



Electric Scooters are Not Recommended for Use by Children

Electric Scooters (e-scooters) are everywhere. You can find adults and children riding them in our cities, suburbs, and rural areas. People ride them on and off road, on the street sidewalks and in pedestrian areas. They can be rented much like a bike share programs and bought on the retail and through private sale.

We have also seen a significant increase in e-scooter injuries and emergency department visits.

With the increase in use, riders of e-scooters and pedestrians that share the paths and roads scooters are on, it is important to be aware of the dangers and regulations surrounding e-scooters.

Common E-Scooter Injuries

If you fall off an e-scooter, which can travel up to 15 and 20 miles per hour, you are going to get hurt.

The most common injuries are cuts, fractures and head injuries. Some of these injuries are severe. Many of these injuries are caused by incidents with motor vehicles or user-control issues of the e-scooter.

The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) recommends that children under 16—who are too young to have a driver's license—should NOT operate or ride on motorized or e-scooters.

Types of Scooters

If e-scooters haven't reached your sidewalks yet, here is an overview on the various types of scooters:

1. **Non-motorized scooters:** Human-powered scooters without a motor.
2. **Motorized scooter:** 2-wheeled vehicle with a rechargeable battery.
3. **E-scooter:** Dockless, 2-wheeled vehicles available for rent in various cities.

Helmets are the Best Protection

All scooters pose a similar—if not increased—risk of head injury compared with bikes. Helmets are the best way to prevent serious head injuries, but helmet usage remains low.

Consider:

- A survey conducted by Safe Kids Worldwide found that parents were less likely to make their child or adolescent wear a helmet while riding a scooter when compared to riding a bike. Only 57% of parents said they would make their child or adolescent wear a helmet while riding a scooter. **Ready for the Ride: Keeping Kids Safe on Wheels | Safe Kids Worldwide**
- When signing up on the apps to rent e-scooters, riders are asked to wear helmets; yet helmets are not provided.
- Images on social media often make it seem like it's okay to ride a scooter without a helmet. Always make sure to wear a helmet when using an e-scooter, even if advertisements do not show riders wearing them.
- According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, there were an estimated 42,200 emergency room visits due to e-scooter injuries. This number shows a 66% increase from 2020.
- E-scooters are responsible for 68 deaths from 2017 through 2021.

10 Important Safety Rules for All E-Scooter Riders

1. Children under 16 should not operate or ride on a motorized or e-scooter. In some cities it is illegal for kids under 16 to use an e-scooter
2. Wear a helmet and closed toe shoes. Wearing a helmet may prevent or reduce the severity of e-scooter injuries. An adult who falls off an e-scooter is just as likely to hit their head as a child.
3. Wear Protective gear. This includes elbow and knee pads and reflective gear if riding in dark.
4. Start Slow. The accelerator and braking tables on the handles take time to get use to.
5. No testing and riding. Use both hands to operate the scooter.
6. No earbuds in. Be aware of your surroundings.
7. Use bike lanes when available. If not available, riders should stay on the right side of the road.
8. Do not ride e-scooters on the sidewalks, beach paths or parks. This puts pedestrians at risk of injury as well as riders.
9. Do not operate an e-scooter while under the influence of alcohol, drugs or even some prescription medicines. Parents should set an example for their children in this regard.
10. E-scooters are not allowed on highways. Many e-scooter accidents involve motor vehicles. Be aware when riding an e-scooter on busy streets.

E-Scooter Regulations

Many cities set an age restriction for 16 years and up to operate e-scooters. Law enforcement can issue traffic violations to those who break those rules. A juvenile age 16 or over is treated as an adult for traffic offenses. For younger offenders, however, a court can require a parent or guardian to appear personally at court hearings and pay a fine.

- **Make sure you understand how to operate an e-scooter safely before riding it.** Riding an e-scooter is very different than riding a bike. They accelerate without you pedaling. They have a different center of balance that takes getting used to.
- **Know that e-scooters are easily accessible to minors.** For example, most cities do not have a way to verify a user's age, so children and teenagers are able to sign up on an app without parental consent. Make sure your children know the rules and your expectations. Check their phone if you have concerns.
- **Talk with your college-aged children** about the dangers of operating e-scooters while texting, listening to music, or while under the influence of alcohol.

ICE & SNOW

Remove It Before You Go

- Remember to remove all ice and snow from your vehicle before driving, especially from the hood, windows and roof.
- Motorists who fail to do so face fines of \$25 to \$75 for each offense, regardless of whether the ice and snow is dislodged from the vehicle.
- If flying ice or snow causes property damage or injury to others, motorists face fines of \$200 to \$1,000 for each offense.

Car Seats and Car Fit Inspections

One of the most important jobs you have as a parent is keeping your child safe when they are riding in a vehicle.

Each year, thousands of young children are killed or injured in car crashes. Proper use of car safety seats helps keep children safe. But, because so many different seats are on the market, many parents find this overwhelming. Help is available. Read on for tips on choosing the car seat that best fits your child.

Differences in car seats

Car safety seats are not all the same. The type of seat your child needs depends on several things, including your child's age, size, and developmental needs. So, it's important to read the vehicle owner's manual and the car safety seat manual each time you install the seat. All parents can benefit from getting professional installation help to ensure that their child's seat is properly installed.

If you are expectant parents, consider working with a Certified Child Passenger Safety Technician before

your baby is born to ensure a safe ride home from the hospital.

Visit one of our Child Passenger Safety Inspection Stations. No appointments are needed. Best if you try to put the seat in prior to coming to the station.

A Car Fit Evaluation for Older Adults is Available at All our Car Seat Inspection Station

Car Fit is an educational program developed by AAA, AARP, and the American Occupational Therapy Association that offers older adults the opportunity to check how well their personal vehicles "fit" them. The program provides information and materials on community-specific resources that could enhance their safety as drivers and/or increase their mobility in the community.

Northern New Jersey Safe Kids/Safe Communities offers this program at all our Car Seat Inspection Stations. If you are over 65 come in for a free evaluation. We can help you fit in your car and enhance your safety.

See our Monthly Car Seat Inspection Station Schedule below.

Railroad Safety Checklist

Tips for Families

- Only cross train tracks at a designated crossing. Designated crossings are marked by a sign, lights or a gate.
- If lights are flashing or the gate is down at a railroad crossing, wait for the train to pass completely, the gates to lift and the lights to stop flashing before crossing. It is never okay to rush across and try to beat the train. Trains may be closer and faster than you think.
- Allow enough space for your vehicle to completely clear the entire railroad crossing, not just the tracks, before you attempt to cross. Remember, trains are at least three feet wider than the tracks on either side, so even though you clear the tracks, you may still get hit by the train.
- If you are using a cell phone, headphones or playing a game on your mobile phone, remember: Heads Up, Devices Down when you cross the tracks. Once a train starts to brake, it can take a mile for the train to stop. So, when you see a train, it's already too late for it to stop for you. Headphones should be removed, so you can hear an approaching train.
- Don't be tempted to walk along the train tracks. It might be a shortcut, but it is dangerous and not worth the risk. It is also against the law to walk on the track and the land around it because it is private property.

Northern NJ Safe Kids/Safe Communities Car Seat and Car Fit Inspection Stations

Morris County

Chester First Aid Squad
100 North Rd, Chester NJ 07930
Open 1st Tuesday of Month 2pm – 6pm
and 3rd Thursday of Month 7am – 12 noon

**Denville Fire Department/
St. Clare's Hospital**
2 Indian Road
Denville, NJ 07834
Open the 1st Monday of the Month
10am – 1pm

Mt Tabor Volunteer Fire Department
72 South Powder Mill Road
Morris Plains, NJ 07950
Open Wednesdays
September - May 9 – 3pm
June - July - August 9 – 1pm

Shade Tree Garage
171 Washington St.
Morristown, NJ 07960
Open 2nd Saturday of Month 8am – 12 noon
and 3rd Tuesday of Month 5pm – 8pm

Essex

Fairfield Fire Department
51 Plymouth St.
Fairfield, NJ 07004
Open the 1st Tuesday of Month
9am – 12 pm

Passaic County

Pompton Lakes First Aid Squad
700 Ramapo Ave
Pompton Lakes, NJ 07442
Open 3rd Monday of Month
4pm – 7pm

Sussex County

Andover Township Fire Department
625 Limecrest Road
Newton, NJ 07860
Open the 3rd Monday
of the Month
12 noon – 3pm

Sparta Fire Department
141 Woodport Road
Sparta, NJ 07871
Open 4th Monday of the Month
10 am – 1pm

CARFiT
Helping Mature Drivers Find Their Safest Fit

Atlantic Health System
Morristown Medical Center

The CPS stations are financially supported by grant funding and individual donations. A suggest donation of \$10.00 per seat is recommended at the time of services

NORTHERN NJ Safe COMMUNITIES

www.preventionworks-nj.org

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973-971-6477

Prevention Works is the official biannual newsletter of Northern NJ SAFE KIDS/Safe Communities.

We welcome articles of interest highlighting your community or organization.

Let us know how you have made your community a safe community.

If you have any comments or topics you would like to see covered, please feel

free to contact Karen Jean Feury, RN

Phone: 973-971-4327 Fax: 973-290-7350

email: karenjean.feury@atlanticealth.org.

