



# Bureau of EMS: Vitals

## Pediatric Disaster Kits for Florida Shelters

by Patricia Kenyon, Bureau of EMS

The EMS for Children Program (EMSC), in collaboration with the Office of Public Health Nursing, provided color-coded dosing resource toolkits for special needs shelters and general shelters throughout Florida. This toolkit will be used to improve shelter capabilities as it relates to children. The kits can be utilized by the shelter staff and/or provided to the parents or guardians.

The kits contain the following items:

- Broselow-Luten™ Color-Coded Oral Syringes and Color-Coded Tapes for administration of acetaminophen and ibuprofen liquids
- Color-Coded Armbands that correlate with oral syringes/tapes
- First Aid for Children Slideguides
- Packs of 4 Non-toxic Crayons
- Coloring/Activity Books titled "It's Cool to be Healthy"



In August 2008, 30 volunteers worked four eight-hour days to assemble an estimated 18,000 kits at the State Logistics Response Center (SLRC) in Orlando. An-

other group of 100 volunteers worked a total of 224 hours this past March to assemble 34,000 kits. Volunteers consisted



Michigan State University Students

of Orlando area high school students; Florida, Michigan, and Arkansas college students on spring break; and personnel from AmeriCorps, Volunteer of America, Health Central, Lake-Sumter EMS, Reedy Creek Fire Department, Polk County Health Department, and the Florida Department of



Arkansas Students from Harding University

Health, Division of Emergency Medical

(Continued on page 2)

## Florida Department of Health

Volume 5, Issue 2

April 2009

Editors:  
Lisa Walker  
Alexander Macy

### Inside this issue:

Operation Prom Night	2-3
Bicycle Safety	4
Early Childhood Drowning Prevention	4
Senior Falls Prevention	4
Florida EMSC National Recognition	5
Senate & House Bills	6-7
EMT & Paramedic Disciplinary Actions	7

(Continued from page 1)

## Operations.

The kits were funded by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response Hospital Preparedness grant. 12,000 kits remain at the SLRC to replenish shelters upon request.

The Bureau of EMS would like to express its deepest gratitude to those volunteers who supported the project by providing their hands-on assistance and can-do attitudes, especially during spring break vacations! Their devotion and commitment to improving Florida's shelters helped make the Pediatric Disaster Preparedness Kits Project a success!

For more information on the Florida EMSC program, please visit the Bureau of EMS website at: <http://www.fl-ems.com>



## Operation Prom Night a PIER Spotlight Article by Battalion Chief Cory Richter

"Operation Prom Night" has been a landmark event in Indian River County Fire Rescue since 1995. They utilize the assistance of Fire/EMS, Indian River County Sheriff, Vero Beach police, Florida Highway Patrol, Indian River's District Attorney, Indian River Medical Center emergency room doctors, Mike's Towing, a local area high school drama club, First Flight Helicopter, Martin County LifeStar, Victim Assistance, Indian River County Recreation Department, County Parks Department, and Lowther Funeral Home. The event is held for two local public schools the week before their respective prom nights.



The setting is a Driving Under the Influence (DUI) crash involving the prom queen in a car with friends and another car with family members of varying ages.



Bleachers are set up for the entire senior class to watch the event unfold. Tarps cover the scene until audio of the crash plays. The student driver, who had been drinking, has minor injuries while the prom queen dies on scene. Extrication is involved to get all the victims out of the cars and a helicopter lands to transport one of the victims. All radio traffic is broadcast over a PA system. Patients from the scene are moulaged and treated in front of the students in the bleachers. The student driver that caused the accident is taken by police, subjected to and fails a sobriety test, and finally is placed in handcuffs and put into the back of a police cruiser. The funeral home talks about how they have to make arrange-

(Continued on page 3)

(Continued from page 2)



<http://www.ghsa.org>

For more information about this event, please contact Battalion Chief Cory Richter at 772-226-3863 or by email at: [crichter@ircgov.com](mailto:crichter@ircgov.com)

*PIER (Public Information Education and Relations) Committee serves in an advisory capacity to the EMS Advisory Council on issues related to injury prevention. If you have established a program that you wish to be considered for a PIER Spotlight article please e-mail Cory Richter. All photographs in this article are used with the expressed consent of Indian River Fire Rescue.*

ments and the reality the parents must face to not see their daughter alive again.

After all the patients are treated and transported off the scene, one of the emergency room doctors talks about the injuries of the patients including how, despite his best efforts, he has to inform the parents of the prom queen dying from her injuries. Then the district attorney explains the implications of the DUI, including the possibility of jail time and the financial costs. At the end of the event, local victims of actual DUI accidents speak to the senior class on the effects the accident had on the lives of their families and themselves.

The entire event takes about two to two and one half hours and is mandatory for all of the senior class students.

Indian River County Fire Rescue continuously receives comments from students about how this event has made them think about drinking and driving and why it is not worth the potential long-term effects to not only their lives but their families' and other victims' lives as well. The PIER and Access to Care Committees, of the EMS Advisory Council, continue to encourage EMS agencies to develop partnerships to promote local injury prevention and public health events to reduce injuries and increase access to care in your community.

#### Resources:

- National Teen Driver Safety Week  
<http://www.ridelikeyfriend.com>
- Mothers Against Drunk Driving  
<http://www.madd.org>
- Driving Skills for Life  
<http://www.drivingskillsforlife.com>
- Governor's Highway Safety Association

#### DID YOU KNOW?

**In 1998, there were a total of 50 teenage motor vehicle crash-related deaths reported statewide on prom night. From 2006-2008 there have been no reports of such deaths in areas that promote programs like "Operation Prom Night."**

## Early Childhood Drowning Prevention by Jane Parker, OIP

80% of Florida's children who drowned ages 1-4, drown in a backyard swimming pool.

To help prevent early childhood drowning:

- Always actively supervise children in and around water.
- Don't leave children unattended, even for a moment.
- Fence your pool or spa with fencing that includes doors that automatically close and latch.
- Install barriers of protection around your home pool or spa in addition to the fencing, such as pool alarms, pool covers, door alarms, or locks.
- Keep a telephone out by the pool or spa in case of an emergency.
- Learn CPR.

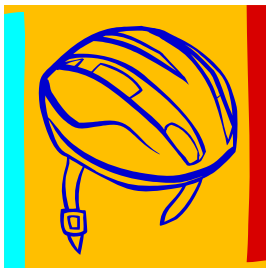
Please remember, children drown without a sound.



The Office of Injury Prevention (OIP) is dedicated to assisting our partners. For more information or injury prevention resources visit the OIP web site at: <http://doh.state.fl.us/injury/>

## Bicycle Safety by Frieda Travis, OIP

Head injury is the leading cause of death in bicycle crashes and is the most important determinant of bicycle-related permanent disability and death. The single most effective safety device available to reduce head injury and death from bicycle



crashes is a helmet. Helmets should meet or exceed current safety standards developed by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

The bicycle plays an important role in the lives of millions of Floridians by providing a means of travel to work, school and parks, and is a popular form of recreation. Increased bicycle usage will promote health and wellness in the state and is an important part of encouraging all citizens to become fit, prevent obesity, and reduce the risk of many chronic diseases and conditions.

For more information about bicycle safety or the Bicycle Helmet Promotion Program, please contact Frieda Travis, Florida Department of Health, Office of Injury Prevention at 850-245-4440 extension \*2734 or by email at:

[Frieda\\_Travis@doh.state.fl.us](mailto:Frieda_Travis@doh.state.fl.us)

## Senior Falls Prevention by Jane Parker, OIP

Did you know that each year, thousands of older Floridians fall at home? To help prevent falls:

- Keep the floor clear. Reduce clutter and safely tuck phone and electrical cords out of walkways.
- Use non-skid throw rugs.
- Install handrails in stairways and grab bars in bathrooms near the toilet and in the tub/shower.
- Make sure living areas are well lit.
- Use a sturdy step stool with rails for climbing and reaching high places.
- Follow medication dosages closely. Using medication incorrectly can lead to dizziness, weakness or other side effects that can lead to a dangerous fall.







