

Office of the Governor

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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor's Weekly Radio Message Focuses on Summer Safety

Gov. Christie Whitman provides a weekly radio message to radio stations throughout the state. Each week, the message focuses on a different concern or event of interest to New Jerseyans.

This week the Governor highlights the importance of summer safety. She encourages parents to take various child safety precautions while enjoying New Jersey's beaches or parks, and she also reminds travelers of highway safety issues.

Attached is the text of the message.

The radio message can be accessed by calling the Governor's actuality line at 609-292-3249. It will be available today, beginning at noon, and will run through the weekend

Governor's Weekly Radio Message August 21, 1998 Summer Safety

I hope all of you are enjoying this summer and taking advantage of some of the great destinations here in New Jersey. From our beautiful beaches and state parks, to our bike paths and picnic spots, New Jersey and the summer are perfect together!

But I would like to take some time to remind you to focus on safety during these hectic summer days. We must remember to take precautions especially when it comes to our children.

As you head out on a Saturday morning to take a bike ride with your kids, make safety a priority. As most of you know, children are required to wear helmets when riding a bicycle. It may be the law for children to wear a helmet --but it just makes good sense for everyone. Accidents happen too easily and all too often.

I also want to alert parents to the dangers of leaving children unattended in a vehicle, especially during these hot summer months.

As you run into the market to pick up charcoal for that summer barbecue, take your child into the store with you - don't leave a child in the car alone. While you are in the store, the heat is building up in the car - faster than you would ever imagine. A seemingly harmless, five minute stop could expose your child to unbearable levels of heat.

What's more, there is always a danger that your child could be approached by a stranger - these risks are not worth taking. Don't leave your child unsupervised in a vehicle, not even for a minute.

On the topic of cars, as you make your way to the beach this summer, please drive carefully. I am sure you've noticed that the new 65 mile an hour speed limit has been put into effect on some of our highways. I believe this only highlights the need for defensive, careful driving.

And don't forget, fines for speeding have been doubled in the new 65 mile an hour zones.

Wherever you are driving this summer, please remember to buckle-up. The use of a seat belt not only could save your life - it is the law. And remember that air bags can be dangerous to children so make sure they're buckled up in the back seat. We can never be too careful when it comes to the safety of our families.

Enjoy the rest of your summer, wear your sun screen, and remember: safety first!

