

## Spokane County Fire District 4...

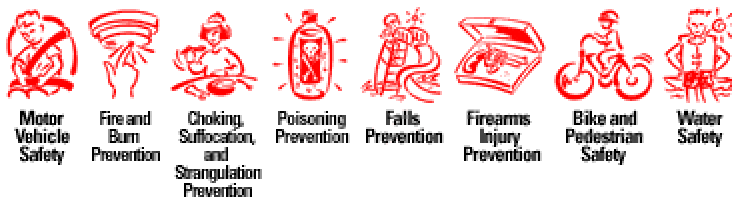
### *Risk Watch Program is a National Leader*



#### What is *Risk Watch*?

*Risk Watch* is the first comprehensive injury prevention program designed for use in classrooms. Linking teachers with community safety experts and parents, *Risk Watch* effectively teaches kids and their families the skills and knowledge they need to be safe from the areas they're at greatest risk to unintentional injuries.

The *Risk Watch* curriculum is divided into five teaching modules (Pre-K/Kindergarten, Grades 1-2, Grades 3-4, Grades 5-6, and Grades 7-8), each of which addresses the following topics:



*Risk Watch* was designed for maximum flexibility so that injury prevention can be taught as a stand-alone unit or easily integrated into core curriculum subjects such as health, language arts, or physical education. Each module includes eight lesson cards that feature a lesson plan with objectives, preparation, and materials needed, as well as step-by-step procedures to conduct a focused classroom activity. The modules also contain: a set of warm-up exercises and tips to help students step into character roles; cross-age learning activities; evaluation instruments; and a series of fun activities designed to help students practice their injury prevention skills.

#### North Spokane County Risk Watch Coalition is a national leader!

The North Spokane County *Risk Watch* Coalition is a national leader of this USA and Canadian injury prevention program. The program was really started as a pilot program in 1999 thinking that this all-inclusive injury prevention program would take at least a couple of years for the agencies and schools to accept and believe in this new program. However, the teachers loved this program and the agencies found working together had its advantages. The program took off and was fully implemented in 2000.

Coalition Leaders: Deer Park School District Michele Kent, Principal; Riverside School District Mike Jordan, Principal & Tina Andrews, Teacher; Spokane County Fire District 4 Pat Humphries, Public Education Coordinator; Spokane County Sheriff's Office Dave Thornburg, Deputy Sheriff.

#### Why focus on unintentional injuries?

In the U.S., unintentional injuries are more fatal to children than drugs and disease combined, annually killing more than 7,000 kids and permanently disabling more than 50,000. In Canada, injuries are the leading cause of death for children over one year of age.

However, NFPA firmly believes that the traffic injuries, drownings, fires, scald burns, chokings, poisonings, and falls suffered by children each year are not random "accidents;" they are predictable and preventable. With education, motivation, and the support of caring adults, children can learn to be much safer.

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### How is *Risk Watch* Used?

Teachers in the classroom primarily use *Risk Watch*. However, the program is most typically introduced to schools and teachers by a coalition of local safety advocates, such as public educators from the fire department, public health department, and police department, and others who work collaboratively to implement *Risk Watch* locally. Once the program is used in the classroom, personnel from these departments actively support *Risk Watch* lessons through classroom visits and presentations.

### Who developed *Risk Watch*?

*Risk Watch* was developed by NFPA (National Fire Protection Association) with co-funding from the Lowe's Home Safety Council, and with input from a technical advisory group (TAG) comprised of North America's most authoritative injury prevention professionals. These experts have helped ensure that all information in the *Risk Watch* program is of the highest quality.

### Do you want to know more about *Risk Watch*?

The *Risk Watch* program for North Spokane County is alive and well. If you would like to discuss this program contact Public Education Coordinator Pat Humphries at 467-4500. Part of the funding for the North Spokane County Risk Watch Program is provided by the Spokane County Independent Insurance Agents. A special thank you to the member agencies.



Above: Firefighter Trey Campo works with a grade school student in demonstrating “Stop, Drop, & Roll”!  
Below: Campo and Firefighter Glen Cassidy show how a firefighter would appear if he or she were coming to rescue them in a structure fire.



