

Use Clear Messages When Talking To Children About Emergency Situations In The Home

(NAPSA)—If you or your child have ever taken an accidental tumble down the stairs, been scalded by hot running water from a sink or bathtub, or stepped on a sharp piece of broken glass, you're not alone.

According to the State of Home Safety report released by Lowe's Home Safety Council, nearly 7 million people suffer from injuries in the home every year—that's one injury every five seconds.

The unfortunate fact—one that parents, teachers and other adults need to be aware of—is that large numbers of children are among the millions of Americans suffering from preventable household-related injuries. The National Safety Council reports that slips and falls are the leading reason children end up in the emergency room, with more than 3 million children treated every year.

"It's important for families to use resources with clear and concise messages when trying to teach children what to do in an emergency situation," said David Oliver, executive director of Lowe's Home Safety Council. "That's why we created free educational online resources like CodeRedRover.org for children, families and teachers to use. It's important to start teaching children to be aware of their surroundings at an early age."

Oliver and Lowe's Home Safety Council worked closely with children, teachers and national safety experts from such organizations as the National Fire Protection Association and Consumer Federation of America to create the fun and vibrant CodeRedRover.org Web site. The site, which meets and exceeds the standards out-



lined by the Children's Online Privacy Act, teaches children life-saving safety lessons about fire and burns, choking, poisoning and falling.

Rover the Home Safety Hound—a friendly dog who encourages children to make safe, smart choices in and around the home—is CodeRedRover.org's main character. Rover teaches children how to be home safety detectives through games, family activities, online contests and do-it-yourself projects.

"Resources like CodeRedRover.org help children realize they are old enough to help save lives," Oliver said. "Yet parents should also strive to constantly improve the safety practices in their own homes."

In addition, Oliver said that parents and other adults should act as role models when it comes to home safety and injury prevention.

"Children often imitate adults' behavior," he said. "If a child watches an adult stand on the top step of a ladder, chances are he or she is going to do the same thing someday. It's critical to be mindful of your own actions in the home."

For more information about protecting you and your family from preventable injuries in and around the home, visit CodeRedRover.org, loweshomesafety.org or call 1-800 SAFE HOME.