

WHAT WE DO

Operation Installation

People who live in houses without a smoke alarm, the elderly, minorities and low-income populations are more than eight times as likely to be injured or die in a house fire. *Operation Installation* began in 1999 as a collaborative effort between the IPC, American Red Cross Chapter of Dallas and Dallas Fire-Rescue Department to reduce deaths and injuries from house fires. The program uses injury data to identify high-risk areas for house fire injuries. Each month, fire fighters and volunteers install smoke alarms and/or batteries in these high-risk neighborhoods in Dallas. In 2009:

- The IPC and Dallas Fire-Rescue Department visited 3,987 homes
- Installed 4,412 smoke alarms
- Protected 5,450 lives



Residential Fire and Scald Burn Prevention

In partnership with the Grand Prairie, Texas Home Instruction for Parents of Preschool Youngsters (HIPPY), the IPC implemented a residential fire and scald burn prevention project. HIPPY home educators received training on residential fires, scald burns, how to install and test smoke alarms and how to decrease hot water temperatures to prevent scald burns. In 2009:

- HIPPY educators visited 156 families
- Fifty-four percent of families did not have a working smoke alarm; of these, 23 percent installed a working smoke alarm at the follow-up visit
- Forty-three families had hot water temperatures greater than 120 degrees; 39 percent of these families had corrected and lowered the hot water temperatures on the follow-up visit

Child Passenger Safety

The IPC continued to conduct weekly child passenger safety fitting stations in high-risk areas of Dallas. Parents or guardians receive information and hands-on training on correctly installing child safety seats. If a child safety seat has been recalled or is no longer appropriate for the child's age and weight, then the child safety seat is replaced and installed by the IPC staff. In 2009, the IPC:

- Checked 781 car seats; 91 percent of car seats checked were installed incorrectly
- Provided 699 car seats for families in need
- Conducted the national standardized child passenger safety technician certification course in July to train technicians

Tween Occupant Safety

The Tween Occupant Safety Project continues to work to increase properly restrained youth ages 8 to 12 in West Dallas. Focus groups of parents, youth, primary care providers and community stakeholders were used to identify opinions on tween occupant safety. Based on the focus group results, training curriculum, awareness materials and fact sheets were developed. In 2009:

- Community involvement in West Dallas invested in tween occupant safety tripled
- The IPC worked with Parkland's Corporate Communications department to develop a series of posters on tween safety that received the Gold Quill award from the International Association of Business Communicators
- The IPC also received funding from State Farm Insurance to expand and enhance the Tween Occupant Safety Project in 2010

Unintentional Childhood Injuries

Funding from the Texas Department of State Health Services enabled the IPC to implement a pediatric unintentional injury prevention guidance project. In collaboration with Parkland's deHaro-Saldivar Health Center in West Dallas, the project uses Safe n' Sound, a computer-based program that identifies the top two age-specific unintentional injury risks to children under age 5. During the child's well-child visit, the health care provider gives preventive guidance counseling. The intention is to encourage a change in behaviors to reduce the risk of unintentional injury. IPC staff conducts post-intervention phone surveys three weeks following the intervention and sends educational materials two months following the office visit. In 2009:

- Enrolled 312 participants
- Completed 210 follow up phone surveys
- Forty-five percent of participants reported making at least one behavior change
- Eleven percent of participants reported making two behavior changes