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Keeping Children Safe During a Flood

Emergency situations, such as floods, can occur suddenly and when you least expect them. Flood water can pose a danger to children in several ways, so here are some practical tips on keeping children safe during a house flood. If you live near a river or in an area susceptible to flooding, then it's always useful to have a flood emergency plan in place in case flooding does occur. However, often flooding occurs without any prior expectation and when you least expect it, so you need to be able to think on your feet and know how to react to best protect both your family and your property.

When flooding starts, it may seem inconsequential at first, but the situation can worsen very quickly. If you have children, then your key concern should be to keep them safe. As soon as flooding occurs, make sure that children are in an area that is safe and dry. It could be a part of your house, upstairs rather than downstairs or, if feasible, ask for a friend to look after them for you.

It's not recommended that you drive or walk through deep floodwater, so if the area outside looks dangerous, stay put and wait to be rescued. If you're unsure if local authorities know about the situation, then phone the local police and then stay tuned to your

local radio station or TV for the latest news. Wait near an accessible window where emergency services can see you. Ideally, you should aim to turn off your gas, electricity and water and move important documents and personal belongings to an area where they won't get damaged. Before you turn off your electricity, it's worth charging your mobile phone for a short period, so that if utilities do get cut off, you'll have some power left in your phone.

Important Flooding Issues

One of the main issues with floodwater is that it can often be contaminated, so it's important for children to keep away from floodwater as much as possible. Any toys, clothes or belongings that become contaminated with floodwater should be washed thoroughly at 60C (a hot wash) or disinfected before they're used again.

Depending on the severity of the flooding, tap water may become contaminated so, if possible, boil water before use or use bottled water for drinking purposes. If you have disinfectant wipes handy, then these can be great for helping to keep your child's hands clean and reduce the risk of infection. If there's a likelihood of being evacuated, then gather up a small selection of essential items to take with you and ensure all the family have warm clothes on, a warm coat and blankets to keep warm, especially during the winter months. Ensure children

have their favourite toy with them and don't forget supplies of nappies, formula, a spare set of clothes and bottles for babies. Experiencing an emergency flooding situation at home can understandably be really scary. But do try and remain as calm as possible, keep a clear head and remain cheery in the presence of your children. They'll no doubt pick up on any stress and understand that the situation isn't normal but, if you're lucky, by keeping calm they may view the situation as more of an adventure rather than a nightmare.

SOURCE: Safekids.co.uk



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A Member Of



Health and Safety Training for Early Childhood Development Centres

A workshop on early childhood development was facilitated by ChildSafe in collaboration with organisations such as Resources Aimed at the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (RAPCAN), Department of Community Safety-Directorate of Road Safety Management, Department of Social Development: Wynberg and Medical Education Centre(MEC).



This three day intensive workshop held at the Johnson and Johnson Hall, red cross Children's Hospital from the 28 – 30 April 2010, addressed issues related to safety in the crèche, school and home environment, pedestrian safety, burns, poisonings, falls, suffocation, first aid and childhood development. Thirty two participants attended the course, representing crèche principals and their assistants, caregivers and organizations. An evaluation on the



Stepping Creche(hospital crèche) who were part of the programme. and the generous sponsorship by the Hillstar Traffic Department, the celebrity entertainers and Syntell.

SANRAL: R300 PEDESTRIAN SAFETY WORKSHOP

The fourth training workshop of the four pedestrian safety workshops planned for Early Childhood Development Centres (ECD) around the R300 Freeway was held in the Delft-South Library on the 24, 25 & 26 of February. Thirty-eight delegates from eleven different day care/ crèche facilities received the training. This training workshop comprised of principals, teachers and also those who care for young children at home.

Newsletter Bio

Mari came to Cape Town in June 2010 to work as an intern for Childsafe. She is from the United States and attends Lehigh University as an incoming junior.

Mari hopes to study medicine in the USA and is looking forward to using the rewarding experience she gains at Childsafe. She has previously volunteered with American Special Olympics and is a contributing member of society at Lehigh University.

She will be in Cape Town for two months and will be departing South Africa at the end of July. Mari looks forward to contributing to Childsafe and the wonderful activities they accomplish.



Hillstar Traffic Dept:

Easter Parade

On the 26 March 2010 Hillstar Traffic Dept in conjunction with Childsafe, Syntell, Women on Bicycle network and Department of Community: Directorate of Road safety management organised a Road Safety Awareness programme for the hospital staff and patients.

This day was a special initiative of Hillstar traffic Department who wanted to reach out to the communities to showcase that besides issuing tickets to road offenders and enforcing law "THEY CARE AND WANTS TO PREVENT ROAD FATALITIES" before they occur. The parade was lead by a convoy of vehicles with their blue lights and sirens on to announce their arrival.

A special highlight of the day was a special visit of the "Danny Cat" and Easter Bunny mascots to entertain the children. Easter eggs and party packs were handed out to patients and visitors. 100 loaves of bread were donated to senior social workers as well.

A special thanks to the hospital management for giving permission for us to conduct this campaign and to the staff and patients who attended!! We would also like to thank



implementation of the training and promotion of safety in crèches will be conducted after three months. Certificates will be awarded to those crèches and participants who successfully comply with the evaluation.

We would like to thank City of Cape Town: Department of Social development for making funding available which made this training possible.

The course included the following modules: [see attached programme, Annexure 2].

- Growth & Developmental stage related injuries
- Road safety with particular emphasis on pedestrian safety
- General accidents related to ECD
- ECD Fire & Burn prevention (including vehicle related incidents)
- Child Emergency Care (Paediatric First aid with traffic related incidents)
- Child abuse prevention (with emphasis on child supervision in traffic).

Again Childsafe made use of other specialists in the injury prevention field to assist with specific modules in the training course. These trainers were as follows:

- Sylwin Rossouw from City of Cape Town Fire & Rescue Service – ECD Fire & Burn Prevention
- Dr Marion Sinclair from the University of Stellenbosch- Road Safety
- Nokuzola Letselebe from Dept of Community Safety: Directorate of Road Safety Management Road Safety,
- Andre Moore Mayoli from the Medical Emergency Centre - First Aid training,
- Vuyiswa Sidyoli from RAPCAN - Child abuse & neglect.

We thank our funder SANRAL, a member of Global Road Safety Partnership for assisting with funds to run these training workshops. Childsafe would also like to thank all the stakeholders who participated in this training workshop. Without their expertise this training course would not have been successful.

NEWS REPORTS

GENERAL

Domestic Worker tells of her fight to save toddler's life

It is every childminder's worst nightmare. Tozama Rondile walked into a bedroom where 20-month-old Lukas Heider had been playing happily moments earlier to find the boy lifeless beneath a fallen clotheshorse. But the quick-thinking Rondile, a domestic worker who has no formal CPR or emergency training, went on instinct alone and immediately began administering mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to the boy. She then called paramedics who told her how to save his life using heart massage. "I was crying; I took the stand off his throat. His face was grey, his eyes were closed, but not properly, and he wasn't breathing," Rondile said.

The incident, which almost claimed the toddler's life and nearly destroyed Rondile's, took place last Thursday. Rondile had left Lukas in the bedroom to go downstairs to check on the washing and, on her return, she found him in "his last minute". I tried anything; I could see Lukas was going," said Rondile, who has been working for the family for just over a year. In a panic, she called the paramedics, who talked her through the life-saving process until they arrived. A hysterical Rondile then called Lukas's mother Jennifer Heider at work."She only reached me the 11th time because my cellphone was on silent.

Source: Cape Times

CRIME

South Africa: Raped Girl Help Cops Rescue Friend

A young girl, who was abducted, beaten and raped, escaped her attacker and managed to point out the crime scene to police, where they found her eight-year-old friend beaten and tied up. The 12-year-old girl and her friend left their Kosovo home in Samora Machel before 10am on Saturday morning. They crossed the busy R300 highway and made their way to an arcade in Colorado Park, Mitchell's Plain, where they spent the morning playing games.

On their way home at about midday, they apparently bumped into a family acquaintance halfway between the arcade and their homes. The 41-year-old man allegedly led them to the bushes near Westgate Mall, off the busy Weltevreden Road. Police spokesman Warrant Officer Ian Williams the said girl had been beaten and raped. After her ordeal, she managed to run along the busy main road and sat at the traffic lights where she was spotted and picked up by police officers.

Source: Eye witness news

Children for rent in JHB

A joint Eyewitness News/Carte Blanch investigation has revealed that babies and young children are available for rent on the streets of Johannesburg – for as little as R20 a day. Beggars are renting the children in order to earn more from motorists.

Source: Eye Witness News

Girl, 4, shot in neck

A Cape Town girl is fighting for her life after a gangster's stray bullet ripped through her tiny neck. On Monday the family of Chloe Morris, four, were praying for her full recovery after doctors warned that she might not walk again. The Beacon Valley, Mitchells Plain, family say the world Cup means nothing when gangs wage war around them without a thought for the safety of women and children.

Source: IOL

Four-year-old 'shot dead by 10-year-old during playfight'

A four-year-old boy was accidentally shot dead by his 10-year-old friend who allegedly used his father's loaded handgun during a playfight, police have said.

Abraham Mabaso, from Vereeniging, south of Johannesburg, had been brandishing a plastic toy gun during an after school game with his neighbour Edgar Monyela, but police believe the older boy had been holding his father's 9mm pistol and accidentally discharged it. Abraham's mother Sibongile Mabaso, 34, heard the gunshot and rushed to find her son dead on the grass in front garden.

Source: IOL

FIRE

Fire rages through informal settlement

More than 50 informal settlement dwellers have been left homeless after a fire raged through Du Noon.

The fire gutted more than 100 shacks in the settlement in Milnerton in the hours of Sunday morning. One person had been burnt beyond recognition by the services arrived on the scene. Disaster Management's Wilfred Solomons-Johannes said officials are present on the scene." In the fire 520 persons, including 20 infants, were left homeless and Disaster Response teams are currently on site and providing the affected victims with humanitarian aid as well as building materials." He said it is not clear what caused the blaze." The cause of the fire is unknown and the authorities will be investigating the incident."

Source:IOL

ROAD SAFETY

'Bus driver might have fallen asleep'

Survivors of the devastating bus crash outside De Doorns spoke of their desperate attempts to save themselves and passengers as their bus plunged off the N1

Traffic spokesman Xenophone Wentzel confirmed that 23 people, including four children, died in the accident early this morning. Nineteen people died on the scene and four died en route to various hospitals, he said. Nine of the children were helped rushed to Worcester Hospital. Two were immediately transferred to Red Cross Children's Hospital and three to Tygerberg Hospital.

Two more children walked away from the crash almost unscathed.

Thirty-five adults were ferried in a fleet of ambulances to Worcester. Five were in a critical condition, one of whom was later taken to Tygerberg Hospital.

Transport MEC Robin Carlisle said: "There were no brake marks on the road before impact; I went and looked myself. We are investigating the possibility that the driver fell asleep."

Source: IOL

Four kids killed in Jub Jub race crash

JOHANNESBURG – Controversial gospel hip hop artist Jub Jub allegedly wrecked his car while dicing in Soweto last night in a crash that claimed the lives of four school pupils and left three others critically injured.

Bystanders claim that Jub Jub, whose real name is Molemo Maarohanye, driving a Mini Cooper, was racing against another Mini in Protea South, Soweto, when one of the cars slammed into the back of the other.

Both vehicles apparently rolled into a group of approaching pupils from nearby secondary schools, and one of the cars "dragged the little ones through the bushes", said a witness.

A furious mob of community members who witnessed the devastating accident then descended on both drivers and threatened to kill them, forcing police to intervene to save their lives. Both drivers were arrested at the scene by police and The citizen confirmed their identities with the relevant authorities.

"At the time when they were leaving (to go to the police station), people started taking their pictures and said: 'Ah, its Jub Jub!'" Johannesburg Metro police inspector Edna Mamonyane told The citizen last night. Mamonyane could not immediately say whether Jub Jub would be appearing in court today, because she doubted whether the docket would be ready on time.

Source:IOL



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 /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

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

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HELPFUL NUMBERS

- **Anti Human Trafficking Hotline**
08000-RESCU (08000 73728)
- **Childline**
0800 055 555 childlinesa.org.za

- **Molo Songololo**
021 448 5421, molosongololo.com
- **SACMED**
012 393 2002, missingkids.co.za
- **The Guardian**
031 582 7411, the-guardian.co.za

- **The Open Door Crisis Care Centre**
031 709 2679, 082 11 305 (24 hours hotline),
opendoor.org.za

Nanny child safety training

Pumla Mtambeka packed her bags and departed to the Oveberg for a two-day Nanny Training course. The training was requested by Mthimkhulu Village centre for the community of Kleinmond and their surrounding areas. They were very chilly, cold days but it did not prevent the community people to attend the training. We had about sixteen people who attended.

This course focussed on practical ways to prevent different childhood injuries in, and around the home such as: poisoning, drowning, choking, burns, suffocation, passenger safety and other general accidents. Vuyiswa Sidyoli from RAPCAN (Resources Aimed at Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect) also assisted in the training by covering the identification, reporting and preventing child abuse and neglect.

For more information on Childsafe training courses please contact 021 6855208



Feedback from one of our interns: Michelle Eichhorst



The three months I spent in Cape Town were some of the most rewarding of my life! I interned with Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa at the Red Cross Children's Hospital. There, I was able to research children's safety and help conduct community workshops. Not only did this internship fulfill my university requirements, but it gave me valuable real-life experience. My co-workers were welcoming and eager to share all that South Africa had to offer. I also really enjoyed living with other interns from around the world. There was never a dull

moment with all that there was to do in Cape Town!

I was ready for an adventure, which is precisely what I got. The Connect-123 staff were helpful and guided me throughout my time there, ensuring a positive experience. I find that I am eager to share my time with others and enjoy reminiscing with those who were there. I recommend interning in Cape Town for anyone who is outgoing, wants to gain valuable work experience, and eager to meet wonderful new people. I know I will not soon forget my time in South Africa!