

Childhood Accidents on the Rise During Holiday Season

Each year, more than 4.5 million children ages 14 and under are treated in hospital emergency departments (ER) for injuries occurring in the home, according to firehouse.com, a national safe kids organization. Nearly two-thirds of the injuries requiring ER visits among children under age 3 occur in the home.

Dr. Jean Martin, Emergency Department Director at Centennial Medical Plaza sees a significant increase in childhood ER visits during the holiday season. "Pills, or poisoning, are one of the most serious causes of trips to the emergency room during the holidays" she states. Many traveling guests put medications out so they don't forget to take them, and they're not thinking about the kids. The pills look like candy to kids, and aren't that hard to open. "They come in multiple colors, see through boxes, and are simply enchanting to a child," says Martin.

"If there are visitors in your home, watch the kids. People aren't in their normal routine, and things happen," says Dr. Martin. "We also see more kids with burns in the emergency department during the holiday season." Maybe there are two ovens going you're using a hot plate for an extra burner, or a crock-pot is on that the kids haven't seen before. Kids are curious, they're underfoot in the kitchen, and they get burned.

You may have a false sense of security when family comes to visit because you're in the safety of your own home. With many people over, parents assume the kids are being watched, but the truth is during all the hubbub they easily wander off and get into trouble.

To learn more about safety during the holiday season, visit the Centennial Medical Plaza web site at www.CentennialMedicalPlaza.com/localnews.asp



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