



Monday, October 3, 2005

Health News Updates are a free service provided by King Institute, Inc. Please feel free to print and give these to your family, friends and clients.

## Death by Dusting

Dust-Off® is a brand of compressed air cleaner used most commonly to clean computer components. Unlike conventional dusting or vacuuming, Dust-Off®'s quick burst of air will blow away most contaminants from a surface without damaging delicate components.

Falcon, the maker of Dust-Off® and other products that use compressed air, places a warning label on all its products that says, "Inhalant abuse is illegal and can cause permanent injury or be fatal. Please use our product responsibly."

However, on Mar. 2, 2005, Kyle Williams' parents found their 14 year old son dead in his bedroom with a can of Dust-Off® in his hands.

Jeff Williams, Kyle's father, is an officer with the East Cleveland Police Department, a city known for its high crime rates. Shortly after the death of his son, Williams wrote a post on a message board that he had visited for support and encouragement. His message, after a more detailed revision, was posted on other message boards and now circulates through e-mails as well.

Williams said he took comfort in the fact that he had Thor, a retired police K-9 who was certified in drugs and general duty. He and his wife also talked to their

kids about drug abuse.

"My wife asks all our kids at least once a week if they used any drugs. Makes them promise they won't," he wrote.

Unfortunately, Kyle, like young people, had found a new way of getting high without the risks of getting caught with illegal substances. A friend introduced "dusting" to Kyle, a form of inhalant abuse similar to "huffing." The American Academy of Pediatrics says that inhalant abuse usually peaks at ages 14 or 15, with users starting as early as six to eight years old. Use usually dies away by age 19.

He was told it was just compressed air; it wouldn't be dangerous.

However, it's perhaps more dangerous than illegal drugs. Cleaners like Dust-Off® contain difluoroethane, a propellant that makes the air in the can heavy. Dusting fills the lungs and restricts good air from entering. It makes the user feel dizzy because of the decreased oxygen to the brain.

It's dangerous because unlike overdosing, which occurs at a certain level, dusting can kill with any amount. The lack of oxygen can cause brain and heart to shut down. In short, the user suffocates without knowing it. And about 22 percent of inhalant abusers die upon first use.

Kyle's eyes were still open and he still had the straw from the can in his mouth when his mother found him dead.

"I thought we were safe because of Thor. I thought we were safe

EASIER TO  
NAVIGATE

...

EASIER TO FIND  
ANSWERS

...

WWW.KINGINSTITUTE.ORG

v.2.0

because we knew about drugs and talked to our kids about them,” Williams wrote.

Sadly, Kyle is not an isolated case. A 19 year old Alaska man died in September 2001. His roommates reported that he had returned home at four in the morning and huffed a canister of Dust-Off®. A Brooklyn woman was killed in January 2004 when her car was struck head-on by a 20 year old man huffing a can of Dust-Off® while he was driving. And three teens died in a car accident when their car slammed into a concrete wall in Sacramento in August 2004. Difluoroethane was found in one of the passenger’s blood and a can of Dust-Off® found in the wrecked vehicle. Question still remains whether the driver had any of the chemical present in his blood at the time of the accident. Toxicology tests would’ve proved useless, according to the coroner’s office, since both the driver and the other passenger didn’t die instantly, had blood transfusions and lived long enough for any chemical traces to have dissipated from their blood streams.

No one would think twice about selling a package of permanent markers, a bottle of rubber cement or a can of dust cleaner to a minor. Household products are exactly that, *household*, meaning that they’re overlooked. That doesn’t make them any less dangerous, and manufacturers like Falcon warn of their products’ dangers.

And it’s probably not enough to talk to children about not abusing substances. Especially older ones, children also need a reason *why* they shouldn’t use drugs or abuse other substances. The “buzzed” feeling is a red flag and a sign and danger. And just because others do it, that doesn’t make it right. Children need to know that they’re worth more than a few seconds of high.

Williams told his story in hopes to arm parents with new knowledge so that what happened to Kyle won’t happen to other children. His full message text can be read [here](#). 📄

# Who are you gonna call?

We’ve heard all the ways that cell phones are bad for our health. Now, here’s a way that your cell phone can probably save your life.

ICE™, which stands for “In Case of Emergency” is the brainchild of East Anglican Ambulance Service paramedic Bob Brotchie.

Brotchie, 41 and a paramedic for nearly 13 years, knew that up-to-date medical information could mean the difference between life and death. He also knows that it’s important to contact an injured person’s loved ones as soon as possible.

So he came up with the idea of ICE. Brotchie suggested that the word “ICE” should be programmed into a mobile phone’s address book with either the number of a doctor or a loved one to contact in the case of an emergency episode.

“Almost everyone carries a mobile

phone now, and with ICE, we’d know immediately who to contact and what number to ring. The person may even know of [the injured person’s] medical history,” Brotchie said.

“ICE” programmed with the patient’s doctor’s phone number allows paramedics to quickly gain access to that person’s medical history to check for allergies to certain drugs for example. “ICE” programmed with a loved one’s number lets the paramedics quickly let him or her know of the situation. For multiple contacts, you can program ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 and so on.

Now, ICE™ is an independent call center service available to the UK, the US and Australia. People can sign up for different packages that are renewable on an annual basis.

More information on ICE™ can be found at [www.icecontact.com](http://www.icecontact.com). 📄

## Meet Our Certified TKM® Instructors



Linda Kane



Dr. James Robertson



Derenda Pitzele



Judy Williams