

Fall 2012



Maryland State Child Fatality Review Team (SCFRT)



Maryland SCFRT Newsletter

Motor Vehicle Crashes & Children

Motor vehicle crashes are the leading cause of death for children ages 5 to 19 years, and anyone who rides unrestrained in a vehicle is far more likely to be killed or injured in a crash than one who is buckled up. Unfortunately, preteens are less likely to be buckled up than younger children and adults, and they often have other behaviors that increase their risk, such as distracting the driver, sitting in unsafe positions, and riding with unsafe drivers.

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Maryland Pilots New Youth Occupant Protection Program: Teaching 'Tweens' to be Safer Car Occupants

(submitted by Susanne Ogaitis-Jones, CPS Healthcare Project Coordinator)

The Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services System (MIEMSS) is seeking to address the problem of unrestrained children in motor vehicles with an innovative program now being piloted in Maryland communities. The Defensive Driver/Protective Passenger Program involves nurses educating youth ages 10 to 15 years to ride more safely in vehicles. The program builds on youths' interest in becoming drivers in the near-future, and uses a variety of educational techniques including: discussion, hands-on practice, audio-visuals, role plays, games, and pledging. Parents' participation is a key component of the safe driving pledge, which uses the Safe Kids Worldwide program, "Countdown2Drive." More training sessions are planned to teach the pilot program to nurses throughout our state, and the training and curriculum will be made available to other safety educators in the future.

For more information:

contact sogaitisjones@miemss.org.



Keep Your Baby Safe Campaign - Updated Resources

Recent recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics state that blankets should not be used with infants for sleep and that 'room sharing' is safer than 'bed sharing' with an infant. The Center for Infant & Child Loss has updated its safe sleep/risk reduction materials. Components of *Safe Campaign* include brochures, posters and jar openers. These are distributed to hospitals, county health departments, family support centers, high schools and the community-at-large. To request materials, contact Jean Edwards, 410-706-0200. Materials are free.



Military Parent Support Program

Military families today face special challenges. Spouses and children are especially impacted by the stress of parents on long deployments. A New Parent Support Program was established by Federal law to help build strong healthy military families. The New Parent Support Program is a professional team of registered nurses and social workers who provide support-



ive and educational services to military families with young children.

Trained home visitors have extensive knowledge of the challenges of today's parents, as well as being sensitive to the unique challenges facing military families. This is a voluntary participation program which includes home visits, support groups, and parenting classes. Army families and other military families expecting a child or with children from birth to three years of age are eligible to participate free of charge in all the services offered. Army Community Service New Parent Support Program. For info: 310- 677-5590.

On behalf of Maryland children, THANK YOU for your continued support & dedication to this important work. Have a safe & healthy holiday season!



MD State Child Fatality Review Team ANNUAL MEETING

Wednesday, November 28, 2012

Howard Co. Dept. of Fire & Rescue

James N. Robey Public Safety Training

Center



Registration:



9:15 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.

Meeting 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

Presentations, Discussions, Networking



Mark Your Calendars

SCFRT meetings in 2013

March 6, 2013

May 15, 2013



National Child Death Database: Entry - Points to Consider:



1. All **Office of Chief Medical Examiner (OCME) - Referred** child deaths cases must be reviewed by local teams and entered into the database.
2. New child death cases may be entered in the database with initial data while awaiting final reports.
3. Accurately enter the child's county of residence.
4. Indicate the case as **Complete** when data entry is finished.

Questions: Contact Joan Patterson jpatterson@dhmh.state.md.us

Does your county have a Smoke Alarm Distribution Program?

In Baltimore City, residents can call 311 to get a free smoke alarm for their homes. Fire Department Staff responds to requests within 2 hours and actually installs the smoke alarm. Included is a new lithium 10 year battery.



If you have news to share, please contact the newsletter editor Laurel Moody at lmoody@stevenson.edu

Visit Our State Child Fatality Review website:

http://fha.maryland.gov/mch/cfr_home.cfm

For more information contact Joan Patterson

(410) 767-6727

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