



SPRING SAFE

Your handbook for
a safer Spring.

safetyinfo.ca



Home Maintenance
and Renovations

CO Safety

Fuel Safety

Spring
Recreation





SpringSafe is a seasonal public safety awareness handbook. It is designed to provide you with the information you need to reduce risk and keep your family safe.

After the long, cold winter, the snow melts and opportunities for more outdoor activities emerge. As we resume activities like barbecuing, camping, cottaging, swimming and boating, it's always important to take the proper precautions.

Be "SpringSafe" this season to help protect your family while enjoying the much anticipated warmth and sunshine.



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Be "SpringSafe"

As the snow melts and the days get warmer, we take to the outdoors to enjoy all the activities that weren't possible throughout the winter. Be "SpringSafe" this season to help protect your family and friends from preventable injuries in and around your home.

CO Safety



Although carbon monoxide (CO) is a serious threat all year, we must pay special attention in the spring to things like cottages, campers, boat cabins and RV's. CO can build up in these enclosed spaces under certain conditions, so it is important to know the facts.

Keep Your Spring CO Safe

Know the four steps to CO safety and keep your spring CO free:

- 1.** Ensure all fuel-burning appliances are inspected and maintained annually. This is the best way to ensure that you and your family are not exposed to CO. Eliminate it at the source. Make the inspection of your fuel-burning appliances, equipment and venting systems an absolute priority. To find a TSSA-registered contractor in your area visit COSafety.ca.
- 2.** Install CO alarms – it’s now the law. Your second line of defense is the installation of certified CO alarms. They will warn you of rising levels of CO, giving you and your family time to escape. Without CO alarms, the only way to know if CO is present is if the physical symptoms of CO poisoning become apparent. Remember to test alarms once a month and replace alarm batteries and/or alarm units according to manufacturer’s instructions.
- 3.** Know the enemy. CO is a “silent killer.” It is an invisible, odourless and poisonous gas that can be produced by common household fuel-burning equipment, such as your furnace, fireplace, stove, propane heater, kerosene lantern, water heater, dryer or other fuel-burning equipment. Poor maintenance, damaged or blocked venting, improper use of appliances, or inadequate air flow can cause dangerous levels of CO to build up inside your home.
- 4.** Know the symptoms of CO poisoning. The symptoms are similar to the flu – nausea, headache, burning eyes, confusion and drowsiness – except there is no fever. If they appear, it is imperative to get everyone, including pets, outside to fresh air immediately and call 911 or the local fire department.



Beat The Silent Killer

In Ontario, over **80%** of all
carbon monoxide deaths and
injuries occur in homes.



**TAKE ACTION -
COSafety.ca**



Alarm Yourself

Spring is a great time to install tested and certified CO alarms in your home and cottage.

DO install CO alarms:

- On every level of your home or cottage
- In your RV and boat cabin
- Near sleeping areas
- According to the manufacturer's instructions

DO NOT install CO alarms near:

- Windows or vents
- Bathrooms
- Heating or fuel-burning appliances

Checklist

To ensure they work properly, it is critical to understand the recommended installation and maintenance guidelines. Follow these steps below to ensure you're always doing it correctly.

- Test CO and smoke alarms once a month by pushing the test button.
- Replace batteries once a year, including back-up batteries for plug-in alarms; use fall daylight savings time as a reminder.
- Replace CO alarms when required.
- Check the manufacturer's instructions to find out when your particular unit should be replaced (usually after 7-10 years for CO alarms and 10 years for smoke alarms).

The Council of Canadian Fire Marshals and Fire Commissioners recommends that you know your fire department's phone number and keep it posted by every phone in your home.



A woman with long brown hair, wearing a purple sleeveless top and matching pants, is smiling as she refuels a silver car at a gas station. The background shows other cars and a building with a red sign. The text 'Fuel Safety' is overlaid on the left side of the image.

Fuel Safety

Gasoline is a common fuel around the home and at the cottage during spring. It powers our lawnmowers, chainsaws, All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) and more. But, despite its everyday use, it's important not to underestimate the dangers of gasoline.

Treat Fuel with Care

When running a gas-powered engine:

- Keep a BC Class fire extinguisher handy. Water will only spread the flames of a gasoline-based fire.
- Never work or idle in an enclosed space such as a garage, basement or tent.
- Allow equipment to cool down for a few minutes before refuelling.

Storage

Do not leave gasoline in the basement of your home or in the cottage. Store fuel in approved containers in a detached garage or shed, and well away from heat sources including direct sunlight.

Filling containers

- Only use fuel containers that have been certified by an accredited certification organization such as the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).
- Keep well away from sparks or ignition sources.
- Fill only to about 90 per cent of capacity to allow some room for expansion.
- When filling, keep portable containers on the ground, with the dispensing nozzle in full contact with the container in order to prevent buildup and discharge of static electricity – a possible source of ignition.

- When you are finished refilling the container, tighten both the fill and vent caps.
- Never leave the container in direct sunlight or in the trunk of a car.

Disposal



The best way to dispose of gasoline is to use it up.

Small amounts can be left outside to evaporate – leave in an open container away from children and pets.

If gasoline must be discarded, be sure to take it to the hazardous waste disposal centre in your area. Never pour gasoline onto the ground, down sewers or into drains.



Safety at the Pump

The next time you stop at a gas station for a fill-up, remember this: fuelling vehicles requires your care and attention. Gasoline is a potentially dangerous product if not handled properly and safely.

It is required by law to follow these three rules when at a gas station:

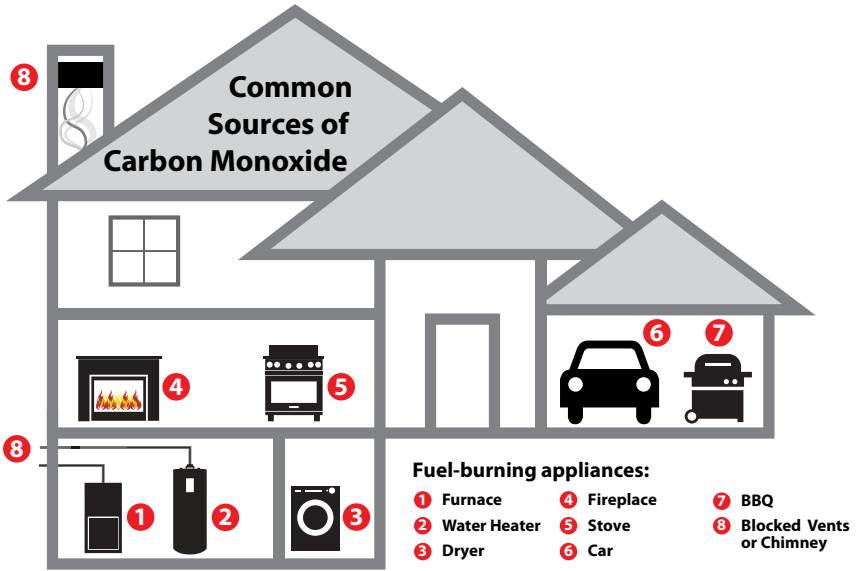
- 1.** No smoking within 3 metres (10 feet) of a gasoline pump (including inside a vehicle).
- 2.** Vehicles must always be turned off when refuelling.
- 3.** No forcing or jamming a pump nozzle open when refuelling at a self-serve site.

These additional safety rules are also important whenever close to a gasoline pump:

- Do not allow children to play at the pump island or assist you in holding or activating the pump nozzle.
- Always stand by the pump while refuelling; never leave it unattended.
- Keep your cell phone off while refuelling – a fill-up takes only a few minutes and requires your full attention; in addition, cell phones are electrical devices, so they're a potential ignition source for any fumes.

- To carry or store fuel, use only containers that are tested and certified by an accredited certification organization such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratory of Canada (ULC).
- Treat all fuels with respect; store them in well-ventilated places and away from nearby ignition sources.
- Make sure to extinguish propane pilot lights in recreational vehicles, campers, motor homes and other vehicles before refuelling.
- If riding a motorbike, always dismount from your motorbike before fuelling. Fuel spilled onto the hot exhaust or engine could cause a fire, injuring you and others.

Fuel stations are designed with safety in mind, but they only work that way with your cooperation. Remember these rules for safety at the pump, and enjoy a smooth, sweet ride – wherever the road takes you.



You can help prevent carbon monoxide from harming you and your family by:

1. Getting an annual inspection for all fuel-burning appliances in your home.
2. Installing and regularly testing carbon monoxide alarms.

TAKE ACTION
COsafety.ca



Safety in Your Sizzle

Few things can match the fun and enjoyment of a barbecue with family and friends. Practise sensible, safe barbecuing and your get-together will be a sizzling success.

Test for leaks

At the start of the BBQ season, do this three-step safety check of your BBQ:

- 1. Clean:** Use a pipe cleaner or wire to ensure burner ports are free of rust, dirt, spider webs or other debris.
- 2. Check:** Examine the hose leading from the tank to the burners. Replace if cracked or damaged.
- 3. Test:** Find leaks by applying a 50/50 solution of water and dish soap to propane cylinder connections and hoses. If bubbles appear, tighten the connection and/or replace the damaged parts and retest.

Light it right

Take these steps in the right order when igniting a BBQ:

- 1.** Open the hood.

- 2.** Turn gas release valve on tank.

- 3.** Turn on grill controls or heat settings.

- 4.** Take a step back.

- 5.** Push the igniter button.

If there is no igniter button, insert a long match or BBQ lighter through the side burner hole first, then turn on the heat control knob.

If the burner does not ignite right away, turn the gas off and wait five minutes, keeping the hood open, before repeating the procedure.

Keep it safe

BBQs are approved for outdoor use only. They emit carbon monoxide, a poisonous gas that can lead to unconsciousness and even death. Propane cylinders may not be used or stored inside any structure.

Do's for handling a BBQ:

- Keep loose clothing away from a hot BBQ.
- Keep children and pets at a safe distance.

- Turn gas valve off first when finished, then turn off the burner controls, so no gas is left in the connecting hose.
- Allow the BBQ to cool completely before closing the cover.

Don't's for handling a BBQ:

- Leave the BBQ unattended when in use.
- Allow grease to build up on the burners or at the base of the BBQ as this could cause a grease fire.
- Throw water on a grease fire – this will only spread the flame.
- Position your BBQ too close to wooden fences or walls; make sure the area behind your BBQ is free of combustible material, since this is where hot gases escape.

Don't BBQ on a balcony if:

- Prohibited by the Condominium Act of your building.
- Prohibited by the building owner or property manager of a rental property.

This BBQ safety message brought to you by:



Do BBQ on a balcony but only if:

- The balcony is open (no enclosures or walls have been erected).
- A propane cylinder is transported in a service elevator; when there are no service elevators, you may use the passenger elevator, but you must be alone.
- The cylinder is kept on the balcony and connected to the BBQ.
- The BBQ is kept clear of combustible material as listed on the BBQ's rating plate or in the certified instructions.
- The propane cylinder relief valve is at least one metre horizontally from any building opening below it, and three metres from a building air intake.



Spring Recreation



The snow has finally melted and warmer days emerge. As you head outdoors to enjoy the nice weather, there are many opportunities for fun and recreation. Whether you're taking your boat out on the lake or going on a family camping trip, a few simple precautions will help keep you and your family safe while having fun.

Boating Safety

Whether you are a seasoned veteran or a beginner on the water, Boating Ontario wants you to enjoy a positive experience on our waterways. Before heading out, consider the following safety messages.

The best fresh water cruising grounds await you.

1. Stay clear and stay safe around dams, hydroelectric stations and surrounding waterways.
2. Choose it and use it! Always wear a lifejacket or personal flotation device (PFD) suitable for the recreational boating activity you are enjoying.
3. Learn the laws – take a boating course and get your proof of competency.
4. Be prepared – plan ahead and be prepared with all of the proper equipment for you and your vessel.
5. Don't drink & boat – the laws have changed. Drinking and driving a boat is illegal and punishable under the Criminal Code of Canada.

Reprinted with permission from Boating Ontario.

Boat Refuelling Safety Checklist

A few basic fuel safety tips will increase your chances of a problem-free season on the water. Use this helpful checklist the next time you refuel your boat:

- Have a minimum 5BC-rated fire extinguisher on board.
- Turn off boat engine as well as all auxiliary power sources and pilot lights on gas appliances before refuelling.
- Make sure everyone leaves the boat.
- Lift engine cover to check for leaks and odours.
- If safe, turn on and run bilge blower for at least four minutes before starting the engine.
- Keep open flame at least three metres away from fuel source.

Drowning Prevention

Swimming, bath time, and water play can be a lot of fun for children. Safe Kids Canada wants families to enjoy swimming and water play as a part of a healthy active lifestyle.

Drowning is the second leading cause of injury related death for Canadian children. Every year, almost 60 children drown. This is equal to more than two classrooms full of children. Each year, another 140 children must stay in the hospital because they nearly drowned. Near-drowning can result in long-term health effects. It can affect the way a child thinks, learns, and plays.

But there is something you can do to keep children safe. Active supervision of children when they are around or in the water, proper pool fencing, the use of lifejackets, adult training in first aid and CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) and children's swimming lessons can help prevent drowning.

Drowning risks

Among all age groups, boys are more likely to drown than girls. This may be because parents accept more risk-taking in boys than in girls.

*Reprinted with permission from Safe Kids Canada.
safekidscanada.ca*

Children under five years of age

All children are at risk for drowning, but young children under five years of age are at special risk because:

- They are attracted to water but cannot understand the danger.
- They can walk but they cannot swim.
- Their lungs are smaller than adults' and fill quickly with water.
- They can drown in as little as 2.5 centimetres (one inch) of water.



Children five to 14 years of age

- Older children are at risk because they may overestimate their own skills, underestimate the depth of the water or strength of the current, or respond to a dare from a friend.
- Physical strength develops throughout childhood; even a good swimmer can get into trouble, especially in unfamiliar water or environments.



Take the High Road to Safety

Attention RV enthusiasts!

If you are one of the millions who love to take some of the comforts of home on the road, be aware of the safety guidelines for transporting and using propane to power your interior appliances.

Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm and propane leak alarm

Without adequate venting and fresh air, propane appliances can rapidly produce dangerous levels of CO. Because CO is an invisible, odourless and tasteless gas, it is important to install a CO detector to alert you if a dangerous concentration of CO is present. It is also a good idea to equip your RV with an electronic propane leak alarm.

Store and transport propane with care

Gas cylinders, relief valves and regulating equipment must be located either outside the vehicle, or in a compartment that is gas tight (or sealed off) from the interior of the RV. This allows any leaks to flow to the outside air.

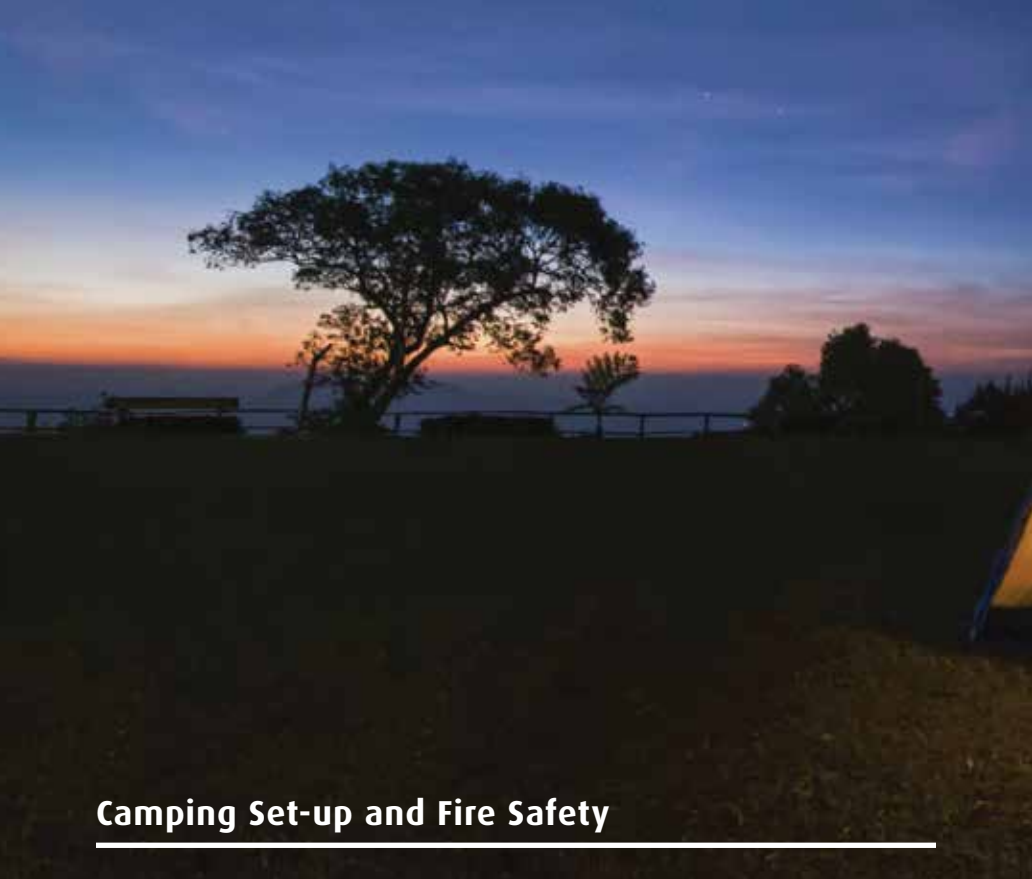
Also, keep cylinders out of harm's way. Do not mount cylinders onto the roof or back of the RV. Use the designated spaces for storage and transportation.

Use a registered technician and approved appliances

Only a registered fuels technician may legally install or remove propane piping, tubing equipment and appliances in any RV. Be sure to look for tested and certified products bearing the Canadian Gas Association (CGA), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC) logos on the rating plate of new appliances.

Refill with care

When it is time to top-up on propane, it is important to shut off all interior burners, pilot lights, appliances and automatic ignition switches. In addition, be sure to shut off the RV motor and have all passengers leave the vehicle during propane refilling.



Camping Set-up and Fire Safety

Camping is a great way to enjoy the outdoors while spending time with family and friends. Ensure you have a fun and safe experience by following these simple tips:

- Arrive at your campsite with enough daylight left to check over the area and to set up camp.
- Look for a level site with enough room to spread out all your camping gear.
- Be sure to check the site thoroughly for glass, sharp objects and branches that could fall or that hang low.
- Check for natural hazards such as poison ivy, bees and ants.
- Be aware of the types of wildlife in the area.
- Dispose of all trash in the proper recycling bins if available.
- Keep your campsite tidy and clean on a daily basis to avoid incidents.

Campfire safety

- Before starting a fire, ensure that open-air fires are permitted at the campsite.



- Use only paper or kindling, never flammable liquids, to start the fire.
 - Be sure the fire is in a safe, open area, well away from flammables and other natural combustibles.
 - Keep simple firefighting equipment, such as shovels, water or sand nearby.
 - Do not leave the fire unattended.
 - When it's time to put out the flames, use water to drown the fire; be sure to stay on the site until there are no glowing embers.
- Children should be under supervision at all times.
 - Loose clothing can easily catch fire; don't reach into an open fire to rearrange pieces of wood.

Always make sure children are supervised around the campfire.



Portable space heater safety

We do not usually think of heating needs during the spring season, but often space heaters are required to provide comfort at the cottage or campsite.

Learn the proper way to use portable space heaters by following these life-saving tips:

For electric space heaters

- Only use electric space heaters that have been certified by an accredited certification organization such as Canadian Standards Association (CSA) International or the Underwriters Laboratories of Canada (ULC).
- If you use an extension cord, make sure it is the right size and gauge to carry the electrical load being drawn by the space heater.
- Never use an electrical space heater in a wet area or any areas that can be exposed to water.

For fuel-burning space heaters

- Only use portable propane space heaters in well-ventilated outdoor areas – never in an enclosed space such as a camper, tent, car, home or cottage; doing so could cause deadly carbon monoxide exposure.

Other tips

- Never leave an operating space heater unattended and always turn off space heaters before leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Supervise children and pets at all times when a portable space heater is in use.
- Never use space heaters to dry flammable items such as clothing or blankets.
- Keep all flammable objects at least one metre from space heaters.



Cut out this checklist and check off completed items!

Spring Clean-Up Checklist

Outside the House:

- Maintain the air conditioner. Make an appointment with a qualified technician to perform safe and proper maintenance work for your specific unit.
- Clean the eavestroughs thoroughly. Use a sturdy and reliable ladder and rubber gloves.
- Store fuel and other combustibles outside in a well-ventilated shed or detached garage and away from direct sunlight and other heat sources.
- Check recreational equipment. Make sure all playground equipment, bikes, skateboards, etc. are in safe working condition for family use.

Inside the House:

- Check cleaning supplies. Dispose of what is no longer used or needed at a hazardous waste distribution centre.
- Install smoke and carbon monoxide alarms.
- Visually inspect electrical cords and outlets. Replace cords if worn or damaged.



Visit Safetyinfo.ca for more information

Helmet FAQ

Why should all cyclists wear a helmet?

Head injuries are the No. 1 cause of serious injury and death to kids on bicycles. A head injury can permanently change the way a child walks, talks, plays and thinks.

The human skull is just one centimetre thick. A properly fitted helmet helps protect your brain from absorbing the force from a crash or a fall. A properly fitted and correctly worn bike helmet can make a dramatic difference, cutting the risk of serious head injury by up to 85 per cent. This means that four out of five brain injuries could be prevented if every cyclist wore a helmet.

Skateboarding, inline skating and scooter riding – why is a helmet important?

Head injuries occur while skateboarding, inline skating and scooter riding. A properly fitted helmet helps protect your brain the same way it does on a bicycle, dramatically decreasing the risk of serious injury.

Can I use a bike helmet for skateboarding, inline skating and scooter riding?

Bike helmets can be used for inline skating and scooter riding. Skateboarding has its own kind of helmet.

Why do I need a different helmet for skateboarding?

Skateboarding helmets cover more of the back of the head and will protect against more than one crash. Because falls are common in skateboarding, these helmets are made of material that is specially designed to withstand multiple impacts on the same spot.

What is a multi-sport helmet?

This means the helmet meets safety standards for more than one activity. Be sure the multi-sport helmet shows

clearly what activity it has been tested for. If you have any questions, contact the manufacturer.

How can I tell if the helmet is the right size for my child?

Helmets come in a variety of sizes. There are special helmets for toddlers (under age five) that provide more protection at the back of the head. Some children may outgrow the “toddler” size helmet before age five and should use a bigger helmet.

Helmets come with extra padding that can be added to the inside of the helmet. Your child may need extra padding at the front or the back of the helmet so that it fits correctly.

How do I tell if the helmet is fitting correctly on my child’s head?

Have your child shake her head from side to side and from front to back. The helmet should not move around when she shakes her head.

How do I properly fit a helmet for my child?

The helmet should cover the top of the forehead and should rest about two fingers’ width above the eyebrows. The side straps should fit snugly around your child’s ears in a “V” shape. The buckles on the side strap should fit right under the ear. Buckle the chin strap. Tighten it until you can fit only one finger between the strap and your child’s chin.

Teach your child to check the helmet fit every time.

When should I replace a bike helmet?

Bike helmets should be replaced after five years or a crash where the cyclist has hit their head.

After five years, the plastics of the helmet dry out and may become brittle with age. Also, older helmets may not meet current safety standards.

Bike helmets are designed to protect your head against only one crash. After a crash in which the cyclist has hit his or her head, the foam inside the helmet is compressed. The helmet should be replaced, even if it does not look damaged.

When should I replace a hockey helmet?

The life-span of a hockey helmet is not easy to determine, and there are no expiration guidelines for hockey helmets in Canada.

Hockey helmets are multi-impact helmets, meaning they are designed to protect against more than one impact, but must be replaced when you see damage.

The recommendation from CSA (Canadian Standards Association) is for consumers to exercise good judgement as to the suitability of a hockey helmet for play. Helmets that are cracked, have loose fitting or missing liner pieces, or that have been subjected to a severe blow should be replaced.

Is it safe to use a second-hand helmet?

No, it is not a good idea to buy a helmet second-hand. You may not know if the helmet has been in a crash, and you may not know how old the helmet is.

My child's helmet is missing parts; is it OK to use?

No, your child should never use a helmet that has missing parts. Make sure that all of the straps, adjusters and fasteners on your child's helmet are secure and are in working order. If the sliders or buckles on the side straps are loose, the helmet will not fit correctly and should not be worn.

Can my child wear his baseball hat under his helmet?

No, anything that could change the way your child's helmet fits should not be worn. Baseball hats, big hair clips and headphones should never be worn under a helmet. Ponytails should be worn low on the neck when wearing a helmet.

Does it matter if my child puts stickers on her helmet?

Every sticker has some type of adhesive to hold it on, and adhesives have solvents in them that aid the sticking process. These solvents may make the plastic of the helmet weak. Only allow your child to put stickers on her helmet if you know the adhesive is compatible with the plastic of the helmet. If you don't know, it's better not to put the stickers on the helmet.

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Skateboarding helmets cover more of the back of the head and will protect against more than one crash.

Spring Home Maintenance



Spring is a great time of year to tackle home maintenance and renovation projects. Whether you're getting your pool heated and ready for your first swim or starting a new garden, these tips will help keep you safe while saving you time and money.



Heating Your Pool Safely

Before squeezing into those swim trunks, let's heat things up – safely. Here's a pre-season pool heater tip for both inground and above ground pools: only let a registered technician light your fuel-fired pool heater.

Pool owners frequently request landscapers and unregistered pool installation or maintenance contractors to light up their fuel-fired pool heaters, but did you know such an act is not only unsafe but illegal (under TSSA Fuel Safety regulations)?

Each year, TSSA investigates pool heater fires as a result of improper handling and usage of fuel-fired equipment by unregistered professionals.

Inadequately maintained heaters develop carbon build-up, create deadly carbon monoxide gas and, if exposed to an ignition source, can burst into flames, causing severe injury, property damage or even death.

Periodic inspections, especially at the start of the season, are important to keep your heater running safely and efficiently.

And your heater can only be examined by someone qualified to do so. Only those professionals with the proper technical certification may install, service and/or relight a pilot light on your fuel-fired pool heater.

Warm up the pool safely this summer by using a registered contractor to ensure your equipment is adequately maintained and proper procedures are followed.

To find a registered contractor, visit COSafety.ca.



The Digs on Pipeline Safety

Whether you're starting a garden in your backyard or getting ready to tackle some outside home renovations, contact your local utility first. You could be over a labyrinth of pipe carrying natural gas, countless electrical lines or even cable TV.

While natural gas is safe – when it's sealed tight inside that pipe – it possesses a few fiery properties. Composed primarily of methane, natural gas is extremely flammable. If a leak occurs, even through what may seem to be a minor scrape of a pipe from a shovel or backhoe, it can quickly rise (being lighter than air), gather in concentrated areas and, if near a flame or spark, cause a fire or deadly explosion.

Underground natural gas pipelines are designed to keep the gas safely inside.

In order to stay that way, there are certain rules for digging.

- When excavating, contact your local utility for the location of all nearby pipelines or use Ontario One at 1-800-400-2255; a simple call will quickly and easily get your underground utility lines marked.

Contact your local utility to locate all nearby pipelines.



- Check the paperwork left by the locator to ensure it covers your dig area, and make sure you understand all the markings; if not, discuss it with the locator.
- Markers only indicate the presence of a pipeline and should not be used or relied upon to determine the exact location of a pipeline; carefully hand dig within three feet (or one metre) of those markings as required by law under TSSA's Guidelines for Excavations (downloadable from www.safetyinfo.ca).

What to do if you hit a pipe

Even if you happen to cause damage to a buried pipeline that appears to be minor, notify the utility company immediately. Do not attempt to squeeze off the break or control the flow of gas – you could cause an explosion.

It is imperative that the utility company, and only those qualified to do so, inspect and repair any damage to the line – for everyone's safety. If you become aware of such an incident or potential incident, please contact your local utility immediately.

Pipeline hits as a whole have steadily decreased year over year in Ontario, thanks to the efforts of TSSA, the Ontario Regional Common Ground Alliance and various industry stakeholders, but there is still a way to go yet.

With your help, we'll keep the gas flowing – safely in the ground where it belongs. You dig?



Call Before You Dig:
Ontario One-Call

To arrange for free natural gas pipe location service at your site, call Ontario One. Call at least five working days in advance.

1-800-400-2255

It is imperative that the utility company, and only those qualified to do so, inspect and repair any damage to the line – for everyone's safety.

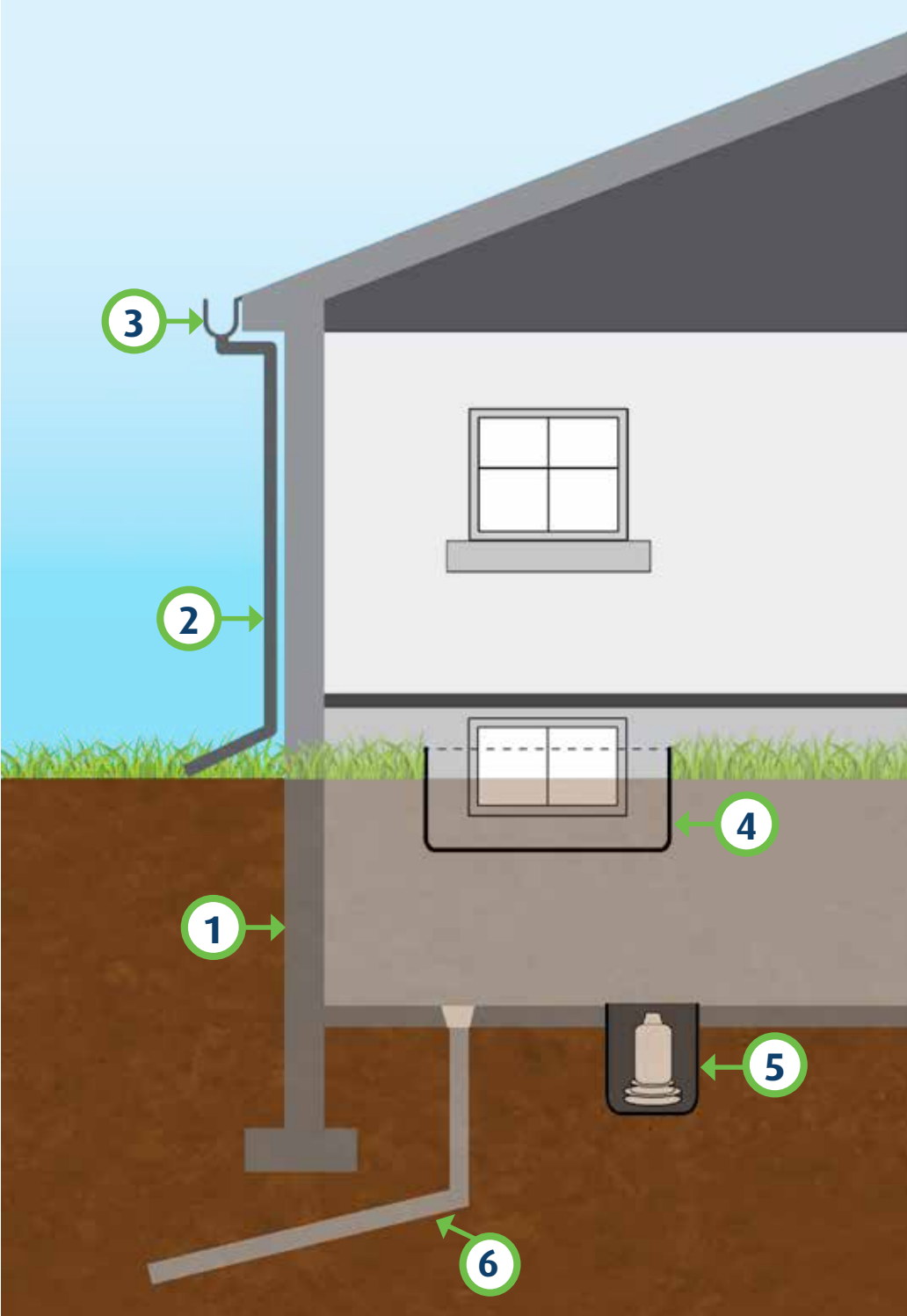


Basement Flooding

With the onset of spring and winter's welcomed thaw, a not-so welcome but common event can potentially occur: basement flooding. Apart from destroying valuable family treasures, it can also cause extensive and quite costly damage to your home's infrastructure.

Basement flooding can occur for a number of reasons such as stormwater or groundwater seeping into a home or from a sewer back-up. To reduce the risks of basement flooding, here are a few helpful tips for in and around the home.

- 1** If you notice any cracks or openings in walls, floors or foundations, have them sealed or get a certified professional to do so.
- 2** Take a look at your downspouts to make sure that the water flows well away from your foundation and not toward areas where the water can pool. If necessary, add extensions to allow for proper water flow.
- 3** Make sure you maintain your eavestroughs and downspouts by clearing them of leaves and other debris.
- 4** If you have window wells, make sure there is no standing water.
- 5** If you have a sump pump, make sure it's in good working condition.
- 6** Consult a plumber regarding back flow valves for your home to help in preventing potential flooding from sewer back-up.



Escalator and Elevator Safety

A close-up photograph of a person's hand, wearing a light-colored ribbed sweater, pressing a silver elevator call button. The button has a black triangle pointing upwards. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be an elevator shaft or a modern building interior.

Although escalators and elevators are extremely safe, practising proper riding behaviour will greatly reduce the chance of an accident. Make sure you know the facts.

The Ups and Downs of Elevator Safety

Watch your step

Elevator floors are not always level. Levelling will change depending on the age of the elevator and its varying speeds. If the level is beyond an inch and half, alert the building owner or representative and TSSA.

Use the button

If you want to hold the door open, never stick your hand in the door. The outer doors are there to protect you from two inner doors, not to detect your hand, arm, leg or head.

Respect passenger and weight restrictions

Pay attention to the maximum number of passengers and weight restrictions posted in the elevator car. They exist for a very valid reason: the safety of all within.

Use alarm button for emergencies

Never try to pry the doors open with your hands if trapped inside the elevator. Ring the alarm button or use the emergency phone to call for help.

The safest place to be when an elevator stops or if the doors won't open and you are trapped – is inside! An elevator is designed with every possible safety feature in mind.



In the event of a fire, use the stairs and follow building emergency procedures. Though modern elevating equipment is made of fire-resistant materials, elevators should not be used unless under the direct supervision of professional firefighters.

For more tips visit elevatorsafetyontario.ca

Shop, but Watch Your Step

While escalators are extremely safe and reliable, riders can fall and be injured if they are not paying attention, using strollers (which are prohibited), playing around, or overloaded with luggage and bags. Based on incidents reported to TSSA, more than 90 per cent of falls and injuries on escalators are rider-related.

A few simple reminders will keep you on your feet:

- Step on and off with care.
- Stand in the centre of the step, not right next to the railing, especially when wearing soft-soled footwear, to avoid entrapment.
- Hold onto the handrails.
- Attend to children and hold their hand.

- Keep loose clothing, such as long coats, scarves, and shoelaces clear of steps and sides.
- Keep handbags, knapsacks, shopping bags and parcels away from the handrails.
- Do not run up or down escalators.
- Move away quickly from exit areas.
- If you have luggage or a stroller, use an elevator.

It is also wise to take a careful and courteous attitude with you on escalators. Pay extra attention to small children and seniors. As a final safety measure, it is helpful to notice where the escalator's emergency stop buttons are located.

If you have a stroller or luggage use the elevator.

Riders can fall and be injured if they are not paying attention, using strollers (which are prohibited), playing around, or overloaded with luggage and bags.



Have you had your fuel-burning appliances inspected?

Your fuel-burning appliances need to be inspected annually by a registered heating contractor to maintain peak efficiency and protect your family from the dangers of carbon monoxide.

It is the smart thing to do and it is your responsibility.

Be sure to use a heating contractor registered by the Technical Standards and Safety Authority. To find a TSSA-registered contractor in your area, visit COSafety.ca.



TAKE ACTION
COSafety.ca





Helping you stay safe

The Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA) is an innovative, not-for-profit organization dedicated to enhancing public safety. Throughout Ontario, TSSA regulates the safety of: amusement devices; elevators and escalators; ski lifts; fuels; boilers and pressure vessels; operating engineers; and upholstered and stuffed articles. TSSA is there with you each time you get your home furnace inspected, your gas fireplace maintained, and even when you ride an elevator or escalator.



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Public Safety Website: safetyinfo.ca

PUTTING PUBLIC SAFETY FIRST - ALWAYS.