



INJURY BULLETIN

QUEENSLAND INJURY
SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION
PROJECT

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*Mater Adult's Hospital Mater Children's Hospital Mater Priority Emergency Centre Redlands Hospital
Logan Community Hospital Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital Princess Alexandra Hospital*

This Month . . .

In this edition of the Injury Bulletin we examine the following topics:

- Injuries involving **Bus Doors**
- **Injuries in Kitchens** and Children aged 5-9 years
- Children's **Bunk Bed** Injuries
- **Occupational** Injuries: Injuries to **Police Officers**
- Did You Know? **Camel Injuries**

THE COSTS OF INJURY:

- It has been estimated that a single injury requiring admission to hospital can cost society and the individual over \$100,000. This figure includes productivity losses, acute care, rehabilitation costs, costs for pain and suffering, losses to others, transport by ambulance and so on.
- The estimated cost for an injury requiring medical treatment, but not admission, is around \$7,000, and for an injury not requiring medical treatment, about \$800.

POSITION VACANT

**PROJECT CO-ORDINATOR
(20 HOURS/WEEK)**

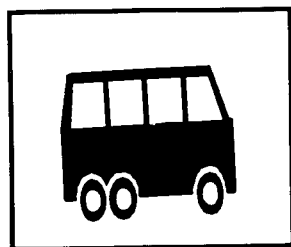
**QUEENSLAND INJURY
COALITION**

**TEMPORARY PART/TIME POSITION
(ONE YEAR)**

The Queensland Injury Coalition project has been established to foster liaison and networking among individuals, groups and organisations with an interest in the prevention of injury in all age groups. It aims to provide a forum for sharing information and a channel for community representation in injury control initiatives.

The Project Co-ordinator will be based at the Queensland Injury Surveillance and Prevention Project (QISPP) at the Mater Hospitals. Duties will include membership recruitment, meeting arrangements, account keeping, database maintenance and newsletter production. Basic word processing skills are essential. The position requires high level public relations skills. Knowledge of public health issues and/or injury prevention would be an advantage. The position may be available for a second year. Contact the Manager on (07) 840 8569 for a duty statement.

INJURIES INVOLVING BUS DOORS



Of the 449 people injured on buses with more than twenty seats during the period 1/1/88 - 31/12/93, 17 (4%) were injured during opening or closing of bus doors.

Fifteen of these 17 cases were females.

Two people were under 15 years of age, 11 people were in the 15 to 64 years age group and four people were aged 65 years or more.

Seven of these incidents occurred between 3 pm and 5 pm and four occurred between 8 am and 11 am.

One person of the 17 required admission to hospital.

Three people suffered fractures.

One person suffered cuts and bruising to the head and face and one person sustained abrasions to the upper back. The remainder sustained injuries to the limbs.

PRODUCT RECALL NOTICE

ELECTRICAL:

WOOLWORTHS: Tungsten Halogen Floodlight recalled due to unreliable earthing due to compression of plastic at case earthing screw and white coloured internal wire used at the terminal block which in this case in particular could lead to incorrect connection of supply conductors.

INJURIES IN KITCHENS AND CHILDREN AGED FIVE TO NINE YEARS

During the period 1/1/88 to 31/12/93, 365 Brisbane South children aged five to nine years suffered a severe enough injury in a kitchen to warrant being taken to hospital.

In this age group, four per cent of injuries in the home occurred in the kitchen (62% occurred in the garden or garage, 31% occurred in living or sleeping areas and 2.5% occurred in the bathroom, laundry or toilet).

Children in this age group sustaining injuries in the kitchen were admitted at a rate of 11%, compared with an admission rate of 18% for injuries occurring in the garden or garage and 15% for injuries occurring in the living or sleeping areas.

The Hazard Score System (where lowest score indicates most dangerous area) applied to injury data in this age group produced a rating of 2 for garden injuries, 4 for living/sleeping area injuries, 6 for kitchen injuries and 8 for injuries occurring in the bathroom, laundry or toilet.

Cuts and lacerations were the most common type of injury suffered by five to nine year old children in the kitchen, (41% of cases), followed by burns (22% of cases). The hands and fingers were the body parts most frequently affected by cuts (43%) followed by the face and head (22% of cuts) and the feet and toes (19%). The trunk was the body part most often involved in burn injuries (25% of burns), followed by the arms (23%).

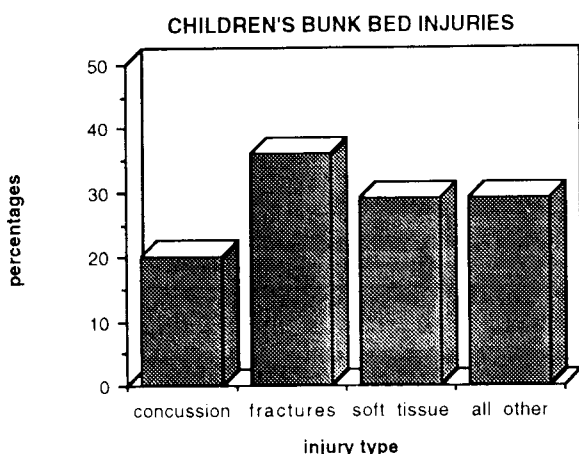
Food and drink such as gravy, hot water, tea, coffee, soup and other hot beverages were implicated in 21% of cases, knives were involved in 14% of cases and glass drinking glasses in 4% of cases.

CHILDREN'S BUNK BED INJURIES

Over a six year period QISPP has recorded 388 cases of children under the age of 15 years being injured by incidents occurring on or near bunk beds. Of these, the injuries were sustained as a result of falling from the bunk in all but three cases.

The severity of the injuries sustained is indicated by a higher than average admission rate, with 24% requiring admission or transfer (average admission rate for children is 16%). A further 37% needed referral or follow-up treatment.

Surprisingly, only 50% of children injured on bunk beds were actually sleeping or resting when their injury occurred. The remaining 50% were playing on the bunks at the time with siblings or friends. Most injuries (75%) were the direct result of the child hitting the floor but in some cases other furniture or fixtures were struck during the fall from the bunk.



INJURIES TO POLICE OFFICERS



QISPP recorded 294 injury presentations by on-duty police officers over a six year period ending on 31/12/93. More male officers (84%) were injured than females.

The majority of cases (35%) resulted while trying to effect an arrest or in the apprehension of a suspect. Training exercises accounted for a further 13%.

Firearms were implicated in eight cases although four firearm-related incidents occurred during training.

Fourteen percent of officers suffered an injury after a motor vehicle or motor cycle in which they were an occupant was involved in a collision. A further 3% of police officers were injured as a result of being struck by a motor vehicle while they were performing random driver checks or directing traffic.

Sixteen police officers sustained bites while on duty. Dogs and humans contributed equally to these injuries!

The most common injuries were:

Cuts/abrasions	32%
Sprains/strains	26%
Haematoma/bruising	25%
Fractures/dislocations	14%

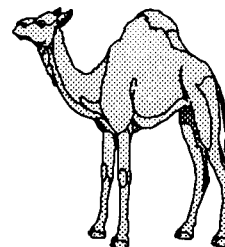
Of the 294 injured police officers presenting at Brisbane South hospitals, 7% required admission to hospital and a further 34% needed referral or follow up treatment.

HAVE YOU MISSED AN ARTICLE?

Aerosol Cans - <i>Did you know?</i>	Apr 94
Aggression - related injuries	Dec 92
Barbecues	Nov 93
Birdsville Hospital - Rural - <i>Did you know?</i>	Mar 94
Bites & stings - <i>Season Watch</i>	Feb 94
Bones lodged in throats	May 94
Central West Qld injuries	Apr 94
Child abuse	Aug 93
Cigarettes - <i>Did You Know?</i>	May 94
Drinking glasses	Feb 94
Electric Current - exposure to	July 93
Eucalyptus oil - ingestions	Dec 93
Fan Injuries - <i>Season Watch</i>	Nov 93
Festive season injuries - <i>Did You Know?</i>	Jul 93
Fishing	Jul 93
Food preparation workers - <i>Occupational</i>	Apr 94
Football injuries - <i>Season Watch</i>	May 94
Foreign objects - children under 10	Nov 93
Glass injuries - feet	Apr 94
Hairdressers - <i>Did You Know?</i>	Oct 93
Hand guns - <i>Did You Know?</i>	July 93
Head Injuries - children under 5	Sep 93
Health & Fitness - <i>Did you know?</i>	Sep 93
Healthcare workers - <i>Occupational</i>	Nov 93
High chairs	Jul 93
Home handy persons - injuries to	Sep 93
Hospital workers - violence to - <i>Occupational</i>	Mar 94
Injury coalition - expressions of interest	Oct 93
Intentional self injury	Dec 92
Laboratory injuries - <i>Occupational</i>	May 94
Lawn mower injuries (Dr. F. Leditschke)	Mar 94
Lawn mower injuries - eyes - <i>Season Watch</i>	Oct 93
Magpies - <i>Season Watch</i>	Oct 93
Mothballs, camphor - <i>Season watch</i>	Sep 93
Nursery Furniture	July 93
Nursing homes - injuries occurring in	Mar 93
Outdoor cricket- <i>Season Watch</i>	Mar 94
Pedestrian injuries	Nov 93
Pesticides - ingestions	Aug 93
Playground equipment	Mar 94
Public pools - drowning/near drowning	Feb 94
Rodent Bites - <i>Did You Know?</i>	Feb 94
Rollerblading	Mar 93
Roofs - falls from	Aug 93
Rural	Dec 93
Scalds from domestic hot water supplies	Jun 93
Self harm in teenagers	Oct 93
Self inflicted injuries - aggression	Apr 94
Southbank - injuries in	Jun 93
Stroller & pram injuries in children	May 94
Sunburn - <i>Season Watch</i>	Dec 93
Swimming pool fencing	Mar 93
Swimming pool chemicals - injuries from	Oct 93
Swimming pool gates - <i>Season Watch</i>	Sep 93
Taxi industry - <i>Occupational</i>	Dec 93
Toys for kids	Dec 93
Truck drivers - <i>Occupational</i>	Feb 94
Violence - toward the elderly	Oct 93
Water parks - injuries in	Jun 93

If you would like a copy of any of these back issues contact QISPP on 840 8569.

DID YOU KNOW?

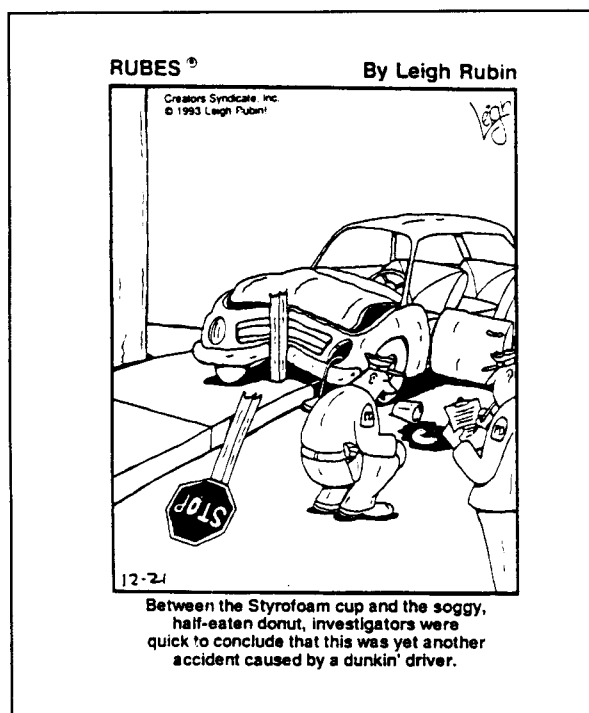


Camels can be dangerous. In an article published in *Tropical Doctor* in October 1986, a doctor from the University of Sokoto in Nigeria reports that camels can kick with great speed and strength, in any direction - forwards, sideways, or backwards. They can also rear up and paw or trample a human (they weigh 400-600 kgs).

Camels also have large canine teeth and may bite, causing severe lacerations and in some cases, fractures. They have also been known to use their teeth to lift, shake and throw their enemies.

Finally, camels may spit saliva or regurgitate the foul-smelling contents of their rumen to a distance of 2-3 metres.

There are five reports of camel injuries on the QISPP database, all involving being thrown by the camel.



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