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New Logo - New Look!



It's time to say goodbye to our old logo and welcome in a new look for Safe Communities. With the increased focus on injury prevention throughout our country, Safe Communities Canada felt it was time to

unify the coalitions across the nation who are working on similar mandates. Grande Prairie & Area Safe Communities will remain a local organization that deals with local injury problem areas, but we will now have the added benefit of working with other such groups across Canada to assist us in getting our messages out.

As a designated member of Safe Communities Canada, we will see added benefits locally by having the ability to tap into the national network.

The following image is our new logo and it is consistent with other Safe Communities across Canada.



Upcoming Activities

May 28-June 3
Safe Kids Week 2007
 This year's topic is Drowning Prevention. Please contact us at dauna@gpsafecommunities.com or 402-2818 if you would like any resources on this topic.

June 1-8
Brain Injury Awareness Week. NABIS will be holding an open house June 4th at their new location (beside Red Cross).

June 4-9
Seniors Week - Information Fair will take place June 4th at the Golden Age Centre.

Off-highway Vehicles in the City

In the City of Grande Prairie, the use of Off Highway Vehicles (quads, dirt bikes, "pocket bikes," and so on) is illegal, unless they are only operated on the owner's property or other private property where the owner has given permission. Enforcement Services and the RCMP have received a significant number of complaints regarding illegal Off Highway Vehicles in areas of the City. Officers from both these agencies do enforce these provisions, which can result in fines ranging from \$50 - \$2500.

As well, all Off Highway Vehicles need to be registered, insured and

operated in a safe manner. Fines also range from \$57 - 115 for various offences under the Provincial Legislation.

Some suggestions for those who want to use Off Highway Vehicles:

- Check with the local municipality for the area where you want to ride to find out the local bylaws that apply in addition to the Provincial laws;
- Ride only on lands that you have permission;
- Ride responsibly staying in control, using the same care and respect you should use for any motor vehicle;

- Supervise youth that are operating Off Highway Vehicles and make sure they operate responsibly and safely;
- Always wear a helmet and other protective clothing; and
- When riding in remote areas, make plans for worst case scenarios (i.e. carry provisions, ride in pairs, have check in times, etc.).

For more information, please contact:

Garry Roth
 Program Manager
 Enforcement Services
 Ph. 830-5781
 Email: groth@cityofgp.com



Bike Safety - Facts about children

Most serious injuries and deaths to child cyclists involve collisions with a motor vehicle. The most severe injuries are those involving the head and brain; even seemingly minor head injuries may cause permanent brain damage. Other serious injuries include broken bones, facial injuries and serious skin abrasions that require grafts.

The Facts:

- An estimated 20 children age 14 and under die every year in Canada because of a bicycle-related injury, and 1,800 are hospitalized for serious injuries.

- Each year, Canadian children have an approximate 1 in 333,000 risk of death and a 1 in 3,300 risk of serious injury in a bike-related incident every year.

- Head injuries are the leading cause of severe injury to children on bicycles. Traumatic brain injuries account for 29% of all cycling-related

hospital admissions. A properly fitted helmet helps protect the head by absorbing the force from a crash or a fall, decreasing the risk of serious head injury by as much as 85% and brain injury by 88%. This means that 4 out of 5 head injuries could be prevented if every cyclist wore a helmet. There is a public perception that helmets may not provide protection in crashes that involve motor vehicles, but they have been proven effective in preventing head injury from all types of falls and crashes.

- Cycling deaths nearly always involve a collision with a motor vehicle.

- Children are also at risk for injury from falling from the bike. Falls may result from human factors, such as taking an action that surpasses their physical ability, or from external factors such as swerving to avoid hitting an object like a car or tree.

- The human skull is about 1 cm thick and can be shattered by an impact of only 7 to 10 km/h. Young cyclists ride at speeds averaging 11 to 16 km/h.

- Bicycle use, speed, and exposure to the roads vary considerably depending on parenting decisions and a child's age. Young children under age 5 generally ride tricycles and are not normally on the road. Some children ages 5 to 9 begin to ride on the road, but they do not have the judgment skills to do so safely without adult supervision. Children ages 10 to 14 begin to use bicycles as a form of transportation to school or other activities and as a result may be more exposed to traffic.

*Safe Kids Canada
Child & Youth
Unintentional Injury:
10 Years in Review
1994-2003*



Passport to Safety 101 Ready for the challenge?

Safe Communities is introducing the safety awareness test – Passport to Safety 101 – to students at Harry Balfour School who are 12 to 14-years-old.

Students, first give yourself a pat on the back. By taking the challenge and learning the basics about workplace safety, you're doing something great to prepare yourself to be safe on the job.

It's as simple as following the steps below to take the challenge online.

- | | |
|--------|--------------------|
| Step 1 | Get prepped |
| Step 2 | Take the challenge |
| Step 3 | Congratulations! |

Go to the website www.passporttosafety.com. Select "Here to take the challenge."

GRANDE PRAIRIE & AREA
SAFE
Communities



This is a comprehensive test to reinforce concepts. It will provide students with an awareness of their rights and responsibilities regarding health and safety and help them learn how to stay safe at work. The test consists of the following sections:

- Safety Rules
- Watch out! Machinery
- Germs!
- WHMIS
- Safety Gear
- Stress on the Job – Banish Bullying
- Avoiding sprains/strains

This test will not replace the training your boss **must** give you to do your job safely. You will still require job specific training. It's the law.

**YOUR SAFETY ON THE
JOB IS IMPORTANT!!**

Working teens and parents:
Learn how to prevent injuries.

www.gpsafecommunities.com • Phone 402-2818