

Magnets—a deadly threat

Common magnets, such as those found in toys, on fridge decorations and jewellery, are causing severe internal damage and even death in children.

While a single tiny magnet represents a choking hazard for a child, two or more small magnets swallowed by a toddler or child create a deadly combination because, once swallowed, the force of magnetic attraction will pull them toward each other, even through the walls of the human body's digestive system.

The result can be perforation of the bowel, infection and even death.

In Brisbane, three children aged 4 to 11 suffered multiple bowel perforations after swallowing a number of magnets. The children arrived at hospital with abdominal pain and vomiting, and were first treated for gastroenteritis. However, X-rays showed that the children had swallowed magnets from magnetic toy construction sets. The ingested magnets gravitated together in the bowel, causing multiple perforations.

The magnets, small but strong, can be found in many toys, jewellery (including fake body piercings), magnetic beads, fridge magnets and photo displays.

Kidsafe Queensland urges all parents of children under eight to check their children's toys and homes for items which incorporate small magnets. However, even careless teenagers using body jewellery that includes magnets have suffered serious injury through accidental ingestion.



Toys that have small parts carry warning labels aimed at reducing the choking and ingestion risks for children under 3 years. However, the average age of children swallowing these magnets is 4 years.

More detailed information about injuries in children due to magnets please read the research from the [Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit](#).

Fatality Free Friday 2010

In the lead up to Fatality Free Friday (28 May 2010) Kidsafe Qld is demonstrating the why and how of low-speed runovers—with a focus on reversing injuries.

One child in Australia each week is injured in a low-speed runover - often in their own driveway - and by Mum or Dad! How many children do you think *cannot* be seen behind the average family sedan?

On Friday 21 May Kidsafe will display three vehicles and show the lack of visibility behind and around the vehicles on the forecourt of Suncorp Stadium.

About Fatality Free Friday: Road safety is a global issue and the social, economic and emotional costs are immense. While advances in road design and vehicle safety have made a significant contribution to road safety, the fatalities continue.

Fatality Free Friday is an annual event designed to focus public attention on road safety and encourage all road users to think and drive safely.

The first Fatality Free Friday was held in Australia in 2007, coinciding with the United Nations Global Road Safety Week. The goal is to ensure

that there are no road crash fatalities around Australia during the day and prompt road users to behave more safely every day. It is a call to action that serves as a platform for a targeted and ongoing approach to road safety. The campaign facilitates this via media and community involvement.

You can make a difference. In Australia the road toll is around 1600 to 1700 road fatalities and for every death approximately 10 people are injured. This is not acceptable and the road toll should not be accepted as inevitable. For more information visit the [Fatality Free Friday website](#).

Kidsafe hosts First Aid Demos



Start with a guided tour of Kidsafe House, follow this with morning tea on the verandah then get into some practical first aid training. Topics include: resuscitation- CPR of baby and toddler with practice on manikins; drowning; choking; fevers and febrile convulsions; burns and scalds; breathing difficulties; head injuries; anaphylaxis and epipens; and poisons, bites, stings. A Statement of Attendance certificates are offered to participants.

The first of these weekend courses are on 15 May, 12 and 13 June at a cost of \$85 per person payable in advance. This event is recommended for pregnant couples, parents, grandparents and other carers of children. Starting time is 9am. Minimum numbers apply. Call Kidsafe Qld on 3854 1829 to book.

New product:

Windowsafe now stocks Guardian Angel™ window guards which are specifically designed to prevent children, 5 years and younger, from falling out of windows. They have been designed to allow for emergency escape or entry without the need of a key and are suitable for most window types and sizes. For more information go to www.windowSAFE.com.au

Pregnancy Babies & Children's Expo:

Kidsafe staff will be on hand to answer questions and provide valuable advice on injury prevention at the Pregnancy Babies and Children's Expo. Information will be available on the new restraint rules. Become a member and go into the draw for a child restraint. See you between 18 to 20 June at the Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre, South Bank.

New product/service:

Childsafe Home is a dedicated home safety service which includes custom built baby gates and barriers, oven and stove guards and the installation of childproof locks, glass protection film, door and window locks and secures furniture including TVs. Call 0430 546 507.

Free child restraint checks

Major Sponsor



To ensure that your child restraint complies with the new laws AND to check that the restraint is correctly installed, NRMA Insurance and Kidsafe Queensland are providing free child restraint safety checks to ensure your children are safe and sound.

The first of these free checking days will be on Tuesday 25 May between 10am and 2pm at Indooroopilly Shopping Town. Access is from Stamford Road, Indooroopilly. For more information call Kidsafe on 3854 1829.

Kidsafe gets *mobile*

Kidsafe has a new mobile service for hiring capsules and child restraints, as well as checking and installation of child restraints. We will come to your home from as far north as Caboolture, south to the Gold Coast, east to Wynnum and west to Ipswich and Karana Downs etc.

Installation of the restraint is \$50. If you wish to purchase a restraint from Kidsafe we will deliver it, explain how to use it and install it.

Links:

Queensland Ambulance Service www.ambulance.qld.gov.au

Queensland Health www.health.qld.gov.au

Queensland Injury Surveillance Unit www.qisu.org.au

Poisons Information Centre www.health.qld.gov.au/PoisonsInformationCentre

Royal Life Saving Society Qld www.rlssq.com.au/

Sids and Kids Queensland www.sidsandkids.org

St John Ambulance - QLD www.stjohnqld.com.au