



PUBLIC HEALTH CONNECTION

MAY AND JUNE 2011

Public Health Safety, Bring it Home!

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In April, public health departments across the United States promoted the slogan "Safety is NO Accident" in an effort to raise awareness about unintentional injuries during National Public Health Week April 4-10, 2011. The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) recognized the observance by highlighting safety tips that all Scott County residents can use to help keep their families safe and healthy.

Bring Safety Home

Your home is supposed to be the place that you feel the most secure.

However, for many of us, there are plenty of opportunities to make our homes a safer place to live and raise our families. First, Scott County Health Department (SCHD) encourages all families to have an emergency supply kit for their home as well as an emergency communication plan for their families. While the SCHD does its part to prepare for disasters such as tornadoes and floods that can affect public health,

we emphasize that preparedness must start in the home!



- Water. At least 1 gallon per person, per day, for at least 3 days. That's 3 gallons a person!
- At least a 3 day supply of food for each person
- First aid kit
- Prescription medications
- A battery powered radio or "weather radio"
- Extra batteries
- Flashlights
- Can opener
- Bedding for each family member
- Personal hygiene items
- Dust mask
- A whistle to signal for help
- A waterproof container for important documents

Additionally, families should have a communication plan that all family members carry with them at all times. This plan tells family members where to meet in case of a disaster or who to call in case there is an accident while at home or at school.

To learn more about what to include in an emergency supply kit and how to make a communication plan for your family visit

www.scottcountyiowa.com/health/preparedness_step.php

All families can assemble a kit from items already available in their home or that can easily be purchased at a local retail store. SCHD recommends that these kits be portable, stored in a waterproof container, and kept in one central location in the home. Kits should be available to "grab and go". There are many items to include in an emergency supply kit. At minimum your family kit should include:

FLOOD SAFETY

NOTE FROM
PUBLIC HEALTH SAFETY SERVICE AREA

The Quad Cities has experienced extensive flooding during the past months. To protect the health and safety of our residents, the Health Department suggests the following:

- Do not wade, swim, or play in the flood water. Water currents can be extremely swift and dangerous.
- Avoid contact with flood water as much as possible. Always wash hands thoroughly before eating, drinking, or
- smoking. Flood water is contaminated and can cause illness if swallowed.
- Your job may require you to work in an area affected by flooding. If this is the case, wear appropriate protective gear such as boots and gloves and wash your hands frequently with soap and water.
- If you are injured, contact your health care provider for wound care and to determine if a

tetanus vaccination is needed.



SAFETY TIPS FOLLOWING AN ANIMAL BITE

NOTE FROM ENVIRONMENTAL
HEALTH SERVICE AREA

Prevention is the best medicine when it comes to animal bites. Children should be taught not to approach unfamiliar animals and strays. Additionally, all pet owners should keep pets, such as dogs, properly restrained.

If a bite does happen, the first step you should take is to thoroughly wash



the wound with soap and running water. Washing the bite area can greatly reduce the chances of becoming infected with the rabies virus as well as other harmful bacteria that could cause infection. Next, report the animal bite to the Humane Society of Scott County's Animal Control Program. Reporting the bite

helps animal control collect valuable information about the animal and the incident. In Iowa, anyone with knowledge of an animal bite or scratch is required to report it to animal control or law enforcement. An animal bite should also be reported to your family doctor. Your doctor will decide if he/she needs to examine you. Your doctor will determine your risk

of contracting rabies and whether treatment is needed.



GARDENING—TETANUS

NOTE FROM
CLINICAL HEALTH SERVICE AREA

The weather is nice and people are spending more time outdoors doing things they enjoy, such as gardening. Before you dig in the dirt, check to be sure that you are up-to-date with your tetanus vaccine.

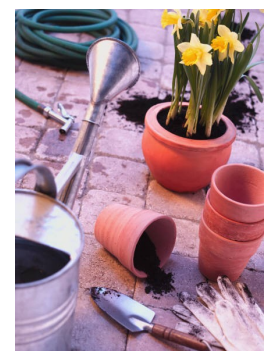
A person who gets a cut, an injury common when doing yard work, might need a tetanus vaccine to prevent infection. All adults should

get a booster of the tetanus vaccine every ten years.

Tetanus (also called Lockjaw) can cause painful muscle spasms, usually all over the body. It can lead to a tightening of the jaw muscles so that a person cannot open their mouth or swallow. Tetanus kills about one out of five people who are infected. The good news is that tetanus can easily be

prevented with a vaccine!

There are three different vaccines that contain tetanus. The options are Td, Tdap, and DTaP. The "T" stands for tetanus, the "d" stands for diphtheria, and the "p" stands for pertussis. Check with your health care provider to find out which vaccine you need and when you need to get it.



SCOTT COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

COMMUNITY PARTNER SPOTLIGHT:
SCOTT COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS CENTER

In 2008, all public safety entities in Scott County began to consolidate their public safety emergency communication services to become the newly formed Scott Emergency Communications Center (SECC). This consolidated center will provide an improved and more reliable 911 dispatching and recordkeeping service.

The agencies include the Scott County Sheriff's Office, Davenport Police and Fire, Bettendorf Police and Fire and

several suburban and rural police and fire agencies, along with MEDIC EMS.

The Scott Emergency Communications Center is an authorized agency of the Emergency Management Agency. The agency's duties are to provide emergency communication services to local public safety agencies.

As of May 2011, all agencies will be working together under one roof

and dispatching services will be in full operation.



NATIONAL PUBLIC HEALTH MONTH REVIEW

NOTE FROM COMMUNITY RELATIONS,
INFORMATION AND PLANNING SERVICES

The Scott County Health Department (SCHD) recognizes public health throughout the month of April in addition to recognizing National Public Health Week April 4-10, 2011. This year the SCHD worked to keep residents of Scott County informed of simple safety tips they can take to prevent injuries. In doing so, SCHD displayed awareness posters throughout the Scott County Administration Center to alert patrons of National Public Health Week and simple

safety tips that they can take to prevent injuries.

The SCHD also provided an emergency preparedness informational booth at the Healthy Kids Day on April 16th. This booth provided information regarding how to create an emergency preparedness kit for the home, and displayed supplies including special needs cots, linen sets, hygiene supplies, and infant supply kits that are found in the Scott County Emergency Management

Trailer which would be deployed in the event of an emergency.

In addition, Scott County has recently established a presence on Facebook. The SCHD used this presence to promote public safety and injury prevention. Brief informational pieces were posted daily throughout National Public Health Week and periodically throughout the month of April.



**Safety is NO Accident:
Live Injury-Free**
National Public Health Week
April 4-10, 2011 - www.nphw.org

Facebook posts covered topics including safety at home, work, play, on the move, and in our community. To view our wall, and learn more about safety, please visit Scott County Iowa on Facebook.

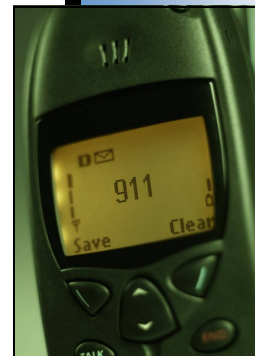
WHEN TO USE 911?

COMMON CONFUSIONS:
SETTING THE RECORD STRAIGHT

The 911 program was introduced to provide a universal, easy-to-remember number to reach police, fire or emergency medical assistance from any phone in any location. To keep the 911 system running smoothly, it is important for callers to only call 911 in an emergency situation. This is any situation that requires

immediate assistance from the police, fire department or ambulance, including: a fire; a crime, especially if in progress; a car crash, especially if someone is injured; or a medical emergency, such as someone unconscious, gasping for air or not breathing, having chest pain, or other symptoms.

If you are unsure if a situation is a true emergency, officials recommend calling 911 and letting the call-taker determine whether you need emergency help. On the same note, if you dial 911 by mistake, simply stay on the phone to explain to the call-taker what happened.



SCOTT COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, May 19, 2011; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County
Administrative Center, Board Room-1st Floor*
- Memorial Day
Monday, May 30, 2011
Scott County Offices Closed
- Scott County Board of Health Meeting
Thursday, June 16, 2011; 12:00-1:00 p.m.
*Open to the Public. Location: Scott County
Emergency Communications Center, 1100 E. 46th
Street, Davenport*

OUR MISSION:

The Scott County Health Department is committed to promoting, protecting and preserving the health of the community by providing leadership and direction as advocates for the individual, the family, the community and the environment we serve.

OUR VISION:

As recognized and respected leaders in serving and protecting our citizens, we at the Scott County Health Department are committed to a safer, healthier community and environment. In so doing, we provide a multitude of services with Professionalism, Responsiveness, Involvement, Dedication, and Excellence.



If you would like to receive this newsletter electronically, please add your name to our e-mail list on our Web site, www.scottcountyiowa.com/health. To remove your name from our mailing list, please e-mail health@scottcountyiowa.com or call 563-326-8618.



Public Health
Prevent. Promote. Protect.