

BROOKFIELD PUBLIC SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

JULY 2025 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. In addition to the fatalities are many more long-term medical consequences. 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. These protective strategies 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, see or hear where the accident was survivable had the driver and the 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.

SWIMMING SAFETY: The CDC reports that the leading cause of death for 1- to 4-year-olds is drowning. Even a few moments of inattention can cause a tragedy to occur when children are around water. Do you know how to safely rescue a person in difficulty in the water? Please go to and read: <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/swimming>
<https://www.cdc.gov/drowning/prevention/index.html>.

REFLECTIVE CLOTHING: How often do you read of a pedestrian fatality or serious injury during the hours of darkness or poor visibility? What you may not realize is that even on a hot sunny day, our treelined roads have dark shadows making pedestrians, bicyclists, horseback riders wearing dark clothing difficult to see. We urge you to purchase and use reflective clothing on every walk or ride. They are not expensive and could save you from serious injury or death. 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. Helmets with hearing and eye protection, safety chaps, and safety gloves are important. Yes! You need the same protections as a professional logger. Your saw can do just as much damage to your body as theirs. 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.

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