

## Safety Advice

### Sparklers

A simple sparkler reaches a temperature of up to 2,000°C - over 15 times the boiling point of water and should be handled with care. To ensure you, your family and friends remain safe when using sparklers, follow the advice below.

### Sparkler Safety tips

Store sparklers and other fireworks in a closed box in a cool, dry place. Always light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves. Never hold a baby or child if you have a sparkler in your hand. Plunge finished sparklers hot end down into a bucket of water as soon as they have burnt out. They can stay hot for a long time. Don't take sparklers to public displays. It will be too crowded to use them safely.

### Sparkler Safety for Children

Never give sparklers to the under 5s - they will not understand how to use them safely. Always supervise children using sparklers. Give children gloves to wear when holding sparklers. Avoid dressing children in loose or flowing clothes - they may catch light. Show children how to hold sparklers - away from their body and at arm's length. Teach children not to wave sparklers near anyone else or run while holding them.

### Sparkler Safety in an emergency

- Keep calm. You can't help if you're panicking.
- Cool the burn or scald with cold water for at least 10 minutes.
- Never rub butter, oil or ointment into a burn.
- Cut around material sticking to the skin - don't pull it off.
- Take off any tight belts or jewellery that the injured person is wearing as burned skin can swell.
- Don't touch the burn or burst any blisters.
- Cover the burn with clean, smooth, non-fluffy material (like a pillowcase or clingfilm), to keep out infection until it can be properly dressed.
- If clothing catches fire, get the person to stop, drop to the floor and roll them in heavy material like a curtain.
- Unless the burn is very small, go to hospital.
- If the burn is very serious, or the person is (or was) unconscious, dial 999
- Don't give a seriously burned person anything to eat or drink after the accident, in case there's a need for anaesthetic at the hospital.

### Fireworks Safety

#### Before your firework display

- Check the fireworks you buy are suitable for the size of the garden and conform to British Standards (BS 7114; 1988)
- Ensure your display area is free from hazards
- Do not tamper with fireworks
- Read the instructions in daylight
- Warn neighbours, especially the elderly and those with animals, about your display
- One person - clearly identified - should be responsible for fireworks

#### Firework safety: ensure you have the following

- Metal box, with a lid for storage of fireworks
- Torch for checking instructions
- Bucket of water

- Protective hat, eye protection and gloves
- First aid kit
- Bucket of soft earth to stick fireworks in
- A board for flat-bottomed fireworks
- Suitable supports for catherine wheels
- Proper launchers for rockets

### Safety during the firework display

- Light fireworks at arm's length with a taper
- Stand well back
- Never go back to a lit firework
- Keep storage box closed between uses
- Keep children under control
- Never put a firework in your pocket - it is stupid and dangerous
- Throwing a firework is stupid and dangerous and illegal: it's a criminal offence to do so in a street or other public place, with a maximum penalty of a £5000 fine

### Advice

Plan your firework display to make it safe and enjoyable.
Keep fireworks in a closed box and use them one at a time.
Read and follow the instructions on each firework using a torch if necessary.
Light the firework at arm's length with a taper and stand well back.
Keep naked flames, including cigarettes, away from fireworks.
Never return to a firework once it has been lit.
Don't put fireworks in pockets and never throw them.
Direct any rocket fireworks well away from spectators.
Never use paraffin or petrol on a bonfire.
Make sure that the fire is out and surroundings are made safe before leaving.

### Bonfire Safety

Do you really need a **bonfire**? It is much better to manage without one. If you must have a bonfire, ensure you follow these points:

- Organise it properly
- Should be at least 18 metres (60 feet) away from houses, trees, hedges, fences or sheds
- Before lighting, check for animals and children
- Use domestic firelighters
- Never use petrol, paraffin or other flammable liquids
- Never put used fireworks, aerosols, foam-filled furniture, batteries, tins of paint or tyres on a bonfire.

### Bonfire Removal

Arrangements are in place with all Local Authority partners to ensure that illegal bonfires will be removed.

Reducing the number of bonfires consequently reduces:-

- Risk to the community by reducing injuries (primarily to young people)
- Risk to firefighters attending unnecessary incidents
- Risk of anti-social behaviour, including attacks on emergency crews
- Risk of damage to property

To report an illegal bonfire please contact the Local Authority concerned. The more illegal bonfires we can have removed prior to ignition, the safer our community will be.

### **Pets on bonfire night**

**Pets** hate bangs and flashes and get very frightened on **fireworks night**. So keep all your pets indoors and close all the curtains to make things calmer. Remember it's not just your own fireworks that cause distress, so you may need to have your pets indoors on several nights when other displays are taking place.

Protect your pet when fireworks are around by following the RSPCA's animal-friendly firework code.

### **Dogs bonfire night safety**

- Exercise your **dog** during the day.
- Never walk your **dog** while fireworks are being let off.
- As with cats, keep your **dog** indoors, close the curtains and play music or turn on the television to drown out the noise.
- Let your **dog** hide if it wants to take refuge under furniture or in a corner.
- Make sure your **dog** is wearing a collar and tag and is microchipped in case it bolts and becomes lost.

### **Cats bonfire night safety**

- Keep your **cat** indoors.
- Close all windows and curtains and switch on music or the television to drown out the noise.
- Leave your **cat** to take refuge in a corner if it wishes. Do not try to tempt it out as this could cause more stress.
- Make sure your **cat** is microchipped to ensure it can be returned to you if it

### **Alcohol and fireworks safety**

People drink **alcohol** at 90% of **fireworks** parties in back gardens. In a survey, 84% of respondents said that people setting off fireworks had drunk at least 2-3 units of alcohol. This increases the risk of injury and makes adults less able to supervise children properly during the display.

- Never drink alcohol if you are setting off fireworks or attending a bonfire.
- Nominate people who are not drinking alcohol to take charge of late-night fireworks displays.
- Keep guests who are drinking alcohol well away from fireworks and the bonfire.
- Consider limiting the availability of alcohol until after the fireworks display.
- Do not carry fireworks in your pocket to street parties or celebrations.
- The clear message is that alcohol and fireworks don't mix.

### **Halloween Safety Tips**

We spend all year telling our children not to talk to strangers or take sweets from strangers, but on Halloween night, many children walk around the streets unaccompanied, knocking on strangers' doors 'Trick or Treating'. This is a confusing message for children.

Please find below some tips for parents, children and young people:

- Why not think about having a party with friends or neighbours.
- Have a Halloween tea prepared for your children
- Make some Halloween crafts, masks, hats, scary spiders at home with your children
- Find out if there is anything organised in your area.
- If your children do go 'Trick or Treating', arrange to visit houses of friends or family and make sure an adult goes with them. Wear something bright to be seen at night!
- Travel in groups
- Keep 'tricks and treats' on the doorstep, never go into someone's house
- Be careful what you get yourself into if 'tricking'. Tricks can go wrong, people can be aggressive and destructive tricks will land you in a lot of trouble. Be sensible.
- Carry a torch with you at all times and try to stick to busy areas or main road, plan the route that you will take in advance of leaving the house, this could be a fun map activity
- Masks may make it more difficult to see the road ahead and where you are going, be aware of your surroundings
- Remember some children feel very scared by the dark

### **Be safe and be seen in winter - Be bright morning or night**

Child pedestrian road accidents are most likely to happen in mornings and afternoons on winter week days.

As a pedestrian or cyclist you may see the driver but they might not see you. Even during daylight, because the sun is low in winter, drivers might not be able to see you.

So as the nights draw in and the mornings get darker, we want to remind parents and children to be safe and be seen.

- Make sure you're **visible** to other road users and pedestrians.
- Keep away from the kerb.
- Wear **bright** or **fluorescent** clothing in daylight or poor light.
- Wear **reflective** clothing at night; it shows up in car headlights. Fluorescent clothing is not so visible after dark.
- Always **use your lights** when cycling after dark, in the rain or if the weather is overcast. Make sure your lights are working. It is illegal to ride a bike on the road with no lights after dark. White lights at the front and red at the rear.

### **Set a good example to children**

- Follow the Highway Code when you are walking or cycling. Remember to teach your child the highwaycode.
- Make sure your child can be easily seen, especially at night, on dark days and in bad weather.
- Keep children away from the kerb.
- Teach your child to use their road sense and choose spaces where drivers can see them clearly if there are no crossings near-by.
- Explain to your child why it is helpful to wear something bright.
- Sew reflective tape on your child's coat or school bag to make them more visible. If you don't have something reflective, they could wear or carry something white.

### **Road Safety - Road Safety Week (23-29 November 2015)**

#### **The Green Cross Code**

1. Find a safe place to cross
2. Stop just before you get to the kerb
3. Look all around for traffic and listen

4. If traffic is coming, let it pass
5. When it is safe, go straight across the road - do not run

Under-8s shouldn't use roads without an adult and can't be expected to make their own choices when using roads. However, they can be taught rules and encouraged to follow them, and you can help develop their understanding of the dangers on roads and how to avoid them. This will help ensure that as they start to gain independence, road safety is already well engrained.

## **Understanding traffic**

### **How you can help your child**

Talking about traffic with your child when you're out and about is one of the best ways for him or her to learn:

- Play 'spotting' games: where's a van? Can you see a lorry? Let's see who can spot a bus first.
- Ask your child to tell you about the vehicles waiting at the traffic lights or passing you in the car. You can play 'what's coming next?' – guessing the next approaching vehicle.
- Talk about vehicles you see: which goes fastest, which is largest, which carries people and which carries things? Talk about the directions in which vehicles are travelling and the sounds they make.
- You can also draw vehicles with your child, guessing each other's pictures and seeing how many you can come up with.
- Building up your child's language will help him or her to understand traffic: use words to describe speed, size, shape, directions or talk about signs, lights, signals and road markings. Ask your child why traffic can be dangerous.

### **Pedestrian safety: the facts**

- Every week, an average of 8 children under the age of six are killed or seriously injured on Great Britain's roads.
- 67% of children aged 0-11 killed or seriously injured in 2010 were on foot at the time.

It is still important for children to be outside. Walking is good for children's health and fitness and we support parents who encourage their children to walk as much as possible.

Children can be safer on the streets if we show them how. What's the best way to do this?

#### **1. Set a good example**

- When you cross the road, don't take risks – your children will copy you.
- Remember to find a safer place to cross then stop, look and listen.
- Don't use your mobile phone while crossing the road.
- Wearing bright colours or reflective clothing helps motorists to see you.

#### **2. Hold hands**

- Always hold hands with your young child near traffic (or make sure they hold onto a buggy if you're pushing one).
- Make sure your child walks on the side of the pavement away from the traffic.
- If there is no pavement walk on the side of the road facing oncoming traffic.
- If your child is using a bike or scooter, don't let them ride ahead of you. Make sure that they get off the bike or scooter and hold your hand to cross the road. Where it is busy, it may be better to push the bike or scooter until you are somewhere quieter.
- If your child is using roller skates, don't let them go too far ahead of you – they may find it hard to stop at the kerb. Hold their hand while you cross the road.

### 3. Find the safest places to cross the road

- If you can, use traffic islands, zebra, pelican and puffin crossings, footbridges and subways.
- Cross where you can see clearly in all directions.
- Avoid crossing between parked cars if there is a safer place nearby (and be considerate yourself when parking.)
- Show your child how to STOP, LOOK and LISTEN.

#### **Safer places to cross**

**Pedestrian crossings such as puffins and pelicans** have traffic lights and a button to press which controls a 'green man'.

**Zebra crossings** have two yellow beacons and striped markings across the road. Remember to wait for cars to stop in both directions. If there is an island in the middle, treat each half of the road as a separate crossing.

**Footbridges** go over roads and **subways** go under roads.

**Traffic islands** are places you can stand in between lanes in the centre of a road.

#### **How else you can help**

- Explain to your child why they need to stop, look and listen when crossing the road.
- Talk about safer places to cross and how it's harder to see where there are parked cars, junctions, bends or the brow of a hill.
- Help your child to learn the names of the different crossings, such as zebras, puffins, pelicans and footbridges.

#### **Follow these steps with your child every time you cross the road.**

1. Find the safest place to cross with a clear view of all around, away from parked cars, junctions, bends or the brow of a hill if possible. Talk about safest places to cross and how it's harder to see where there are parked cars, junctions, bends or near the brow of a hill. Explain that drivers and riders won't be able to see you either.
2. Holding hands with your child, show them how to stop on the kerb, look all around and listen for traffic before they cross. First explain that they must stop at the kerb and not step into the road as traffic might be coming very fast. Then they must look all around because traffic could come from any direction and they should listen because sometimes you can hear traffic before you see it.
3. When it is safe, walk straight across (not diagonally) and keep looking and listening. Tell your child they must do this in case there is any traffic they did not see, or in case traffic appears suddenly.

#### **Crossing between parked cars**

##### **Try not to cross between parked vehicles, but if there is nowhere else to cross:**

- Choose a place where there is a space between two cars and make sure that it is easy to get to the pavement on the other side of the road.
- Make sure neither car is about to move off - look for drivers in the cars, lights and listen for engines.
- Don't cross near large vehicles. You could be standing in a blind spot, where the driver cannot see you.
- Walk to the outside edge of the cars and stop. Here you can be seen by drivers and you can look all around for traffic.

- Use the Green Cross Code. When the road is clear, cross, still looking and listening as you go.

### **Cycle safety**

Cycling needs to be encouraged because it's green, healthy and fun and it helps children to become independent.

However, it is important for young children to learn how to stay safe on a bicycle from the start: in 2010, 168 child cyclists aged 0-11 were killed or seriously injured on Britain's roads.

### **Helping your child stay safe**

- Find out if cycle training for your child is available in your area.
- Check your child's bike to see if it's roadworthy: look at brakes, tyres and lights / reflectors (when riding at dusk or at night you must have a white front light and a red back light and rear reflector, and it's a good idea to fit spoke reflectors too).
- Make sure the bike is the right size for your child.
- Find out where local cycle paths and lanes are.
- Make sure your child has a helmet which fits and is worn correctly (it should not be pushed too far back on the head). Helmets must be properly fastened so they don't come off in a collision.
- Ensure your child wears high-visibility clothing when cycling.
- When out and about with your child look at cyclists and talk about how easy they are to see.