



Professor Sebastian van As, National Director

Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of South Africa (CAPFSA), is an organisation for the purpose of educating caregivers on how best to give children a healthy, safe environment.

The global burden of childhood injuries is unequally distributed with Sub-Saharan Africa being the worst affected. The large and growing toll of child injury death, the progressive nature of childhood injuries and the frequently long-lasting effects of injury on children gave rise to the creation of CAPFSA, at the Red Cross Children's Hospital in 1978 by Prof Cywes. It is one of the oldest organizations of its kind in the world. Since July 2008, we are active under the new name and logo of "Childsafe - Keeping kids free from harm".

As a non-profit organisation, Childsafe believes strongly that every child has the right to grow and live safely, and has been the leading force in documenting childhood trauma, and gathering information from trauma patients at the Red Cross Children's Hospital. This trauma database is the largest of its kind in the world, and has allowed our organisation to distribute

information, conduct essential research internationally, participate in advocacy drives, and educate at a more efficient level.

For the past three decades, and more recently, as a member of Safe Kids Worldwide, Childsafe has been recognised, participated in, and highly awarded as an invaluable source of information and experience relating to childhood injuries and prevention. Key partnerships have been created with leading international organisations such as the World Health Organisation.

South Africa is a young democracy, and has one of the most advanced and progressive constitutions worldwide. According to this constitution, children have preferential rights above adults. However, this constitutional right is poorly reflected in reality. From studies conducted by Childsafe, children growing up in Cape Town, for example, have a 25 times greater chance of admission with any type of injury compared to children growing up in Birmingham in the United Kingdom.

However, the local, regional and national government has been slow to develop an interactive plan for the prevention of injuries in South Africa. Nearly all resources go to curative care within hospitals. Very few financial resources are allocated to Prevention and Rehabilitation. It can be convincingly argued that Children's Rights have been, and continue to be, significantly violated because South Africa's most vulnerable little citizens are daily exposed to extremely dangerous environments. In order for Childsafe to intensify its work throughout South Africa, we are embarking on a fundraising drive to plan, build and staff our new Childsafe Safehouse as a training and demonstration centre.

Our vision is to create a demonstration Safehouse that will embody modelled rooms of a typical home or care-giving facility, and will be an integral part of our training and social worker

engagement of our public. The Childsafe demonstration house will offer parents and caregivers the appropriate information they are seeking; face-to-face accident prevention counselling; child safety brochures; and information material or practical training directly in this house. Positive reinforcement of the appropriate safer kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, stairways, garage/workshop and living areas, together with electrical equipment, is planned for installation.

Our training workshops and literature are in high demand, and our aim is to meet this increasing demand in order to further our reach and impact, particularly to the hospital staff, patients and general public. Training courses, Workshops and Annual General Meetings, Seminars, Launches or Functions take place on a monthly and potentially weekly basis. Childsafe has typically utilised outside venues to accommodate these at an additional cost, whilst providing free services to a broad range of our vulnerable public.

We are presently upgrading our Membership Database and would like to invite you to extend your membership for another year and consider a contribution to our Safehouse drive. Please find the membership form below or contact our office for assistance. In this way, we can plan on extending our capacity as well as our offices in the near future.

We are looking forward to an exciting year densely packed with child-safety initiatives.

With kindest regards,

Prof AB van As
President Childsafe South Africa



P2: Summary Report On The R300 Freeway Pedestrian Safety

P3: Childsafe Seminar 2010 Highlights Child Safety

P3: Certification Ceremony For Early Childhood Centres

P7: Child Safety Month Activities In Strand Community

P7: Child Safety Month August 2010: Safer Candle Project



Toy Shopping

December is the month of Christmas trees and presents. Children are excited because they expect to be given new toys. But buying the wrong toy can result in injuries in children. What are the right toys to buy for children of different ages? What do you need to look out for? First, when buying a toy, read the label to ensure that it is appropriate for the child's age. Some guidelines follow.

Children under 3 year's old climb, jump, throw and play rough-and-tumble games. Look for toys that are well-made and sturdy, such as rattles, squeak toys, soft blocks, push and pull toys, hobby-horse, play furniture, or books.

- Children of this age tend to put everything in their mouth (or ear or nose). Avoid toys that are small or that have small components. Do not give children of this age marbles or balls smaller than 4.5 cm (1.75 inch).
- Avoid toys that have sharp edges and points. Avoid toys with strings or cords, which can easily strangle the child.

Children between 4 and 5 years old like to pretend-play and enjoy playing with cuddly toys such as teddy bears and dolls. Art kits and pretend toys (play money, nurses' set, doll's house, trains, and puppets) are popular at this age group. Outdoor toys such as a tricycle (with a helmet) or jungle gyms are also appropriate.

- When buying art supplies such as crayons and paint sets make sure they are designated as no-toxic. US made toys should carry the designation ASTM D-4236, which implies that it has been reviewed by a toxicologist.
- Teach older children to keep their toys away from their younger siblings. A safe play area for your younger child (play pen) will also prevent it getting injured by the toys of its older siblings.

Children between 6 and 12 like to be challenged with complex games that teach specific skills and concepts. They enjoy gifts like arts and craft kits, miniature dolls and action figures, board games, musical instruments or sports equipment

- If you buy a bicycle for a child, make sure you also buy a bicycle helmet

Other toys with hazardous parts are:

- Toys with batteries. Small magnetic batteries may be swallowed and cause obstruction if more than 1 battery is ingested, or

poisoning if they are damaged. Electrical toys are a potential burn hazard. Children under the age of 8 should not use toys with electrical plugs or batteries.

- Toys including chargers or adaptors may cause burns if these are improperly used. Adult supervision is required
- Children's jewellery may contain high levels of lead and several cases of lead poisoning have been reported.
- Ride-on-toys are a common cause of injuries, which may be severe, and children should wear all appropriate safety gear. Children should never ride All-Terrain Vehicles, as they are a frequent cause of serious head injuries and spinal cord injuries
- Toy guns and other projectile toys (darts, air rockets) should not be given to any child, as they can cause serious injuries, especially of the eyes, and on occasion have been lethal. Children who play with toy guns may also have a lower threshold in using a real gun (firearm injuries are a common cause of death due to injury in the adolescent age group!)
- Avoid toys that make loud noises (noise level of 100 decibels or more) as these can cause permanent hearing loss in your child.

When buying toys make sure that the toy has not been recalled. Information about unsafe toys can be obtained from the US Consumer Product Safety Commission's website at www.cpsc.gov/.

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

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 (CAPFSA)

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Summary Report On The R300 Freeway Pedestrian Safety Programme

During 2009 and the first quarter of 2010, Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa, conducted a series of four workshops directed specifically at Early Childhood Development Centers (ECDs) straddling the R300 Freeway in Cape Town.

The first series of four workshops conducted on behalf of SANRAL received very positive feedback from the participants as they were given an opportunity to evaluate how the course was presented, and an opportunity to apply the learning within their own ECD before being evaluated and certified.

A summary of the achievement is as follows:

Date of training	Participants	Crèches reached	Graduates
May 2009	43	27	40
August 2009	35	29	
November 2009	32	21	
February 2010	38	11	70*
TOTALS	148	88	110

*Aug, Nov & Feb combined

Childsafe focused on training ECD caregivers, as the preschool children in their care are largely overlooked in current education efforts, both by our government and private sectors around the country. This is in spite of the high mortality and morbidity statistics related to road and pedestrian accidents.

Childsafe compiles the largest and oldest database on childhood injuries, probably in the world. They are therefore well placed to understand the burden of these preventable incidents and their consequential cost to their loved ones and society. Over 75% of transportation related injuries that present at Red Cross Children's Hospital, are as a result of a pedestrian being hit by a car, and the majority of children as passengers who were not restrained. Unrestrained children present with much more severe injuries and often suffer life-long consequences.

What is unique to Childsafe's approach is that the care-givers trained, are equipped with insights to the child's development stages, and concurrent limitation to their learning or self-help abilities, in addition to receiving general health, safety, recognizing abuse and emergency response tactics.

The last training workshop also comprised a number of unemployed people who care for young children at home. Most appreciated the fact that the training was offered for free for a three-day training course of this standard. Furthermore, the training workshop proved to be highly valuable to all participants, as evident in the debate and engagement. Participants expressed their concerns and frustration about their transportation in Delft, and also came up with solutions on addressing these issues. As facilitators of the workshop Childsafe found our target audience to be very attentive and eager to learn. This assisted the delivery of the course to be very energetic and enthusiastic, and therefore Childsafe achieved their goal to empower the community alongside the R300 Freeway in addressing road safety issues.

The difference between those trained and certified is a factor of 38 individuals.

The reason being that - either the individual was a temporary staff member and had consequently left the ECD, or that they had not applied the learning and therefore may need further training. Childsafe hopes to address the shortfall in two follow-up training sessions along the R300 freeway.

All the training was outcomes based. It was required of delegates to demonstrate understanding of training materials in using the information gained practically in their settings/facilities.

One of the practical ways was to engage them to design safety plans for their crèches, which ensures that their crèches offers safety of a suitable standard. An assessment record form which they had to follow was developed for this purpose. The delegates were not given their certificate at the end of the training so that they had time to complete the tasks, and only on completion of these can their crèches be certified as child safe.

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

childsafE NEWS

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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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Childsafe Seminar 2010 Highlights Child Safety

In South Africa alone, each year, there are over 7000 childhood deaths and countless more injuries that often result in hospitalization and further treatment. These injuries often inhibit the child's ability to learn and progress normally, affecting every aspect of their lives.

In sub-Saharan Africa, these injuries are far more prevalent than anywhere else in the world. Not only is the rate at which childhood injuries occur increasing, but also the lasting effects of such injuries are becoming more severe as well. It is because of this phenomenon that Childsafe, a campaign of the Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa (CAPFSA), promotes Child Safety Month every August.



Dr Venter's presentation was on Road Safety Initiatives in South Africa

On the 25th August 2010, Childsafe hosted a Child Safety Seminar, in celebration of Child Safety Month. This year, Childsafe invited key speakers from the Health Services, Road Safety and Burn prevention lobbies to speak on the key issues that they are facing, and their prevention strategies.

Childsafe and its partners also launched the new "Living Safely" poster for use in burn prevention trainings. It was also an occasion to honour the graduates of the recent Global Road Safety Partnership (GRSP) and South African National Roads Agency Limited's (SANRAL) Road Safety programme along the R300 Freeway in Cape Town.



The hall was fully packed with audiences

Speakers at the Seminar were:

- C.E.O. of Red Cross Children's Hospital: Dr Lungi Linda.
- Head of Red Cross Children's Hospital Trauma Unit and National President of Childsafe: Prof Sebastian Van As
- Emeritus Professor in charge of the Red Cross Children's Hospital Burns Unit: Prof Heinz Rode
- Charles FM Saint Professor, Head of Department of Paediatric Surgery, University of Cape Town: Prof Alistair Millar
- CEO of the Paraffin Safety Association of Southern Africa: Patrick Kulati

- Global Road Safety Partnership ZA Advisor and Coordinator for Africa Region and consultant for SANRAL: Dr Pieter Venter
- Medical second year students of the University of Cape Town: Audrey Sullivan and Jessica Law
- Acting Director of Childsafe: Pumla Mtambeka



The C.E.O. of the Red Cross Children's Hospital, Dr Linda, presentation was on Child safety

More than 120 delegates from different provinces attended the Seminar. The local Power utility; Eskom, Paraffin Safety Association and Childsafe also displayed safety products and messages at the Seminar

Certification Ceremony For Early Childhood Development Educators

Twenty-three Educare Teachers received their Health & Safety certificates during Childsafe's Seminar in August 2010 as a part of the annual Child Safety Month celebrations. The Educare Teachers who received their certificates completed a three-day Pedestrian Safety focussed training conducted in February 2010. The workshops were funded by the South African National Road Agency Limited (SANRAL).

Ms. Imelda Julies represented SANRAL and, together with Pumla Mtambeka of Childsafe, handed the certificates to the deserving candidates. These candidates had to implement the theory that they had learnt during the course by developing a Health & Safety Plan at their various child care facilities where they work.

Childsafe wish to thank our funder SANRAL, a member of Global Road Safety Partnership, for assisting with funds.



Proud graduates of the R300 Freeway Safety Programme



Pumla Mtambeka from Childsafe, Imelda Julies from SANRAL, Teri Kruger, a strategy consultant to Childsafe, and Professor van As (standing), the President of Childsafe.

NEWS REPORTS

GENERAL

Drunk dad forgets 3-year-old in car

Californian police found a three-year-old abandoned in his father's car, 24 hours after the man was arrested for being drunk but failed to mention his son, police said on Monday. Dillon Kurihara was found sleeping peacefully in the vehicle in Pasadena on Sunday night, less than a kilometre from where his 23-year-old father Joe had been detained for being intoxicated and resisting arrest on Saturday night.

"He was found in his car seat, asleep and he appeared to be in good physical condition given the length of his ordeal," spokeswoman Janet Pope Givens of Pasadena police told AFP.

Officers had launched a hunt for the boy after his mother - who attended a wedding at a Masonic Temple on Saturday with the boy and his father - sounded the alert on Sunday morning, saying she didn't know where her son was.

"The mother told us she saw the two leave the Masonic Temple," said the spokeswoman. "We informed her that we had Kurihara in custody since Saturday evening, but her son was not with him when he was arrested."

When they detained him, "officers had no way of knowing that he had been or was supposed to have been with Dillon. Kurihara could not recall being with the child because of his inebriated state", she said.

The father remains in custody pending payment of \$100 000 dollars bail, while the boy is being cared for by the local authority's family service department, pending further investigation, said the spokeswoman.

Source: IOL

Girl fell from five storey flat

A four-year-old Cape Town girl who cheated death after falling five storeys was recovering in hospital today. The child survived falling five floors after slipping off the balcony of her family's Brooklyn apartment at around 5.30pm yesterday.

After tumbling through the air, the girl landed on a relatively soft patch of grass, missing the tar of a parking area by barely 2m.

Paramedics sped to the scene when alerted by the child's distraught relatives and the girl was rushed to hospital for immediate treatment. But, in the end, it was only for a broken arm. She showed no further signs of injury.

Source: IOL

Girl raped, beaten, burnt and hit by car

A nine-year-old girl is fighting for her life in a Cape Town hospital after she was savagely raped, beaten and burnt - and when she managed to break free from her attacker, she fled and was knocked over by a car. She is critical at Tygerberg Hospital. Her attacker thought he left her for dead."

Now, police in Darling are on the hunt for the convicted child rapist who is out on parole.

SOURCE:IOL

Girl strangled trying to jump over gate

A young Cape Town girl died of strangulation after her clothes got snagged on a gate she was climbing over. The five-year-old girl was playing with a group of friends outside her caregiver's house when tragedy struck.

Witnesses say the girl was climbing over a gate at the Wallacedene house when the back of her top got caught. When she tried to jump off the gate, the clothing tightened around her neck and she slowly choked to death. She was too heavy for her tiny friends to lift her.

CRIME

How my son's life was taken

The father of a nine-year-old boy - shot dead in the back of a car when a passenger in a passing car allegedly fired shots at their vehicle - has told the Pretoria High Court of his harrowing ordeal when his child was killed.

Jan Mokoena took the stand on Monday against Transnet security guard Jan Deon van der Walt, 33, and his brother Jacobus van der Walt, 37, both of Kempton Park. The two are facing several charges, including murder following the death of Gift Mokoena on June 2, 2007.

They are also facing five charges of attempted murder following the series of shots allegedly fired at the other five occupants in the vehicle, which included two more children.

"I feel very bad about the death of my son. He was my first-born. He was also very intelligent," Mokoena testified.

Source IOL

'I strangled my son'

A Cape Flats dad has admitted in court that he kidnapped and strangled his own son.

Junaid Desai appeared in the Cape High Court on Monday where he was found guilty of murdering eight-year-old Moegamat Yunis Desai.

The Grade 2 boy disappeared on November 4 last year and two weeks later his decomposing body was discovered under a tree in bushes next to Vanguard Drive near Westgate Mall.

In his plea, Desai said that he killed his son because the boy told him he was miserable and he felt unable to help the child. He said he had gone to fetch his son from school (Merrydale Primary) because he wanted to spend time with him.

Desai said while they were walking, Yunis told him that he was very unhappy about where he was living and, as his father, he said he felt powerless to help his son because he didn't know where to go for help.

Desai said he was overcome with emotion and strangled the child. He said he left his son's body under a tree because he was afraid and went home to wait for cops. Desai didn't explain why he waited for the police. The dad admits he lied to his son's mother, Rene Jonkers, when she asked him if he knew where Yunis was.

But he later made a full confession after he was arrested. Sentencing procedures are expected to start this week.

Source IOL

DROWNING

Child drowns at Muizenburg Beach

Six-year-old drowned at Muizenburg Beach after a freak wave washed him into the canal leading into the ocean. Rescuers retrieved him after a lengthy search and attempted to resuscitate him, but he was later pronounced dead.

Source:IOL

Five-year-old drowns at school

A five-year old boy has drowned at a primary school in Kensington, Western Cape, emergency personnel said. The boy, who was attending a vacation school at the premises, was playing with some friends... when they accidentally kicked a ball over a wall.

He scaled the wall enclosing the pool area to retrieve the ball. Friends and supervisors searched for the boy when he did not return after 10 minutes. Upon investigating the pool area they found the child floating at the deep end of the pool.

Emergency services were called and paramedics began resuscitation efforts on the child. The child was then transported to the Red Cross Children's Hospital where he was pronounced dead on arrival.

ER24

Matriculant drowns after R10 race

A matric pupil has drowned, after an apparent race with friends across a Grabouw dam for R10. Mkhanyisi Ncamubomi, from Umyezo Wama-Apile Combined School in Grabouw, was one of 69 matrics attending a holiday camp at the Kogelberg Farm Hostel to catch up on work missed during the three-week teachers' strike. Community leader Elizabeth Mentile said Ncamubomi and a group of friends had slipped away from classes on Tuesday afternoon.

His friends had decided to race each other from one end of the dam to the other. The pupil who reached the far end first would win R10, Mentile said. "Then they noticed he was experiencing a problem, having difficulty swimming. They thought he was making a joke." When they realised he was drowning, they dived into the dam and tried to grab him, but he "slipped away from their hands".

Residents looked on as a sniffer dog led police divers into the water while others prayed on top of a hill. Police officers could be seen scanning the area as they made their way across the dam on boats with sniffer dogs.

Education MEC Donald Grant commiserated with the bereft family yesterday. He said that pupils had been informed of the drowning on Tuesday and that the Department of Education had arranged for counsellors to debrief the pupils and to assist them with trauma counselling. The incident would be investigated.

Source: IOL

FIRE

Boy electrocuted while fishing

A nine-year-old boy has been electrocuted while fishing in eMagwaveni, a township in oThongathi (Tongaat). Police said the boy was fishing with a friend when he accidentally touched an overhead live electricity wire, illegally connected, running across the stream. He fell into the water. His sister said the boy's death was a great shock to her family. The municipality had set up educational programmes to educate communities about the dangers of illegal connections.

Source: IOL

Mom, baby die in fire tragedy

A mother and her 18-month-old baby boy burnt to death in a shack fire that left at least 40 people destitute in Phola Park informal settlement in Philippi yesterday. Eight shacks were gutted and in each case the house-holds lost all their possessions.

It is believed that Whitney Phillips, 24, and her son Zuko died after a gas stove was left on during the night. Warrant Officer Nondumiso Paul said the police had opened an inquest docket.

She added that, according to information received, the woman had been drinking and fell asleep while cooking.

City of Cape Town fire and rescue services spokesman Theo Layne said they had been called out just before 3am, and when they arrived eight structures were alight. "We had two fire engines, two water tenders and a rescue vehicle on the scene. While we were busy we found the bodies of a woman and child." Layne said it took firefighters over an hour to extinguish the blaze.

Disaster Risk Management spokesman Wilfred Solomons-Johannes said disaster management officials were on the scene to assist with the necessary relief aid. He said at least 60 people had lost their lives in shack fires across the metropole this year and this figure could be higher because there were no statistics for people who died in hospital due to shack fires.

"The city is concerned about the increase in the death rate in informal settlement fires. Between July and December last year only 29 people died according to our records. We are taking the matter very seriously and have embarked on a programme to reduce the number of fire fatalities." Solomons-Johannes appealed to people, particularly those living in informal settlements, to take care when using gas stoves or open fires. "People need to change their behaviour. Under no circumstances can an open fire or gas stove be left unattended."

Weekend Argus

Three people die in CPT shack fires

Three people have been killed in two separate shack fires in the Cape Peninsula on Friday and Monday.

A Site C Khaye;itsha man burned to death on Monday morning when his dwelling caught fire while he was sleeping.

In Manenberg, a father and daughter died in Fire on Friday.

Disaster Management's Wilfred Solomons Johannes said: "Disaster management wishes to encourage that people living in informal settlements put out their candles and open flames because that is normally the cause of these fires"

Source: Eye Witness News

Twins killed in shack fire

Four-year-old twins, who were left in the care of a 12-year-old girl, burnt to death in a shack fire in Onverwacht, Cullinan, Gauteng police said on Sunday.

The three were left alone, allegedly by their 55-year-old grandmother who attended a night vigil in the neighbourhood, spokesman Johannes Jaftha said.

The fire started at 8.30pm on Saturday.

"The 12-year-old girl ran out to seek help and the twins were left in the shack. When she returned with neighbours, it was too late because the twins were trapped inside the shack." The twins, a boy and girl, burned to death. The 12-year-old was taken to the Pretoria Academic Hospital with serious burn wounds. The cause of the fire was unknown.

"Police are investigating a case of arson. We are also looking at the possibility that the children's grandmother be charged."

Source:IOL

Woman and child burn to death

A woman and her child burnt to death in a ripping shack fire at an informal settlement in Denver south of Johannesburg, on Saturday, the city emergency service.

Spokesman Percy Morokane said a man allegedly set his shack on fire after he had an argument with his wife just after midnight. The wife and two children were inside. The body of the wife and one child burnt beyond recognition," he said.

The second child was unaccounted for. "Forensic investigators are at the scene to determine whether the child burnt or survived the fire."

The man ran away after he had torched the shack.

Seventy shacks were destroyed and over a hundred people were displaced as result of the fire. Morokane said the disaster management team would be at informal settlement to provide relief and assess the situation.

Source: IOL

FALLS

Daycare not registered: De Lille

The Pinelands daycare centre where a five-month-old baby died last week was found to be unregistered because of a two-year paperwork bungle by officials.

It is suspected that Ava Rose Barley fell off a bed at Auntie Dawn's Daycare and Playgroup, leading to her death, on Thursday.

Social Development MEC Patricia de Lille ordered a departmental investigation into whether the centre was registered.

She said on Monday that the findings had shown the centre had been unregistered. "The owner applied in January 2008 for the registration of the facility. This application was received by the Department of Social Development, which also sent an acknowledgement letter to the owner."

The owner of the facility cared for fewer than six children, but indicated on the application form that she wished to be registered to take care of 18 to 20 children.

The Social Development Department then failed to follow up on whether the letter had been received by the environmental health officer, De Lille said.

“This means that for over two years the situation with this daycare centre has remained unchanged.

“The owner has apparently stated that she saw the letter of acknowledgment for her application for registration as a confirmation of registration.”

De Lille said another solution would be to make it mandatory for facility owners to place a certified copy of their certificate on their website, or even physically on a wall in their premises. She said a list would be published of all registered facilities and those that had applied but were still in the process of applying.

“I would also like to call on parents to work with us by asking to see the facility’s registration certificate before you enrol your child. “Accidents can happen, whether a place is registered or not.

“But a parent will have greater peace of mind if a facility is registered, because then at least you know it complies with certain norms and standards,” De Lille said.

She said it was “deeply regrettable” the facility had not been registered despite the process starting in 2008.

- Cape Times

Fall from bed kills baby at creche

A five-month-old girl died after allegedly falling from a bed at a Pinelands creche.

Pinelands police spokeswoman Warrant Officer Tando Sonjica said the baby’s caregiver had allegedly left her asleep on a bed and gone to fetch a bottle.

“When she returned the little girl was on the floor and was not breathing,” said Sonjica. She said the police were called and arrived at about 11.50am on Thursday.

Police on Friday morning declined to name the child, but Sonjica said on Thursday night an inquest docket had been opened and police were investigating.

Lauren Copley, spokeswoman for Netcare 911, said that when paramedics arrived the baby did not have a pulse and was not breathing.

They tried to resuscitate her for more than 30 minutes before she was pronounced dead. On Friday night the Cape Argus visited the creche and spoke to the owner, who denied

that the incident had occurred there. She invited the Cape Argus team into her lounge, where she told them she had heard of the incident but knew nothing more.

In response to being told that police had confirmed her address as the one where the incident took place, she said: “They got it wrong. It definitely did not happen here.”

Cape Argus

Toddler survives five-storey fall

A four-year-old girl survived a five-storey fall from an apartment building in Brooklyn, Cape Town, on Monday, Western Cape paramedics said. She sustained only a fractured arm, Netcare 911 spokesperson Lauren Copley said. It was believed the child slipped off the balcony. “What made the girl’s ordeal remarkable, is that she was lucky to fall onto a small area of lawn in front of the apartment, instead of onto the large paved section surrounding it.” She was stabilised on the scene before being taken by ambulance to the Red Cross Children’s hospital.

Source: IOL

ROAD ACCIDENTS

Three killed, 2 injured in NW accidents

Three people were killed and two injured in separate accidents in the North West province, department of public safety has reported. A man was killed when two bakkies crashed between Koster and Rustenburg. He was apparently trying to avoid a bakkie that was on two lanes due to suspected drunken driving. The driver and passenger from the other bakkie sustained critical injuries in the collision.” In another accident two people were killed on the N14 between Vryburg and Kuruman on Friday.

A Toyota was allegedly side swept by a Volkswagen that was overtaking. The Toyota hit a truck which it was following. The truck reportedly dragged the Toyota for a couple of metres before it got detached and rolled several times. The driver of the Toyota was thrown out of the vehicle and the woman remained in the car. They both died on the scene. Police are investigating three cases of culpable homicide, suspected drunken driving and reckless driving.

Source: IOL

13 die in N1 horror smash

The notorious N1 death stretch near Laingsburg in the Karoo claimed another 13 lives in the second fatal accident in a month. Police suspect that a burst tyre may have been responsible for the head-on collision between two minibus taxis. Both drivers died in the smash. Eleven passengers died at the scene, a 12th en route to Tygerberg Hospital and the 13th while being transferred from Laingsburg

to Worcester Hospital. Seven passengers were seriously injured and 26 slightly injured.

Three children, aged one, four and eight, were transferred to the Red Cross Children’s Hospital in Cape Town in serious condition while the rest of the injured were taken to Tygerberg and Worcester hospitals.

In a separate accident on the N1, a man died and six people were injured in a crash near the Monte Vista. It is believed a car and a bakkie collided in the outgoing lanes.

Almost a month ago 23 people died when a taxi bound for Malawi crashed head-on with a truck on the N1 between Laingsburg and Beaufort West.

Source: IOL

Toddler killed by truck

A four-year-old girl was run over by a truck and killed when she apparently jumped into a road in Vereeniging on Friday morning, Gauteng emergency services said.

ER24’s Vanessa Jackson said the child was with her grandmother at the time.

The child was in a pram and, according to the grandmother, they were waiting at the intersection of De Villiers and Van Riebeeck Boulevard to cross the road. According to the grandmother, the child suddenly leapt out of the pram and into the road. She was struck by a passing truck and died at the scene.

The grandmother was in shock and taken to hospital for observation. Counsellors were called out to speak to family members who had arrived at the scene. - Sapa Source IOL

Truck lost control on slippery, wet road

Traffic coming from the west on Randfontein Road had to be diverted down C R Swart Road after a three-car collision between a truck, a taxi and a Toyota Tazz.

Police believe the truck, coming down a steep slope, lost control on the slippery, wet road and slammed into the back of the taxi, which crashed into the Tazz in front of it.

Both drivers of the truck and the Tazz escaped the scene unscathed, but at least five of the ten passengers in the taxi were left with serious injuries.

Another young man lay on his side in the mud, his face contorting with pain at the slightest movement of his leg. As news came in that there were no extra ambulances available, the Netcare 911 and ER24 paramedics made a make-shift head brace from a blanket for a woman with a deep, bloodied gash down the back of her head.

All the while, the radio buzzed loudly in the background as reports of more accidents flooded in. Source: IOL

Child Safety Month Activities in Strand Community

The MRC-UNISA Safety and Peace Promotion Research Unit (now SAPPRU, formerly known as the Crime, Violence and Injury Lead Programme, CVI), Childsafe, and other stakeholders hosted a number of campaigns in recognition of the National Child Safety Month in August 2010. Together with various other stakeholders in the child safety sector, they targeted children 14 years and younger together with their parents and caregivers between August 3rd to September 9th, 2010.

These campaigns took place at Nomzamo and Broadlands Park in Strand, in the Western Cape Province. Both are designated WHO Safe Communities. The campaigns were conducted at four schools namely; A.C.J Phakade, Dr. G.J Joubert, Silukhanyo, and Rusthof Primary Schools over a series of three weeks focusing on a different theme per week. The themes were burns prevention, crime and violence prevention, and road safety for children.

The fourth week was a Parents’ Session and concentrated on the parents focused on parental child supervision and child developmental milestones and was targeted at adults. A total of 13 campaigns were conducted which reached a total of 5471 learners and approximately 400 adults of Broadlands Park. The campaign aimed to:

- Highlight the various child injury risk factors in the home, school and community environment;
- Promote an integrated approach to children’s safety and strengthen the working alliance between the community and different stakeholders;
- Educate children on injury prevention and safety promotion measures and;
- Emphasize the importance of child supervision to parents and caregivers by giving them insight into children’s abilities and limitations according to their developmental stages.

Radio Interview On Safer Candle Use

Childsafe partnered with Paraffin Safety Association on information awareness programmes, aiming at making the public aware about keeping themselves safe during the World Cup. Pumla Mtambeka from Childsafe joined Phumzile Nteyi of Paraffin Safety Association, who had given a series of media interviews from the beginning of June, as part of Paraffin Safety Association’s “Be Safe This Winter” campaign.

On 6 July Pumla gave a radio interview on using candles safely, with one of the fastest growing community radio stations in the Western Cape, Radio Zibonele.



Two volunteers from San Francisco, USA who assisted with Candle Project from left Shelley Melick with Childsafe members, Sandra, Yumna, Pumla and Dorothy in the middle and right Samantha Berger

Child Safety Month August 2010: Safer Candle Project

Six demonstrations of Safer Candle use were held in the crowded waiting areas of Out Patient’s Department RXH throughout August. Three hundred and seven (307) jar units and additional illustrated leaflets were distributed. As before, the response of the audience of mothers and carers indicated the need for a safer candleholder. Queenstown, in the Eastern Cape, was added to our distribution map.

Valuable assistance was given to prepare jar units by student volunteers from Friends RXH. Samantha Berger and Shelly Melick from San Francisco, USA, and Michael van Gerow from Bavaria, Germany were particularly enthusiastic workers. Samantha made a video of a demonstration, and it is now available on our website for all to see.

We also prepared 300 jar units for MRC’s Nomzamo Project.

Twenty three children and adults died in fires caused by six fallen candles in Manenberg and Khayelitsha, between July and September. This sad news has increased our resolve to continue Safer Candle Project outreach opportunities, and convey the message that a Safer Candle is essential for all homes.

