

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 2023 PUBLIC SAFETY TIPS:

These tips are intended for residents, visitors and property owners of Brookfield, VT but may apply to neighboring towns as well.

As we read local papers, listen to the radio and watch TV it is hard not to marvel how so many people die of preventable fatal injuries. Not only are these injuries preventable but they happen over and over. Yet we know how to protect ourselves. We have known how for many years. They have been advertised, made public and in many cases backed up by law. Yet the accidents continue. "We" learn the same lessons over and over. When will these lessons be heeded by more people?

The following is a partial list of common causes of death or serious injury that can be prevented in many instances,

VEHICLE SEAT BELTS: How many accident reports do you read or hear where the accident was survivable had the driver and occupants only worn their seat belt(s). Please go to and read <https://www.nhtsa.gov/risky-driving/seat-belts>.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFDs): How many boating accidents have you read where the occupants were not wearing their PFDs? Please go to https://www.usps.org/eddept/files/other_20_handout.pdf for a good explanation of boating accidents.

REFLECTIVE CLOTHING: How often do you read of a pedestrian fatality or serious injury during the hours of darkness or poor visibility? Please go to and read <https://www.safetyhumanfactors.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/241%29Costello,Wogalter%282004%29.pdf>.

CHAIN SAW INJURIES: Many of us in this area have at least one chain saw. Chain saws do not account for a lot of deaths but they do cause a lot of injuries. There are many causes but not using or wearing safety equipment properly is a factor in many injuries. Please go to and read <https://www.sawinery.net/chainsaws-injury-stats/>.

Please don't use one of the many excuses for not properly wearing or using safety devices. The excuses won't protect you, the safety devices will. Please use and wear safety equipment when you are doing the above activities as well as many others. Enjoy yourself but be safe.

Brookfield Public Safety Advisory Committee: Stuart Edson, Mike Stoddard, Dan Mason Michael Rutkovsky, and Lew Stowell.