





## • NAOSH Week – Workplace Safety

The North American Occupational Safety and Health (NAOSH) Week focuses on preventing injury and illness in the workplace. This year, NAOSH week is May 1-7. The theme is "Equip, Educate, Empower" – three key ingredients of any successful workplace safety plan.

A family event featuring displays and interactive events will be held at the Forks Market on May 1 to launch NAOSH week.

For more information about workplace safety, visit [www.safemanitoba.com](http://www.safemanitoba.com) and the NAOSH section at [www.csse.org](http://www.csse.org).

## • Day of Mourning

The annual Day of Mourning on April 28 is the official, international day to remember those who have suffered work-related injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

Many people are not aware of the prevalence of workplace injuries and fatalities. There were 848 work related fatalities in Canada in 2004. Twenty-two of these fatalities occurred in Manitoban workplaces. Over 41,000 work-related injuries and illnesses were reported in Manitoba in 2004.

The day is observed in a variety of ways. The Canadian flag on Parliament Hill and at provincial legislatures will fly at half-mast. In Winnipeg, the day will be commemorated with a Leader's Walk starting from the Union Centre Building, progressing down Broadway to the legislative building. The Workers Compensation Board will lower its flag to half-mast and observe a moment of silence.

## • Brandon & Area Safe Community Coalition...

In November 2003, Brandon & Area received official designation as Manitoba's first designated Safe Community. On June 1, 2004, they hosted a community launch at the Riverbank Discovery Centre. Paul Kells, co-founder of the Safe Communities Foundation, attended as guest speaker and stressed the importance and strength of communities working together across sectors to support a culture of safety.

### Community Workshop #2

In November 2004, the Coalition hosted a community workshop directed at expanding the interest and membership in the injury prevention projects set out in the Business Plan. About 30 people attended the workshop and local media also promoted the event. Since then, three subcommittees have been meeting regularly, including: Falls in Seniors, Falls in Children (Playgrounds) and Young Worker Injury. Each group has revisited the original business plan and is in the process of setting their course for the next year or two.

### Falls among Seniors

The group has met twice and has established draft terms of reference for the committee. They are gathering specific information about current fall prevention programs in Brandon & Area and developing a standardized process for collecting falls-related data. Plans are underway to conduct focus groups with residents in five seniors complexes that are not currently connected to the health sector.

### Falls among Children (Playground Safety)

A facilitated PATH process has been invaluable in assisting the group to focus their efforts. They are in the process of gathering a playspace inventory, lists of qualified inspectors and developing a standardized process for incident reporting. They also want to gather and distribute community educational materials to prevent playground falls.

### Young Worker Injury

The committee partners were featured in a recent publication of *Health Time for You*, a local magazine. On April 22, 2005 Career & Employment Youth Services and Manitoba Workplace Health and Safety are partnering to provide a safety-training workshop for employer agencies that hire youth, especially summer students. This workshop will focus on basic workplace safety information for young workers who may not be in school or may have missed opportunities for workplace safety training in the past. The Safe Work Student Program distributed to all schools in Manitoba last year will be introduced and available as a resource for all in attendance. Contact Marnie Groeneveld for more information at [marnie@ceys.mb.ca](mailto:marnie@ceys.mb.ca).

Questions? Contact Sharon Young at (204)571-8398 or [youngs@brandonrha.mb.ca](mailto:youngs@brandonrha.mb.ca).



*Promoting a culture of safety, making Brandon and the Rural Municipalities of Cornwallis, Elton and Whitehead among the safest communities in the world to live, learn, work and play*

*To date, Brandon & Area is the only designated Safe Community in Manitoba. This coalition has generously offered to share their experiences, trials and successes by providing IMPACT ON INJURIES with a series of articles. If you are interested in having your community become a designated Safe Community, please contact Wendy French, Regional Coordinator for Manitoba by calling 787-1907 or e-mail [wfrench@exchange.mb.ca](mailto:wfrench@exchange.mb.ca).*

## • CPSC, Graco recall 1.2 million toddler beds

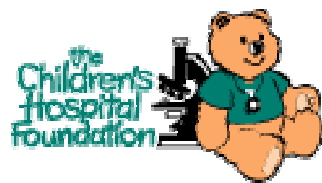
The Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) imposed a \$4 million penalty against Graco Children's Products for failing to inform the government in a timely manner about over 12 million products that pose a danger to young children. CPSC and Graco also announced the recall of about [1.2 million toddler beds](#), sold between February 1994 and March 2001, because a child's arm or leg can become entrapped in the guardrails or footboard. The company's failure to report the toddler beds is one of the violations leading to the penalty.

Graco acquired the Century brand name in 1998 and is now owned by Newell Rubbermaid. From 1991 - 2002, Graco and Century failed to report defects in juvenile products which could create substantial product hazards or unreasonable risks of injury or death to young children. According to the CPSC, Graco failed to report hundreds of incidents and injuries involving 16 different products, including infant carriers, high chairs, infant swings, strollers and toddler beds. The injuries range from contusions and fractures to strangulation (including some fatalities).

Product	Hazard	Injuries	Years of Manufacture	CPSC Recall Link
Century's "Assura" Infant Car Seat/Carrier PR 01-012	Carrier's handle lock breaks.	Babies can fall from the carrier.	1991 - 1997	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML01/01012.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML01/01012.html</a>
Century Stroller (5 Different Travel Systems) PR 01-172	Locking system failed, seat detached or stroller collapsed.	Babies can fall to the ground or suffer impact injuries.	1996 - 2000	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML01/01172.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML01/01172.html</a>
Graco High Chair PR 01-088	Two-piece legs could come apart; unit could fall to the ground.	Babies can fall to the ground.	1995 - 1997	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml01/01088.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml01/01088.html</a>
Graco Carrier/ Swing Seats PR 98-048	Carrier handles do not lock in place properly.	Babies can fall to the ground.	1993 - 1997	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML98/98048.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/PRHTML98/98048.html</a>
Graco Infant Swing (3 designs) PR 00-098	Restraint and tray lock failures.	Babies can fall to the ground or slide out of seat leg openings and become entrapped.	Before November 1997	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml00/00098.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml00/00098.html</a>
Graco Travel Lite Infant Swing PR 04-176	Seats and restraint system failures.	Babies pitch forward or to the side or fall to the ground.	2003	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml04/04176.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml04/04176.html</a>
Graco Toddler Bed PR 05-137	Entrapment in side rails or footboard.	Toddlers' limbs can become entrapped.	1994 - 2001	<a href="http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml05/05137.html">http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PRECEL/prhtml05/05137.html</a>



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**IMPACT's core funding is provided by the Children's Hospital Foundation.**

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# Injuries & First Nations People

Special Edition of IMPACT ON INJURIES Winter, 2004-2005



## Injuries are a leading cause of hospitalizations and deaths in First Nations people.

The First Nations & Inuit Health Branch of Health Canada, the Manitoba Community Wellness Working Group and IMPACT are implementing a strategy to increase awareness of this serious and preventable problem. We are producing a series of information sheets that outline the injury problem in Manitoba's First Nations Communities and describe ideas and programs to help communities identify and address injuries.

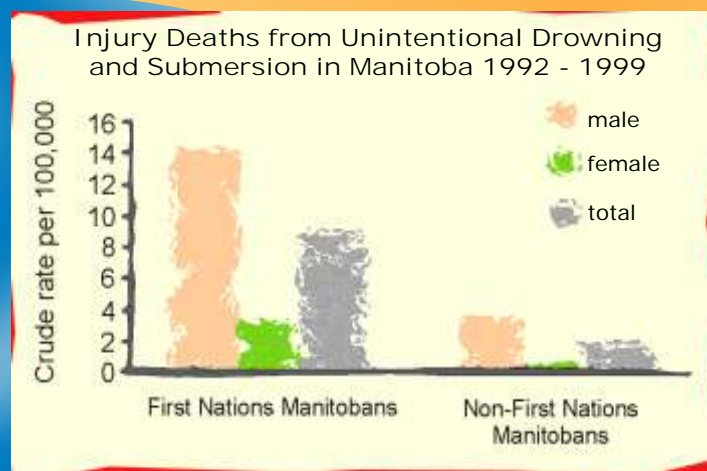
The Information sheets cover the following injury topics:

- Injury Prevention
- Motor vehicles
- Drowning
- Falls
- Fires and Burns

## Drowning

First Nations people in Manitoba are at a high risk of drowning death or hospitalization from a near drowning experience. Overall, First Nations Manitobans are four times more likely to die from unintentional drowning and submersion than the general population.

Between 1992 and 1999, 28 First Nations people died and 87 were hospitalized from drowning or submersion. While the numbers may not seem high, the rate of drowning related deaths and hospitalization is very high.



Manitoba Health. (2004). Injuries in Manitoba: a 10-year a review.

Please share this information with anyone that you think may have an interest in improving the lives and wellness of people in their communities.

# First Nations and Drowning

## Some quick facts about drowning in Manitoba

- 75% of all drownings occur in natural settings such as lakes, ponds or rivers.
- About 29% of drowning deaths are boating related.
- In over half of child drowning deaths, there is no adult supervision.
- Males are 6 times more likely to die from drowning.
- In First Nations Manitobans, males between 25-34 years of age have the highest rate of drowning death with a rate of 31.1 per 100,000 people.
- In First Nations Manitobans, females between 1-4 years of age have the second highest rate (26.8 per 100,000).

## Where in Manitoba do drownings happen?

From 1992 to 1999, 205 people in Manitoba died because of drowning and submersion. Drowning occurs across the entire province. The following diagram shows drownings by Manitoba Health Regional Health Authority Boundaries.

From 1992 - 1999 drowning and submersion resulted in:

Assiniboine RHA

12 deaths

16 hospitalizations

Brandon RHA

3 deaths

5 hospitalizations

Burntwood RHA

43 deaths

50 hospitalizations

Central RHA

14 deaths

17 hospitalizations

Churchill RHA

Due to low numbers, information is unavailable to protect confidentiality.

Interlake RHA

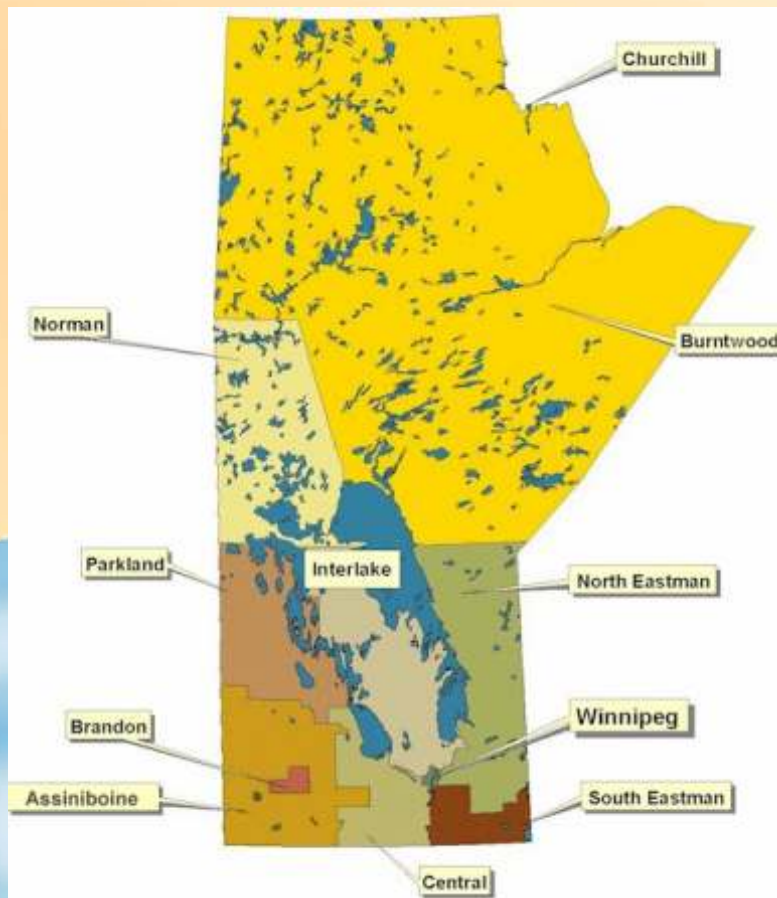
29 deaths

8 hospitalizations

Norman RHA

16 deaths

14 hospitalizations



North Eastman RHA

15 deaths

12 hospitalizations

Parkland RHA

6 deaths

11 hospitalizations

South Eastman RHA

8 deaths

7 hospitalizations

Winnipeg RHA

57 deaths

58 hospitalizations

## PFDs can save lives

PFD stands for *Personal Floatation Device*. The law currently states that there must be a PFD or lifejacket for each person on board a boat. However, it is not good enough just to have a PFD available. Each person should wear a PFD every time he or she travels in a boat. If the boat capsizes or if the person falls out of the boat, there may not be enough time to find the PFD and put it on. This is especially important in cold water as it reduces the person's ability to breathe and move.

A study from the Canadian Red Cross reported that Aboriginal people are less likely than other Canadians to wear a PFD.



## The most common causes of drowning in Manitoba are...

- Children unattended while swimming, in the bath or around other water hazards.
- Boaters not wearing a PFD. The Lifesaving Society reports that each year 89% of boaters who drown were found not wearing a lifejacket or PFD.
- Boaters and swimmers under the influence of alcohol and drugs.
- Boating mishaps.

## Why are people living in remote First Nations communities at higher risk of drowning?

- More exposure to water as many remote communities are surrounded by water
- Rivers and lakes are used as transportation routes
- Ice roads
- Lack of supervision of children who live in communities that are close to water
- Infrequent use of safety equipment such as PFDs
- High cost of safety equipment
- Lack of safety programs such as swimming lessons and safety courses (eg boat and snowmobile safety)
- Isolation from emergency services
- Alcohol use
- Cold-water temperatures in the North can lead to death by hypothermia.

## The Good News

Drowning can be prevented. Every year in Manitoba, drowning and near drowning incidents happen under much the same circumstances as in the previous years. Because of this, we can predict that unless changes are made at the community level and in personal behaviours, First Nations Manitobans will continue to drown every year. But we can make a difference.

Communities, parents and individuals can make a commitment to help prevent drowning.

### At the community level...

Communities can work together to identify and address the risk factors unique to their area. Some examples of community-based activities are:

- Establish safe waterfronts.
- Identify water hazards such as drainage ditches and septic fields that could be dangerous to children. Protect children by erecting barriers such as fences around these hazards.
- Offer swimming lessons, and snowmobile and boating safety courses in your community.
- Organize a first responder/CPR course in your community.
- Have designated, supervised areas for swimming.
- Work with local agencies to ensure that boating regulations are being enforced.
- Community testing of ice roads and maintenance of snowmobile trails.
- Issue warnings regarding seasonal water hazards such as thin ice and fast moving water.
- Educate parents and children about water safety.
- Organize a PFD loan program.

### At the personal level...

- Never ride in a boat or on a snowmobile with someone who has been drinking alcohol.
- Never drive a boat, drive a snowmobile or go swimming if you have been drinking.
- Always wear a PFD if you are in a boat. Also wear a PFD if you are snowmobiling on ice in the spring.
- Take swimming lessons.
- Know and follow boat and snowmobile safety regulations.
- Check out how deep water is and look for any hazards before jumping or diving into a body of water.
- Learn CPR.

### Parents and caregivers...

- When swimming with infants, young children and non-swimmers, stay within arms reach of the child.
- Always supervise young children in the bath.
- Never use infant bath seats.
- Eliminate water hazards in the home. Empty all water from buckets, child swimming pools and other containers when not in use.
- Learn CPR.
- Do not allow children under 16 to drive a boat or a snowmobile.

Manitoba Health. (2004). Injuries in Manitoba: a 10-year review Lifesaving Society. (2004). Manitoba Drowning Report: A review of Manitoba's water-related fatalities in 2002.

Manitoba Health. (2004). Injuries in Manitoba: a 10-year review.

## Resources

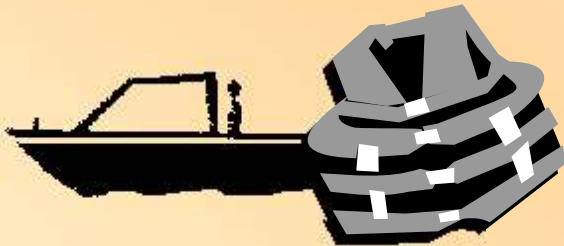
### Canadian Red Cross, Water Safety Services

The Canadian Red Cross offers a comprehensive program to educate and train Canadians in water safety. The programs include swimming and water safety lessons for infants, toddlers, children, teens and adults; leadership training program for Instructors and Instructor Trainers; training materials for Pleasure Craft Operator Competency cards; and promotional safety campaigns targeted at high risk populations. Produces and distributes the Northern & Remote Water Safety Community Resource, a comprehensive book that helps communities identify water hazards and organize ways to reduce water-related risks.

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### Lifesaving Society Manitoba Branch

The Society's mission is to prevent drownings and aquatic accidents for Canadians by providing public education and program education. Offers courses on lifesaving, lifeguarding, instructing, and Boat Operator's Accredited Training.

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Website: <http://www.mb.lifesaving.ca>



### Manitoba Coalition for Safer Waters

The Coalition's aim is to reduce the number of drownings in Manitoba by ensuring that all Manitobans have the attitude, knowledge and skill required to make informed decisions about their own safety and the safety of others when participating in activities in, on, or around water and ice. They produce the Waterfront Safety Guidelines in Manitoba resource book.

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Website: [http://www.hsc.mb.ca/impact/s\\_w\\_background.htm](http://www.hsc.mb.ca/impact/s_w_background.htm)

### Transport Canada, Canadian Coast Guard

This Branch of the Federal Government offers a boating safety accreditation course and provides search and rescue services.

Website: [http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/main\\_e.htm](http://www.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/main_e.htm)

