natural environment, or die during recreational activities.

In a two-year period between 2003 and 2005, seven people died while scuba diving or snorkelling, two died while hiking, one died while paragliding, another died on a parachute jump, three people lost their lives on fishing expeditions and two people died after games of tennis and golf.

Heat stroke claimed the lives of three tourists while 65 were killed in car crashes and six people died in falls. Another 276 deaths in the same period were attributed to natural causes.

Australia's idyllic beaches, a magnet for sun worshippers, also hold hidden dangers. Among the drowning fatalities in the past seven years, were eight children under the age of 10 on holiday with their families, while another 17 youngsters aged between 10 and 19 were also dead when pulled from the water.

Sean O'Connell, spokesman for one of Sydney's lifeguard organisations, said tourists flock to beaches without realising the dangers and suggested people on inbound flights to Australia should be informed about dangerous sea currents.



Photograph: Ian Mainsbridge/AP  
Bondi Beach – beneath its perfect breaks lie hidden dangers such as rip tides, sharks and jellyfish.

"You could conceivably hop off a plane, go to your backpackers' hostel, hop on the bus and be swimming at Bondi within four hours and there is this terrible rip you wouldn't even know about," he told the Sydney Daily Telegraph. "In some cases the rip appears to be the calmest part of the water."

With at least one tourist dying after a jellyfish sting and others injured by animal bites, visitors are also being warned to admire Australia's wildlife from a safe distance. Ranger Craig Adams of the Australian Reptile Park said crocodiles can hide in 30cm (12") of water and pounce unexpectedly.

"People don't realise a koala will give you a nasty bite or carve you up with its claws," he said. "A wombat can knock you over."

More than five million people visit Australia every year, among them 800,000 British visitors, and most people return home safely, according to tourist officials. In the past two weeks however there have been two shark attacks, and at the weekend hundreds of swimmers on three of Perth's most popular beaches were warned to leave the water after a two-metre long shark was seen near the shore.

In another incident, a 25-year-old man was airlifted to hospital after he swam into a swarm of bluebottle jellyfish. He was treated for multiple stings and released.

In an editorial, the Sydney Morning Telegraph called the tourist fatalities, and those of Australians who have died "the price paid for a country where nature has not been totally cowed by human development".

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/australia/story/0,,2006298,00.html> 11.30am

## Campaign started for more child safety in cars Demonstration with new brake and collision simulator

Stuttgart / Hof in March 2007 – With an innovative brake and collision simulator the ACE Auto Club Europa is campaigning for parents to protect their children better from the consequences of an accident, because more than half of all children over six years of age are only inadequately secured in a car, or even not secured at all. Alarming figures not only for the ACE, but also for the child car seat manufacturer Kiddy in Oberfranken. That's reason enough for concerted action.

Within the framework of a campaign for more child safety in the car the ACE and the brand manufacturer Kiddy are going on a nationwide road tour together. In numerous towns across the country adults and children will receive demonstrations on the protection effect that child restraint systems have during a collision. "At a speed of 30 kilometres per hour (km/h) such a collision, unprotected, could be compared to jumping from a 3 meter board into an empty one meter deep swimming pool", explains Jan Stefan Würstl, owner of the company Kiddy in Hof. "During an accident, children bear the impact of several times their own body weight. This impact can be over a ton (1,000 kg)" states Jan-Stefan Würstl.

ACE and Kiddy also point out that the accident risk of children in road traffic, riding on a bike or travelling in their parent's car is higher than average. The latest accident statistics from 2005 of 5,361 victims illustrate the lowest number of traffic deaths in 50 years. According to statements, for the first time in five years more children lost their lives in road traffic. In Germany a road accident occurs on average every 14 seconds. Every two minutes a car passenger is involved in a road accident. Every 14 minutes a child under the age of 15 years is involved in a road accident. More than half of fatally injured children die as a result of inadequate protection in the car.

The "action for more child safety in the car" originated by ACE and Kiddy incorporates road safety education and practical demonstrations in the following areas:

- Purpose of child restraint systems
- Demo and self awareness of an emergency brake and crash test at different speeds in the simulator
- Braking distance visualisation from 50 km/h speed
- Correct assembly of child restraint systems and error prevention in buckling up (in accordance with regulations)
- Tips on securing loads or what to look out for when purchasing the right toy.

Always present: the test winner of its category kiddy life pro, the only forward facing child seat in the category of side impact protection was awarded a "very good" by Stiftung Warentest in June 2006. The baby seat kiddy maxi pro is also presented, and likewise it has been awarded with the positive result 'good'. This and other kiddy products are available in the specialised trade.

The ACE has been one of the leading motor clubs in the country for over 40 years and belongs to the German Road Safety Council and the German Academy for the Science of Transport.

More info and current tour dates on the road show at [www.ace-online.de](http://www.ace-online.de).

More info on all Kiddy products at [www.kiddy.de](http://www.kiddy.de).

### Press Contact:

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# Certificate Ceremony for Early Childhood Development Educators

Twenty educare teachers, who had received Health and Safety training for Pre-schools conducted during March 2006, were awarded with their certificates. This was the second group of delegates from the initial fifty delegates who received the training in March. The first group received their certificates during November 2006.

Professor Rode, who was the guest speaker during CAPFSA AGM, handed over the certificates to the deserving delegates. The delegates regarded this as an honour and were grateful to CAPFSA for acknowledging their hard work. It was hard work indeed as Nelmarie du Toit stated in her introductory speech, that these delegates worked hard to get their certificates. Some of the ECD (Early Childhood Development) educators had to start from scratch, as there was no Health and Safety plan in place in their facilities. They found it challenging to implement some changes in

the facilities. These individuals persevere, to ensure that children in their care receive health and safety of a suitable standard.

Jasmina Abduraham had this to say to CAPFSA staff on behalf of the ECD group "People like you make this world a better place and that makes obstacles we face in our ECD's more bearable. We are grateful and want you to know that you have made a wonderful difference. On behalf of everyone, including the children and their parents, we would like to say thank you. Your efforts are appreciated".

CAPFSA would like to thank Martha Bestenbier and Mrs. Jenny Clarke for their continued support with the training.

More Health and Safety training courses are planned for this year. For more information please contact the CAPFSA office at tel. 021 685 5208.

**Pumla Nyakaza**



Prof Heinz Rode President of CAPFSA addressing delegates at the AGM and Certificate ceremony



ECD educators at the certificate ceremony



## Help Prevent Accidents

### INVITATION TO BECOME A MEMBER

Three good reasons why you as an individual or parent, school or organisation/company should become a member 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

<b>Regular</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>R60</b>
<b>Bronze</b>	<b>Annual</b>	<b>R500</b>
<b>Silver</b>	<b>2 Years</b>	<b>R5 000</b>

CAPFSA 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 CAPFSA.

- 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  Diamond  Disa
- I would like a years subscription to the "CAPFSA Reporter" 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 – CAPFSA Reporter
- 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 The Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, P.O. Box 791, Rondebosch, 7701 or capfsa@pgwc.gov.za**

#### KOVSSA/CAPFSA BANKING DETAILS

Account holder name: KOVSSA / CAPFSA  
 Type of account: Cheque  
 Bank: Standard Bank  
 Branch: Rondebosch (025-009)  
**Account Number: 270590897**  
 Telephone: (021) 685 5208 Fax: (021) 685 5331  
 E-mail: capfsa@pgwc.gov.za Website: http://www.childsafe.org.za

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

### 4th International Conference on Children's Health and the Environment 10th to 12th June 2007 Vienna, Austria

This conference – the fourth after Amsterdam (1998), Washington (2001) and London (2004) – is initiated by the International Network on Children's Health, Environment and Safety (INCHES) in collaboration with the University for Health Sciences, Medical Informatics and Technology – Department of Public Health, Medical Decision Making and Health Technology Assessment, and the University of Vienna, Institute of Environmental Medicine. It is meant to be a world-wide platform dealing with health problems of children caused by important environmental influences.

The conference will take place from 10th to 12th June 2007 at the premises of the Medical University of Vienna, Austria.

For more information, please go to <http://www.inchesnetwork.net> or send an email to [inches@umit.at](mailto:inches@umit.at)

### 16th International Conference on Safe Communities 11 - 13 June 2007 Tehran

Theme:  
Impact on Safe Communities and Road Safety

[www.safety2007.info](http://www.safety2007.info)

### 9th WORLD CONFERENCE ON INJURY PREVENTION AND SAFETY PROMOTION

The 9th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion is now scheduled and will be held in Merida, Yucatan Mexico from March 15th to 18th, 2008.

The National Organizing Committee for this Conference is pleased to announce the First Call for Abstracts beginning December 1st, 2006. This is a wonderful opportunity to submit your abstract electronically for oral, poster or video presentations for this important Conference.

Conference Webpage: <http://www.safety2008mx.info/> to get the latest information and procedures about abstract submission requirements, format and deadlines, as well as scholarship application guidelines and the important dates for the Conference. The National Organizing Committee will award a number of scholarships for persons working in injury prevention and safety promotion who attend the Conference.


For more information please contact the Conference team at email address: <mailto:safety2008@insp.mx>

### The 19th IUHPE World Conference on Health Promotion and Health Education June 10-15, 2007 Vancouver, BC

Health Promotion Comes of Age:  
*Research, Policy & Practice for the 21st Century*

<http://www.iuhpeconference.org/en/participants/reghome.htm>

SECOND ANNOUNCEMENT AND CALL FOR ABSTRACTS




### EMERGENCY MEDICINE IN THE DEVELOPING WORLD

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> to Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2007  
Pre-conference Workshops: 3<sup>rd</sup> October  
Cape Sun Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

**KEY SPEAKERS**  
**International:** Dr Silvio Aguilera, Argentina; Prof Billy Selve, Papua New Guinea; Prof Elizabeth Molyneux, Malawi; Prof Suresh David, India; Prof Owen Lewis, Nepal; Prof Chris Curry, Australia; Dr Soon Joo Wang, Korea; Dr Fatima Latief, Singapore  
**USA:** Prof Jerome Hoffman; Prof Joe Lex, Dr Anil Mattu; Dr Bob Corder  
**South Africa:** Prof Ken Boffard, Dr Jacques Goosen; Prof Andrew Argent; Prof Andy Nicol; Dr Walter Kloock; Dr Elmin Steyn; Dr Wayne Smith

**SCIENTIFIC CONTENT**  
**There are two key themes to the conference:**  
*Emergency Medicine in developing world settings* – Systems development, Resource allocation, Training of staff, Affordable quality management, Operational standards  
*The practice of Emergency Medicine* – all aspects of emergency medicine will be covered in the scientific and educational plenaries.


**Workshops include:**  
 Ventilation in the ED, Disaster planning, Ultrasound in the ED, Resuscitation, Burns management, Difficult airway management

**CALL FOR ABSTRACTS**  
 Abstracts may now be submitted through the website: [www.emssa2007.co.za/register/](http://www.emssa2007.co.za/register/) or via the contact details below  
 Abstract submission will close on 1 July 2007.

**REGISTRATION**  
 Registration opens 1 March 2007. Details are available on the website or through the conference secretariat.

**CPD**  
 This conference will be CPD accredited

**FURTHER INFORMATION & ENQUIRIES:**  
[www.emssa2007.co.za](http://www.emssa2007.co.za)  
 Belinda Chapman, UCT Conference Management Centre  
 Tel. +27 (0) 21 406 6407 Fax +27 (0) 21 448 6263 Email [belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za](mailto:belinda.chapman@uct.ac.za)



## RAPCAN Launches Healer's Package for Sexually Abused Children

Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), launched a Healer's Package for sexually abused children, in December 2006. This package aims to assist adults to help children that have been sexually abused through a process of healing and recovery.

The Healer's Package contains a set of therapeutic tools, including workbooks for children and guidelines for the adult healer, that provide a roadmap through a process of therapy and restoration. They have been designed to help children in the context of their own environments. It is intended that the package be facilitated by an adult "helper", who may be any person in the family or the community who cares about the child and has the ability to work with children.

The Healer's Package is intended to be a direct response to the fact that very few children in South Africa, who have been sexually

abused, ever receive therapeutic services. Tania Moodley, Manager of RAPCAN's Child Protection and Support Services notes: "Our majority of children never access healing services. The Healer's Package, was developed to bridge this gap in areas where no professional services exist."

The Healer's Package seeks to counter the long term negative effects of child sexual abuse. Shahida Omar, Clinical Manager at Teddy Bear Clinic in Johannesburg has noted, "The long term implications for children who have been abused ... is unresolved conflict, resulting in unmet emotional needs, leaving children powerless and helpless. This results in maladaptive behavioural patterns, which is their way of exercising power and control."

For more information on the Healers Package contact RAPCAN at tel 021 712 2365

**RAPCAN**