



## AMR News

## For Immediate Release

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## PLAY IT SAFE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

**(San Diego, CA – December 1, 2009)** Each year, more than three billion toys and games are sold in the United States, and more than half of those are sold during the holiday season. Although the majority of toys are safe, they can become dangerous if misused or if they fall into the hands of children who are too young to play with them.

American Medical Response (AMR) is dedicated to injury and illness prevention and provides these tips when selecting a toy this season:

- Choose toys suitable to your child's age, abilities and skill level. Toys that are not appropriate for your child's age group may pose safety hazards.
- Avoid toys with small removable parts, which could pose a choking hazard to children under age three. To be sure, use a small parts tester (which can be purchased at a toy or baby specialty store) or the tube from a roll of toilet paper. If the piece fits entirely inside the tube, then it is considered a choking hazard.
- Look for high-quality design and construction. Make sure eyes, noses and other possible small parts are tightly secured.
- Avoid sharp points or edges on toys for kids under the age of eight.
- Avoid electrical toys with heating elements (batteries, electrical plugs) for children under the age of eight. These toys are a potential burn hazard.
- Avoid toys that produce loud noises. Toy guns and high-volume games can permanently impair a child's hearing.
- Avoid toys with strings, straps or cords longer than seven inches, which can wrap around a child's neck and accidentally strangle him or her.
- Be sure to read the labels on all toys. Be aware of age and safety recommendations, and use the information as a guide.

It is important for parents to follow the age and safety recommendations on the labels of each toy. The Child Safety Protection Act, a federal toy labeling law, requires manufacturers to place warning labels on toys that pose a choking hazard to young children.

### **Source: National Safe Kids USA**

*American Medical Response Inc. ([www.amr.net](http://www.amr.net)), America's leading provider of medical transportation, is locally operated in 40 states and the District of Columbia. AMR's 18,500 paramedics, EMTs and other professionals transport more than four million patients nationwide each year in critical, emergency and non-emergency situations. Operating a fleet of approximately 4,500 vehicles, AMR, a subsidiary of Emergency Medical Services Corporation, is headquartered in Greenwood Village, CO.*

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