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THE PITTMAN PRESS

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LITTLE TIKES RECALLS

WORKSHOPS & TRUCKS

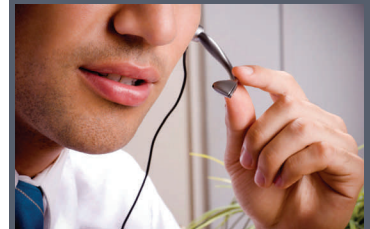
It was recently reported that Little Tikes was recalling over a million toy workshops and trucks after an 11-month-old boy got a plastic nail lodged in his throat and was hospitalized. He later recovered and was released. It is a scary situation for any parent to have their



child choke on anything. Time is certainly of the essence in seeking help. It is just as important to take precautions to avoid these types of situations from happening. Safety plugs for outlets, cabinet latches, raising curtain cords to avoid strangulation accidents and removing dangling items from table tops to avoid items being pulled off a surface are just some of the things you can do to avoid a tragedy involving your child from happening in your home.

When it comes to toys, you also have to take safety precautions to be sure the toys are safe for your child. Toy manufacturers put age recommendations on almost all children's toys. Keep in mind, this is a recommendation. You then have to consider your child and ask yourself, 'Is this toy appropriate for MY child?' Children mature differently, so what may be an appropriate toy for one, may not be for another child. The workshops and trucks recalled were recommended for children ages 2+, most likely due to the small parts included. Buying these toys early for your child to enhance their learning is fine, but remove the smaller parts, and put them away until your child reaches the level appropriate to understand these do not go in the mouth. Avoidance of choking is the critical goal.

Families of multiple children face a bigger challenge when an older child has toys that may not be appropriate for the smaller child in the family. To help keep those smaller pieces secure and out of the hands of your small child, try keeping them in containers that seal and store them on higher shelves that are out of their reach. Even if the older child has to ask you to get them down from the higher shelf, you will know when that toy is being used and can monitor that the pieces are not in the hands of the smaller child. Make it a rule that those toys must be cleaned up and put away before other toys can be used. These extra precautions will help to keep your family safe and avoid an accidental choking incident from happening in your home.



Upcoming Events

- September 7th—Labor Day
- Sept 24—27 Thunder Beach Motorcycle Rally—Beware of the increased motorcycle traffic.

THANK YOU

to those that contributed to our effort to raise money for JERRY'S KIDS and MDA as part of the Panama City LOCK-UP. With your help, we raised over \$1,200!



We respect your privacy. If you do not wish to receive this, let us know: Newsletter@pittmanfirm.com

Helping to keep your family safe!



“ Nothing can stop the man with the right mental attitude from achieving his goals; nothing on earth can help the man with the wrong mental attitude.”

-Thomas Jefferson

For more inspirational quotes, go to: www.inspirational-quotes.com

LEGISLATION AFFECTING TRAFFIC LAWS

The 2009 Legislative Session resulted in many traffic and motor vehicle law changes which became effective as of June 16, 2009. Some are publicized more than others. You can view the entire list on the [Florida DMV](#). I have highlighted a few below that all drivers should be aware of.



- On a multi-lane road, the driver passing an emergency vehicle shall reduce their speed to 20 mph less than the posted limit if they are unable to move over.
Any driver who is the at-fault party in three crashes within three years will be required to take a behind-the-wheel driver education course. This provision is effective January 1, 2010.
An additional \$65 penalty is added to passing a stopped school bus, racing on the highway, and reckless driving.
Drivers who are convicted of running a red light, passing a stopped school bus, racing on the highway, or reckless driving are required to take a driver improvement course upon the first offense.

As a licensed driver, you should take steps to know the rules of the road—even the new rules. School is now in session soon, and the roads will again be filled with school buses and students. Stay alert! Slow down, and Arrive Alive!!

FLORIDA’S SHARE THE ROAD WITH BICYCLES

You’re driving and see you are approaching a bicyclist on the road. Do you know the rules? Who has the right of way? What is your responsibility? Many people simply don’t know and assume that because they are in the car, they have more rights to the road than they do. Wrong! Sections in the motor vehicle manual detail one’s legal responsibility as a driver. Click or visit www.sharetheroad.org/ to learn more.

More highways are designed to include a bicycle lane, but when the road is not wide enough for bicycles and cars to operate safely within one lane, you may see “Share The Road” signs. This means “one after the other.” The bicycle driver or group of cyclists has the right to full use of the lane. If you wish to pass in your vehicle, you must do so according to the Overtaking and Passing a Vehicle laws



(sections 316.083, 316085 F.S.), which instruct to pass on the left , to keep a safe distance—at least 3 feet—until you have safely cleared the overtaken vehicle.

Efforts to make the roads safer for cyclists have been ongoing since 1986. It’s unfortunate that it took the death of 6 cyclists in 1996 for organizers of the Florida Bicycle Association (FBA) to rally together and work toward legislation to make the roads safe. To learn more click or visit www.floridabicycle.org/.

Bicyclists must also take responsibility for obeying all traffic laws as well (section 316-2065 F.S.). A bicycle should stay on the roadway, but if a bicycle must ride on the sidewalk for any reason, its rider has the same rights and duties as a pedestrian. Next month, I’ll cover the rights and responsibilities of the pedestrian.