

Safety Matters



JULY 2022

EMPLOYEE SAFETY NEWSLETTER



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Poisonous To Your Pooch

If you have a dog, you probably know chocolate can be dangerous to your pooch. But you may not know that if your dog sticks his nose in your handbag and eats a pack of sugarless chewing gum, the consequences could be deadly.

Sugarless gum may contain xylitol, a class of sweetener known as sugar alcohol.

Xylitol is present in many products and foods for human use but can be deadly to your pet.

Symptoms of xylitol poisoning in dogs include vomiting, followed by symptoms associated with the sudden lowering of your dog's blood sugar, such as decreased activity, weakness, staggering, incoordination, collapse and seizures.

If you think your dog has eaten xylitol, take him to your vet or an emergency animal hospital immediately.

Other products that may contain xylitol include:

- breath mints;
- baked goods;
- cough syrup;
- children's and adult chewable vitamins;
- mouthwash;
- toothpaste;
- some peanut and nut butters;
- over-the-counter medicines;
- dietary supplements; and
- sugar-free desserts, including "skinny" ice cream;

Xylitol can be used in baked goods, too, such as cakes, muffins, and pies — often because the baker is substituting another sweetener for sugar, as in products for people with diabetes.

For more information, visit <https://www.fda.gov/consumers/consumer-updates/paws-xylitol-its-dangerous-dogs>.



Call 811 So You Don't Need 911

Planning a home improvement job? Planting a tree? Installing a fence or deck? **WAIT!** Here's what you need to know first:

Whether you are planning to do it yourself or hire a professional, smart digging means calling **811 before each job.**

Homeowners often make risky

assumptions about whether or not they should get their utility lines marked, but every digging job requires a call — **even small projects** like planting trees and shrubs.

The **depth** of utility lines **varies** and there may be multiple utility lines in a common area.

Digging without calling can disrupt service to an entire neighborhood, **harm** you and those around you and potentially result in **fines and repair costs.**

Calling **811** before every digging job gets your underground utility lines **marked for free** and helps prevent undesired consequences.

Breaker Box Recall



If you recently had a breaker box installed, check the numbers

This recall involves circuit breaker boxes that were installed in homes, RVs, and commercial establishments. The load center can overheat, posing thermal burn and fire hazards.

The circuit breaker boxes were sold in gray and come in various sizes (square and rectangular). The recalled circuit breaker boxes were manufactured between February 2020 and January 2022, with date codes between 200561 and 220233.

For installed outdoor load cen-

ters, the manufacturing date codes are printed on the inside of the cover or door of the unit or on the box itself when the cover or door is open.

For installed indoor load centers, a qualified electrician can locate the interior date codes that are not visible to the home owner.

Circuit breaker boxes with covers that were manufactured between December 2019 and March 2022 are also included in this recall.

Breaker boxes were sold at authorized Schneider Electric distributors and home improvement and hardware stores nationwide and online including Home Depot & Lowe's.

All purchasers and installers should immediately contact Schneider Electric at 888-778-2733 to arrange to have the recalled load centers inspected by trained electricians to determine if replacement or repair is required. This inspection and any resulting replacement or repair are free of charge.

"These two may look harmless, but their behavior could cause a serious problem unless proper safety precautions are taken"



Do You Have A Gas Stove?

Recently a dog was seen on home video on his hind legs searching for food on the gas stovetop.

His paw turned on the burner and a pan later caught fire.

The fire then spread and caused significant damage to the home (the dog was rescued).

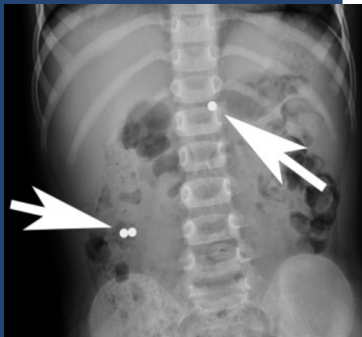
Cats have also been known to

hit the burner knobs on gas stovetops.

If the burner isn't lit, this can cause propane gas to escape and build up in the home, resulting in a possible explosion.

If you have pets in your home and a gas stovetop, make sure you install protective covers to avoid a potentially fatal fire or explosion.

Magnets Can Be A Menace



Magnets found in many toys are strong enough to attract one another or other metal objects through body parts creating unique dangers particularly if swallowed.

If two or more ingested magnets, or one magnet and a magnetic piece such as a steel ball, attract in the intestines, they can pinch the intestinal walls cutting off the blood supply resulting in a dangerous

perforation.

Twisting of the intestine and blockages can also result from swallowed magnets.

Be extremely careful in purchasing toys containing magnets and vigilant in watching children while playing.

Keep any small magnets away from children younger than 6 years old because young children have a tendency to put

objects in their mouths.

Children should never use magnets to emulate tongue, lip or nose piercings.

Children have also been known to use their teeth to pry apart two magnets.

Survey the child's play area, and if a magnet has become dislodged or if there is a magnet missing, stop using the toy immediately.

Scary Stepladders



Vehicle Theft Prevention

This July, the U.S. Department of Transportation's National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) is continuing its annual Vehicle Theft Prevention Campaign during National Vehicle Prevention Month. In 2020 alone, **more than 800,000** motor vehicles were stolen in the United States, costing vehicle owners more than \$7 billion. **Review these** 2020 statistics on vehicle theft in the United States and NHTSA's tips on keeping your

vehicle safe:

- Passenger cars made up more than 74% of all stolen motor vehicles.
- Only 56.4% of all stolen motor vehicles were recovered.
- There were 804,400 motor vehicles stolen. This is an 11.8% increase from 2019.
- A motor vehicle was stolen every 39 seconds.

Here are ways you can help **prevent motor vehicle theft**:

- Park in well-lit areas.
- Close and lock all windows and doors when you park.
- Hide valuables out of sight, such as in the glove box or trunk.
- Do not leave your keys in your vehicle.
- Do not leave the area while your vehicle is running.

For more information, visit

[NHTSA.gov/](https://www.nhtsa.gov/)
[theft](#) or visit
the [FBI's](#)
[Motor Vehicle](#)
[Theft page.](#)

Back Injuries Are Forever

Did you know?

- More than a million workers suffer back injuries each year.
- One of every five workplace injuries involves a back injury.
- One-fourth of all workers' comp paid claims involve back injuries.

DON'T BE A VICTIM !

Prior to doing any lifting, **ask** yourself the following:

- **How heavy** is the load?
- Will it be **difficult** to carry because of its **shape**?
- **How far** do I have to go?
- Is my **path clear**?
- Is it **easy to reach**?

- Is the weight **even**?
- Can I **use any device** for assistance?
- If too much, can the load be made **smaller**?
- **Can I get help from someone else?**

Remember:
A back injury is forever.

It's always better to ask for help or use mechanical assistance than to hurt yourself





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The information presented in *Safety Matters* has been compiled from various sources. Every effort is made to provide accurate information. Relation Insurance Services does not warrant that the information or materials are error free.

<https://www.relationinsurance.com>

Let's pick a fireworks show!


Set off at home

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Might set yard on fire

Next-day cleanup

Pets traumatized

NextDoor 


Professional show

Free

Oohs and aaahs

Easy peasy for you

Dogs still love you

NextDoor 

What's Wrong With This Picture?

Here are some of the safety issues from last month's "What's Wrong With This Picture?"

Some other problems many of you found included:

- None of the workers have safety glasses or hearing protection;
- One worker not wearing reflective vest;
- No barricades around holes being dug;
- Generator under scaffold in fall zone;
- Ladder not tied off;
- Worker with bricks has poor posture.

Thanks to all of you who took the time to respond!

Congratulations to all those sharp eyes!

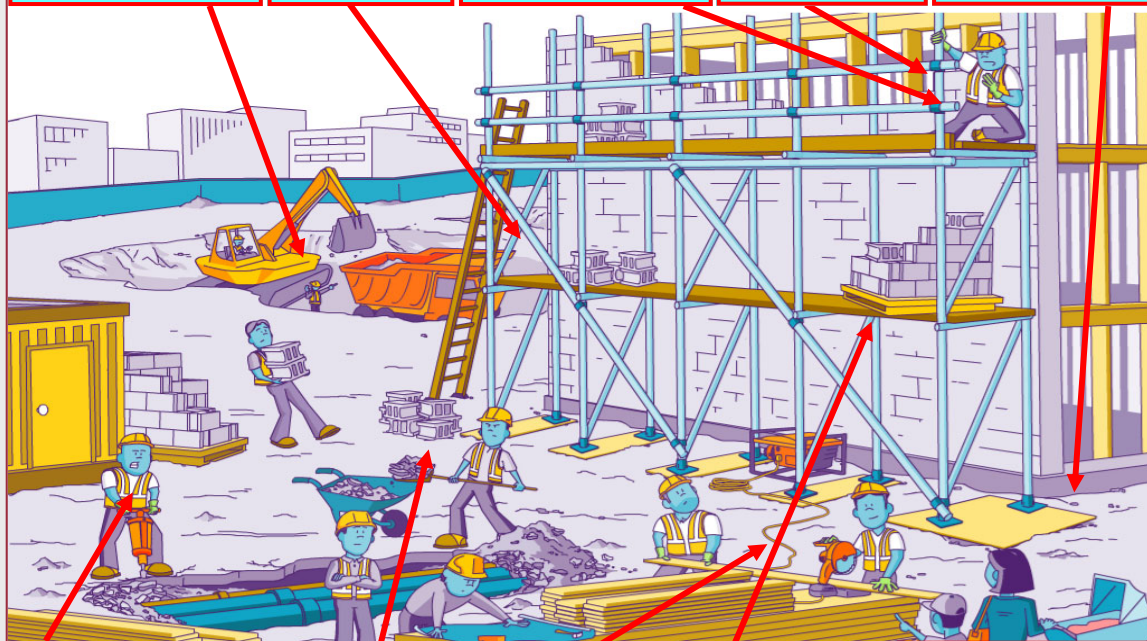
Worker standing under equipment

No railings or toeboard

No side railings or toeboard

Worker hanging over edge

Scaffold erected over hole



Worker not watching the jackhammer

Bricks in walkway

Electrical cord in walkway

Pallet not straight on scaffold

No fence to keep people out of area

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Be sure to look for next month's issue for a new photo in our "What's Wrong With This Picture?" feature.