**N E W S R E L E A S E**

*For more information, contact:*INSERT YOUR CONTACT INFORMATION HERE

**Button Batteries: Small Sources of Power Can Create Big Trouble**

(CITY, STATE) As pre-holiday shoppers start to descend on stores across the country, child safety advocates are coming together to remind parents and the public about the danger of button batteries. These small, coin-size batteries are in many products around the home, making them accessible to curious children. The number of children who swallow these batteries has stayed fairly steady over the past decade, but more and more cases are proving to be serious.

The larger 20-mm (CR2032) lithium button batteries are a major reason for this increase, causing significant medical damage or death to one out of every eight children who swallow them. Smaller, non-lithium button batteries also cause serious injuries. The electrical charge in a button battery reacts with the body’s tissues and fluids, leading to internal burns in as little as two hours. Putting these batteries in the ear or nose can also cause harm.

Studies show that most children are getting button batteries from consumer products, such as remote controls, small electronics, flashlights, flameless candles, scales, and hearing aids. Even old batteries that cannot power a device can still produce enough of a charge to cause damage.

INSERT NAME OF YOUR ORGANIZATION HERE, a member of the Prevent Child Injury network, is joining efforts to help parents understand how to protect their children from button batteries. “INSERT OWN QUOTE HERE,” said INSERT NAME, TITLE OF PERSON BEING QUOTED HERE.

If a battery is swallowed and gets stuck in the esophagus, it must be removed quickly to prevent life-threatening injury. Because adults often do not see children swallow button batteries, it is difficult for doctors to recognize the problem and act before it is too late. As a result, prevention is key. Follow these tips to limit your children’s access to button batteries.

* Store all batteries out of sight and reach of children, preferably in a locked cabinet or container.
* Do not allow children to play with new or used batteries.
* Buy products with a secure battery compartment that requires a tool (often a screwdriver) to open. Check these compartments often to make sure they stay secure over time.
* When replacing batteries, immediately throw away old batteries in a trash can that children cannot access or put batteries for recycling out of sight and reach.
* Check other homes your children visit for possible access to button batteries: grandparents, family members, caregivers, and friends.

If you suspect that your child has swallowed a battery, immediately go to the nearest emergency department. Don’t wait for symptoms to develop. Contact the National Battery Ingestion Hotline at 202-625-3333 for guidance.

More prevention tips are available at [www.preventchildinjury.org](http://www.preventchildinjury.org)/toolkits/buttonbatteries.

Prevent Child Injury is a national group of organizations and individuals, including researchers, health professionals, educators, and child advocates, working together to prevent injuries to children and adolescents in the U.S. Prevent Child Injury promotes coordinated communication to the public about prevention of child injury, which is the leading cause of death of our nation’s youth. To become a member of Prevent Child Injury or for more information and resources on this and other child injury topics, please visit www.preventchildinjury.org.

[PARAGRAPH ABOUT YOUR ORGANIZATION HERE]

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Sample quotes:

“All types of button batteries can be hazards, including spare and discarded batteries. Our children depend on us to understand the risks and take steps to keep them safer in the home.”

“Young children explore the world with their mouths, so anything they find often ends up there. Button batteries are easily swallowed, and it’s unlikely that your child will tell you they’ve swallowed something, so it’s very important to keep these button batteries out of sight and reach of children.”

“Parents need to know which products in their home have button batteries and treat spare batteries like other dangers: store out of sight and reach of children.”