



For immediate release  
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## **Safety on a Budget this Holiday Season**

In these tough economic times this holiday season it may seem even more difficult to think about what's necessary to keep your family safe. Consider safety while shopping for your friends, family and neighbors on your list -- safety is always a great gift!

Here's the good news: **Keeping your children safe doesn't have to be expensive.**

There are plenty of free things you can do and low-cost safety devices that can help make your home safer, without breaking your budget. Consider the following tips to help you get started:

- Keep an eye on your children at all times. This is the best way to keep your child safe, and it doesn't cost a penny!
- Keep poisonous items, such as medicines and cleaners locked away and out of reach of children. – while grandparents are visiting, there may be extra medications around. Remind them about the risks of leaving medications (that often look like candy) where little ones can reach.
- Don't let children play on stairs, furniture, balconies, roofs, or in driveways, streets or parking lots.
- Practice an escape plan with your family. Do your guests know what to do while staying at your house?
- Cook on back burners and keep handles facing away from front of stove so curious children won't pull hot contents down on themselves.
- Keep bathroom doors closed with a hook-and-eye latch above a child's reach to keep kids away from hazards in the bathroom.
- Tape up any loose rugs firmly to the floor/carpet to avoid slips and slides of running toddlers and older adults.

We all know that nothing replaces active supervision but the right safety devices can go a long way in helping to protect children. Be a savvy shopper with these low-cost investments, and remember, a higher price does not mean the device is safer or easier to use.

- Outlet plugs \$2
- Cabinet/drawer locks \$4
- Window stop \$5
- Furniture strap/bracket \$5
- Smoke alarm \$10
- Carbon monoxide alarm \$20
- Window guard \$30
- Safety gate \$4

Keeping your child safe is priceless! Have a safe & happy holiday season! For more information visit [www.snosafekids.org](http://www.snosafekids.org) or [www.firedistrict7.com](http://www.firedistrict7.com).