

Spring Safety



True Story

A two-year-old boy was playing in a room in a third-floor apartment. His mother heard the window blinds move and discovered that the child had fallen through an open screened window. The bottom of the window was eight inches above the floor. The boy died of multiple blunt force injuries.

-From the files of MECAP
(Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)

The Facts

- On average about 220,000 people make emergency room visits due to ladder mishaps each year.
- More than 87,000 people are treated annually in hospital emergency rooms for lawn mower injuries—casualties of burns, dismemberment, electric shock, falls and thrown objects.
- Another 76,000 people sustain injuries from power garden tools such as trimmers, lawn edgers and pruners.
- An average of 66 people are killed each year by lightening.

What You Can Do

- While Spring cleaning, make sure household chemicals, paint, gasoline and other cleaning fluids are stored in properly marked containers and stored in a locked cabinet out of children's reach.
- Check your barbecue grill for leaks and cracks. Make sure your propane canister is stored, used and transported in an upright position.
- Check the areas around your furnace, hot water tank, fireplace, space heater and dryer and remove any stored papers, magazines or other combustibles.
- When working in the lawn or garden, always read and follow instructions for lawn equipment. Check your lawn and work areas for rocks, nails and broken glass. Keep children at a safe distance. Wear protective gear such as gloves, ear and eye protection and proper shoes.
- Springtime is also severe weather time. Remember: When thunder roars, go indoors.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.
and the Canadian Red Cross



Led By

**BLANK CHILDREN'S
HOSPITAL**
IOWA HEALTH SYSTEM

Safe Kids Greater Des Moines, led by Blank Children's Hospital, is a grassroots organization dedicated to preventing unintentional injury in children ages 0-14.

For more information call (515) 241-6293 or visit www.dsmsafekids.org.

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