

## S A F E T Y N O T E S

April 2013

### Our Kids: Our Business



It's April and that means colorful pinwheels popping up among the spring flowers throughout Spokane! These pinwheels symbolize the gift of each child in our community. Since 2007, the "Our Kids, Our Business" campaign has alerted Spokane to the ways we can positively encourage and nurture children and families. The campaign occurs in April, the month associated for the past 30 years with recognizing the painful impact associated with child abuse and neglect.

The Spokane "OKOB" message includes more than statistics: it asks every adult in the community to participate in a "Call to Action" that will help prevent future losses. Each adult is asked to make a positive difference in the life of a young person, starting this April.

Apartment communities have unique opportunities to help kids on their home turf, especially when parents are an active part of the equation. It can be as simple as assuring that an adult helps with supervising after-school activities or a "No Bullies Allowed" awareness-raising activity with appropriate posters posted in a hallway or laundry room. A sign recently spotted in a local school says "THINK before you speak! Is it Irue? Helpful? Inspiring? Necessary? Kind?

Kids need safe places for play such as space for basketball and badminton or smooth surfaces for wheels or exercise. Families need opportunities to interact in constructive activities that include everyone. Perhaps this is "easier said than done", but one antidote to abuse and neglect involves the adult community committing to creating healthier and happier options for kids. Some Spokane neighborhoods are working together this spring to plant community gardens. Others are involved in the annual clean-up of a nearby park, a portion of the Spokane River bank or their own complex. In each of these activities, kids and parents have the chance to participate in something constructive and of service to others.

Here are a few ways to encourage your tenants to participate with Spokane Fire Department and more than 35 agencies throughout the community to honor the gift of childhood and help prevent abuse or neglect of any kind:

- Help with homework or sports.
- Volunteer to mentor a child for an hour each week at your neighborhood school.
- Recognize basic signs of a depressed youngster and contact Sabrina Votava at (509) 475-7334 or [Sabrina@yspp.org](mailto:Sabrina@yspp.org) for a free training for your staff or parents with the Youth Suicide Prevention Program.
- Give an overwhelmed parent a little break by watching their child play outside for bit.
- Teach some kids how to brighten up the neighborhood by planting flowers or removing some weeds.
- Buy extra Girl Scout cookies to help send a girl to camp!



## Safety Saturday: Helmets and Car Seats

Families can get free bicycle helmets to help protect their children’s brains on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> at the Interstate Fairgrounds, Building A, between 9:00 AM and 2:00 PM. These helmets, provided as a service through local Kiwanis Clubs for children between 3 and 16 years old, can be decorated by the individual on site. Quantities are limited and on a “first come, first served” basis. Children must be accompanied by an adult and fitted with the helmet on site.

Everyone should also be aware of the bicycle helmet ordinance in the City of Spokane that applies to children and adults. Failure to wear a helmet can earn an \$81 fine. The main point: hospitals across the U.S. treat an average of 1,000 injuries sustained in bicycle crashes each day!

While attending the “Paint-a-Helmet” event on April 13, families can also have their child passenger seats checked by certified safety technicians from the SAFE KIDS Spokane Child Passenger Safety Team. The team will also be at the Spokane Interstate Fairgrounds between 10 AM and 2 PM to make sure the child’s car seat is correctly installed, the seat has not been recalled

for any manufacturing defect, and the seat is the proper fit for the size and age of the child.

Spokane Fire Department firefighters and paramedics do not want to be called to crash scenes where injuries are more severe due to the simple lack of a helmet or an incorrectly fitted child passenger seat!

## LED Light Bulb Recall

A total of 554,000 LED light bulbs produced by Lighting Science Group were recalled in March because they can overheat, causing increased fire risk. To date, product failure has been minimal with damage to light sockets, melted fixtures, burned carpeting and flooring and damage to circuits. The bulbs cost between \$13 and \$20 and were sold through hardware, lighting and electrical supply stores between 2010 and March 18, 2013. Check [www.lsgc.com/recall](http://www.lsgc.com/recall) to learn how to identify the affected bulb models.



Par 20 at approx. \$15



G25 at approx. \$20



A19 at approx. \$13

You can sign up for this monthly newsletter, ask a fire-related question or suggest a specific safety topic by contacting Jan Doherty at [jdoherty@spokanefire.org](mailto:jdoherty@spokanefire.org) or by calling (509) 625-7058.



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