



Keeping Children & Young People Safe from Injury in B&NES

Welcome to our 7th edition!

It is vital that our current focus is on protecting children, young people families and ourselves from Coronavirus by following the latest Government advice and guidance.

During the Autumn and Winter months there are many hazards facing children and young people and we wanted to remind you about some of these along with advice from Trading Standards you can share with families.

Advice from Trading Standards

• Hand Sanitiser

Hand Sanitiser has become essential during the COVID-19 pandemic but sadly some have chosen to use this as an opportunity to defraud the public. B&NES Trading Standards have seized fake sanitiser locally. The sub-standard products are supposed to help protect people from coronavirus but the main issue is that it might not have sufficient (if any) ethanol alcohol (or equivalent) to be effective against the virus.

Trading Standards Advice to consumers is to

- Only buy from legitimate suppliers and read the label
- Do not purchase homemade or unlabeled sanitisers
- Report the sale of suspect sanitisers to Trading Standards on 0808 223 1133

• Nitrous Oxide

B&NES Trading Standards have received complaints about local people consuming nitrous oxide; a colourless gas that's most commonly found in pressurised metal canisters that people inhale, usually via a balloon. Nitrous Oxide is used as pain relief during medical procedures such as dental work and can also be legally bought for use in whipped cream dispensers.

Although the gas was previously a 'legal high', it is **now illegal to supply or import Nitrous Oxide for personal use**. Nitrous Oxide can cause dizziness and affect the taker's judgement. This can put people at risk of hurting themselves. The dangers are from asphyxiation due to not enough oxygen; or dizziness causing risk to falling and associated injury.

The council's Trading Standards team is working with the police and residents to tackle retail outlets that sell gas to people who misuse it. The street cleaning teams are picking up discarded canisters from estates, parks and streets and are working with residents to clean up specific areas.

If you have any concerns please contact Trading Standards on 0800 223 1133

Autumn & Winter Top Safety Tips

Bonfire Night

With organised Bonfire Night displays not going ahead this year due to COVID-19 restrictions, we expect to see a rise in people setting off fire works at home. Over half of the injuries sustained around 5th November every year are those under the age of 15. The most common injuries are to the hands, wrists and eyes and most of these are caused by sparklers:

Please share these tips with families:

- Don't give sparklers to children under five years of age, as they may not understand the dangers
- Always supervise children with sparklers and teach them to hold the sparkler at arms length
- Keep a container of water nearby, large enough and deep enough to put sparklers in after use

The following advice can help to keep families that are planning on having a bonfire or firework display at home safe:

- Build your bonfire well clear of buildings, garden sheds, fences and hedges
- Never use flammable liquids to start a bonfire and never burn dangerous items such as aerosol cans, paint tins, foam furniture or batteries. This could produce toxic fumes and some containers may explode, causing injury.
- Keep children away from the bonfire once it's lit
- Don't leave bonfires unattended. An adult should supervise it until it has burnt out. If it has to be left, damp it down with plenty of water.
- Only buy fireworks with a CE mark. It is no longer legal for retailers to sell fireworks marked BS 7114.

At this time of year, we also see an increased usage of candles and indoor/outdoor lightening. Please remember to:

- Never place candles near materials that can catch light easily (such as cards, decorations and furniture) or **leave burning candles unattended.**
- Keep candles, lighters and matches **out of children's reach**



Further information on the safe use of fireworks can be found on the ROSPA website: www.saferfireworks.com

Fire Safety:

Knowing what to do in the case of an emergency can make a huge difference to the outcome. If clothes are on fire:

- **Stop**
- **Drop**—on to the floor
- **Roll** - on the ground to put it out

This will help put out the flames, then commence the 3 C's of first aid:

1. **Cool:** cool the burn in cold running water for 20 minutes, remove clothing and jewellery if possible
2. **Call:** call 999, 111 or your GP for advice
3. **Cover:** cover the burn wound with non-fluffy dressing or cloth, clingfilm is ideal

Be Bright Be Seen

As the morning and nights get darker and the cold weather affects road conditions, the Road Safety Team are reminding pedestrians and cyclists to take extra care when out and about near roads.

They are encouraging all road users to:

- Wear brightly coloured or fluorescent clothing and reflective materials as they show up well in daylight and 'GLOW' in the dark when lights shine onto them.
- Choose a well lit route with safe places to cross
- Ensure bikes have a light on both the front and back and helmets are worn.

Button Batteries

Button batteries, in particular big, powerful lithium coin cell batteries, pose a big risk to children and can badly hurt or even cause death in a small child if they are swallowed or if a battery gets stuck in their food pipe.

Here are our top tips for keeping children safe:

- Take care when buying toys from markets, discount stores or temporary shops as they may not conform to safety regulations. Similarly, toys bought online or from overseas may also not meet UK safety standards.
- Look round your home for lithium coin cell batteries - in products as well as spare and 'flat' batteries.
- Keep products well out of children's reach if the battery compartment isn't secured.
- Store spare button batteries in a sealed container in a high cupboard.
- Remember that 'flat' or 'dead' batteries still hold enough power to badly hurt a child. So put them out of children's reach straight away and recycle them safely and as quickly as possible.
- If you think your child has swallowed a button battery, take them to A&E straight away or call 999 for an ambulance. Don't let them eat or drink and don't make them sick.



We hope you find this newsletter useful and if you require any further information please do get in touch with B&NES Injury Prevention Partnership via:

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