



Louie Delaware  
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### **For Immediate Release**

## Over 90% Of All Fireplaces Pose A Hazard For Young Children

**LOUISVILLE, CO** – September 4, 2007 – In doing home & child safety evaluations, Louie Delaware, ***The Home Safety Guru™***, commonly sees that nearly all fireplaces and wood burning stoves are not safe for young children. Louie says, “So many people know of the risks with a fireplace or a wood-burning stove, but few ever do anything that will safeguard their children.”

Louie’s recommendations for fireplaces and wood burning stoves include:

#### **HAZARDS**

- ◆ **Glass** – The glass in front of fireplaces can easily exceed 400° F and a wood-burning stove can get much hotter than that, which can easily burn a child’s hand.
- ◆ **Fireplace Tools** – These can pose a hazard to a child, especially the poker rod.
- ◆ **Ash** – The remnants from a wood fire can be easily inhaled and can cause various respiratory problems.
- ◆ **Materials In Gas Burning Fireplaces** – It is common to see fiberglass below the artificial logs to give a more rustic scene for the fire. This can be picked up by a child and put in their mouth, potentially irritating the mouth and digestive track.

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- ◆ **Exposed Pilot Lights** – Many gas fireplaces have pilot lights that are always on, potentially creating a burn hazard.
- ◆ **Hearth Risks** – Hearths are made of hard materials such as brick, stone or tile. These can injure the child by lacerations or if they hit the hearth at their mouth level, potentially breaking out teeth.

## **SOLUTIONS**

- ◆ **Barriers In Front Of Fireplaces** – If a fireplace is going to be used with a young child, there should be a barrier mounted securely in front of the fire. This should be situated such that a child is always at least 18” away from the fireplaces. Do not attempt to use free-standing fireplace fences as these can be easily moved or pulled over. Move the fireplace tools behind the barrier, or put the tools in an area where your child cannot find them.
- ◆ **Don't Use Fireplace When Child Is Awake** – Or better yet, don't even use it. By turning off the pilot, you can also save quite a bit of money.
- ◆ **Cleaning After Wood Burning Fires** – As soon as it is safe to remove the remnants of a wood fire, you should clean up as to prevent the child from getting to the ashes.
- ◆ **Prevent Falls On To The Hearth** – You can use foam for the hearth, but you may find that you are constantly putting the foam back in place. Or you can use upholstered fireplace pads that are custom made for your home. Lastly, you can use the same sort of barrier as described above in keeping children away from the hearth.

Louie continues, “The unfortunate thing of this is that people just don't think it will happen to them. By carelessness or not having the right protection in place, it is a recipe for disaster for young children. Preventing a child from getting near a fireplace is the best remedy. But remember, there is no substitute for attentive adult supervision for keeping your child safe.”

For more information about Louie's 90% Rules, go to [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com).

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*Louie Delaware, **The Home Safety Guru™**, president and founder of US Safety Pros, LLC is a Certified Child & Home Safety Professional in all aspects of home safety, from childproofing to home safety, radon testing & mitigation along with fire, carbon monoxide and barrier free construction. US Safety Pros has been protecting homes in Colorado for over 3 years, and has helped safeguard over 500 homes. He has been on Channels 7, 9 and 31, 850 KOA, 630 KHOW, AM760, KGFT Colorado Springs and in the Denver Post. Colorado Childproofers is a member of Safe Kids Worldwide ([www.SafeKids.org](http://www.SafeKids.org)), the International Association for Child Safety ([www.IAFCS.org](http://www.IAFCS.org)).*

See us at [www.USSafetyPros.com](http://www.USSafetyPros.com), the [Denver/Boulder Better Business Bureau](#) and [Tom Martino's Troubleshooter Referral Network](#).

*Louie's book **Relax – Your Child's Safe – A Practical Guide to Childproofing** will be published soon.*

*For more information about Louie Delaware, go to his web site, [www.HomeSafetyGuru.com](http://www.HomeSafetyGuru.com). **The Home Safety Guru**™ is a registered trademark with the United States Patent & Trademark Office.*

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