

# Safe Kids Coalition Marinette County

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## DID YOU KNOW:

- There are approximately 230 fires related to Christmas trees every year.
- 76% of children seen in ERs for ice skating injuries report not wearing any protective equipment.
- 4 out of 5 car seats are install improperly.

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## About Our Coalition

Safe Kids Marinette County is a coalition that was recently established in August 2014. The goal of this coalition is to prevent injuries in children 19 years and younger.

Several members of the community have come together to join this coalition. Some of the agencies involved so far include: Marinette County Health & Human Services,

NWTC, Bay Area Medical Center, UW Extension, Marinette Fire Department, Marinette Police Department, and Marinette County Sheriff's Department



Our 3 main areas of focus for this coalition are: car safety, sports safety, and fire safety.

We are looking for more community members to join our coalition! For more information, please contact us at Marinette County Public Health at 715-732-7670.

## Safe Kids Worldwide

Safe Kids Worldwide is a global organization dedicated to preventing injuries in children, the number one killer of kids in the United States. Around the world, a child dies from an unintentional injury every 30 seconds and millions of children are injured in ways that can affect them for a lifetime.

When a child dies or is seriously injured, the lives

of families and entire communities are changed forever. But these tragedies don't have to happen. The important thing to remember about preventable injuries is that they are preventable. They often occur in predictable ways and can be completely avoided with the right education, awareness and planning.

Safe Kids works with an extensive network of more than 500 coalitions in the United States and partners with organizations in 25 countries around the world to reduce injuries from motor vehicles, sports, drownings, falls, burns, poisonings and more.

To learn more about Safe Kids Worldwide, go to [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org)



# Put a Freeze on Winter Fires



Heating equipment is a leading cause of home fire deaths. Half of home heating equipment fires are reported during the months of December, January, and February. Some simple steps can prevent most heating-related fires from happening.

- Keep anything that can burn at least three feet away from heating equipment, like the furnace, fireplace, wood stove, or portable space heater.
- Have a three-foot “kid-free zone” around open fires and space heaters.
- Never use your oven to heat your home.
- Have a qualified professional install stationary space heating equipment, water heaters or central heating equipment according to the local codes and manufacturer’s instructions.
- Have heating equipment and chimneys cleaned and inspected every year by a qualified professional.
- Remember to turn portable heaters off when leaving the room or going to bed.

- Always use the right kind of fuel, specified by the manufacturer, for fuel burning space heaters.

- Make sure the fireplace has a sturdy screen to stop sparks from flying into the room. Ashes should be cool before putting them in a metal container. Keep the container a safe distance away from your home.

- Test smoke alarms monthly.

([www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org))



*Put your cell phone in your glove box until you reach your destination or need it for an emergency*



# Winter Driving Tips

We all know how hazardous winter driving can be in Wisconsin. Review these tips with the young drivers in your family.

- Clear snow and ice from all windows, lights, hood, and even the roof before driving.
- Pay attention and don't try to out-drive the conditions.
- Leave plenty of room for stopping.
- Leave room for maintenance vehicles and plows. on the right.
- Know the current road conditions or call 511.
- Use brakes early, carefully, and correctly.
- Watch for slippery bridge decks, even when the rest of the pavement is in good condition.
- Don't use your cruise control in wintry conditions.
- Don't get overconfident in your 4x4 vehicle.
- Do not pump anti-lock brakes.
- Look farther ahead in traffic than you normally do.
- Remember that trucks take longer to come to a complete stop.
- Go slow!

([www.dot.wisconsin.gov](http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov))



## Ice Skating Safety

Ice skating is a fun winter activity, and also a great exercise! Here are some tips from the National Safety Council to help you and your family enjoy safe skating.

- Wear skates that fit comfortably and provide enough ankle support to keep you on your feet.

- Have the blades professionally sharpened at the beginning of each season.
- Skate only on special prepared skating areas where you are sure the ice is strong enough to withstand your weight.
- Always check for cracks, holes and other debris.
- Before setting out on your skating expedition, learn

basic skating skills, such as how to stop and fall safely.

- Wear warm clothing and rest when you become tired or cold.
- Never skate alone.

(www.nsc.org)



*Remember to wear a helmet while ice skating. Helmets should be comfortable and snug.*

## Winter Car Seat Safety

Baby, it is cold outside and keeping your babies warm when you're out and about is incredibly important.

But, this is also the time of year that too many young children are riding in their car seats with heavy coats and bunting products that keep them from being as safe as possible.

Use these tips to help keep your kids riding safely during the winter:

- Do not keep your child's heavy bulky coat on in his or her car seat. The bulk of the coat will not allow you to completely tighten the

harness straps, leaving your child at risk in the event of an accident.

- Do dress your child in a fleece jacket for the ride and keep the heavy coat with you to put on when you reach your destination. The fleece jacket will allow for proper tightening of the seat's harness and still keep your child warm enough for a car ride.
- Do not use bunting-type products in infant seats if the product lies between the baby and the seat or interferes with the 5-point harness in any way.

- Do keep your infant warm with a cover that goes completely over the top of the seat. You know it's safe if you first buckle your baby into the seat completely and then add the blanket or bunting product over the top.

For older kids, please remember to be a model of good behavior and always wear your seatbelt yourself. During the winter, you never know when conditions may quickly change with the roads, so please buckle everyone in every single time you head out.

(www.cincinnatichildrensblog.org)





**Public Health**  
Prevent. Promote. Protect.

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Thank you everyone for what you do every day to keep our communities safe. Your efforts, time and dedication are appreciated.

If you would like to be part of our coalition, schedule a presentation, demonstration, time to volunteer or know of an organization or agency that would like to team up, please let us know.

These newsletters will be distributed quarterly and we would appreciate your help in spreading them to families and agencies in our county.

Stay safe!

**Our mission is to promote, protect and assure optimal quality of life for Marinette County residents through prevention, education, services, leadership and partnership.**

## Child Death Review Team

Marinette County established a Child Death Review (CDR) team in 2012 to better understand how children die in Marinette County and most importantly to prevent other similar deaths.

Injury is the leading cause of death for Wisconsin residents ages 1 to 44. Each year more than 150 Wisconsin children die from an injury. From 2008 to 2011, suffocation was the leading cause of death for Wisconsin children younger than age 18. For infants younger than age 1, prematurity accounts for more than 50 percent of all deaths. However,

even one infant or child death is too many. We must better understand how and why deaths occur and take action to prevent injuries and deaths .

CDR teams are a community response to a child's death. CDR teams are critical in gaining a better understanding of how and

why a child died. We have statistics on how many children die and from what causes, but often know little about the circumstances leading up to the child's death.

The 2 main causes of death that prevention strategies have been focused on so far in Marinette County include ATV safety and safe sleep.

To learn more about CDR teams in Wisconsin, go to [www.chawisconsin.org](http://www.chawisconsin.org)

