



Welcome to the August 2015 edition of Community Connect

This summer we were barely able to catch our breath, between reviewer trainings, new communities seeking accreditation, our recent Annual Network meeting, and more! If you haven't already, make sure to keep up with us on [Facebook](#).

As always, we encourage you to share what's been happening in your community too, [we're listening](#) and we love to highlight you. Let's make this Fall a great season, not a recordable!

Community Highlights

Network grows as partners come together in Kentucky

In July, National Safety Council President and CEO, Debbie Hersman, Vice President of Relationship Management, Michael Pollock and Safe Communities America Director, Carrie Nie, traveled to Kentucky to meet with Safe Communities partners to encourage them to commit to becoming a Safe Community. Current Safe Communities funders, Dow, NiSource and UPS also joined the discussion.

We are happy to report that the city of [Lexington](#) and the [University of Kentucky](#) have announced that they will move forward on the accreditation process, other Kentucky cities are interested as well. These meetings were surrounded by a flurry of excitement as area businesses, municipalities and community organizations stepped up to support local efforts to move forward with accreditation.

These communities, along with Jessamine County and the Green River Area Development District (a 7 county regional planning district), are now working towards Safe Communities accreditation and will soon join three additional accredited communities in Kentucky!



Decrease in drug overdoses linked to naloxone access

Safe Communities Madison-Dane County is reporting a more than 30% decrease in heroin deaths in 2014. Why? First responders and other community members have better access to naloxone, an antidote to preventing overdoses from opioids, including heroin. Read all about it in their [summer newsletter](#).

News

Safe Communities, NSC partner to develop free Rx drug resources

The National Safety Council has developed a toolkit to support local action around prescription drug abuse. Several Safe Communities provided feedback

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Free Student Membership – Share with local universities & colleges

The National Safety Council offers free membership to students looking to begin their careers in safety and related Environment, Health and Safety fields. Membership provides access to a variety of resources including networking opportunities and training to help students begin successful safety



on the types of information and resources that would be useful in addressing the growing epidemic of prescription drug overdose deaths. The Prescription Drug Community Action Kit is a free resource, get started and [download here](#).

Have an idea or looking for technical assistance? [Contact Safe Communities America staff](#) today to discuss ways the National Safety Council can further support

your injury prevention programs.

6th Safe Communities America Network Meeting

Last week more than two-thirds of Safe Communities gathered in Chicago for the 6th Annual Safe Communities America Network Meeting – alongside several communities in the process of becoming accredited.

In addition to discussing new ways to support our communities, Honorary Speaker Carolyn Fowler, Assistant Professor at the John Hopkins University School of Public Health, lead the group through exercises and training around stakeholder analysis, including practical application to real-life scenarios. We also had the unique opportunity to recognize a new group a trained reviewers from the network and hear from NSC President & CEO, Deborah Hersman on the importance of partnership.



The Safe Communities America Networking meeting is a free meeting open to all accredited Safe Communities and their coalitions, as well as communities pursuing accreditation. Stay tuned for details about next year’s conference! Check out the pictures from this year’s meeting on our [Facebook page](#).

We would like to include a special thanks to our sponsor, [GPIC](#), without their generous support and commitment to safe communities we would not have been able to host such an event!

My Car Does What? Launches national campaign

Ever wondered about how car safety features like blindspot monitoring or lane departure warnings work or if you are using these features as they were intended? [MyCarDoesWhat.org](#) uses videos, graphics, animation, social media and other resources to educate the public on the ever-changing world of car safety features. The campaign provides quick and easy-to-use information for any driver, no matter what kind of car they have or how old it is. Find out more on the [MyCarDoesWhat.org](#) website.


careers. Promote within your community by sharing the link to sign up here: nsc.org/studentmember.

2015 National Falls Prevention Action Plan

The National Council on Aging released an updated plan, which builds on the original plan released in 2005. Find out more about their recommendations and [40 strategies to reduce falls among older adults](#).



Safe Communities America is a founding member of the Pan Pacific Safe Communities Network (PPSCN). Learn more about the 119 PPSCN communities by visiting ppscn.org.

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The National Safety Council is an International Safe Community Support Center to the WHO Collaborating Centre on Community Safety Promotion, Karolinska Institutet.

Upcoming Opportunities

Do you know a safety champion?

Green Cross for Safety Awards – Presented by the National Safety Council

National Safety Council is accepting nominations for the 2016 Green Cross for Safety* awards through Jan. 15. NSC is recognizing safety at work, on the roads and everywhere in between. Nominations will be accepted in the following categories.

- **Safety Excellence:** This award recognizes a corporation, coalition or organization that, through unrelenting pursuit of safety, created in a life-saving and injury-preventing safety solution. Results must demonstrate benefit to the greater good.
- **Safety Innovation:** An individual, corporation, coalition or organization that has achieved evidence-based success by taking an innovative approach to solving a long-held safety challenge is recognized for creating a fresh solution.
- **Safety Advocate:** The recipient of this award is an individual who has made a significant personal impact on a safety issue to raise awareness and prevent further injuries and deaths.

Nominate a safety or injury prevention champion for a Green Cross for Safety® Award at GreenCross.nsc.org.



Prepare your community for Back-to-School Season

Back-to-school season brings new challenges for parents and new questions, like how to walk safely to school or what sort of backpack offers the best design for students. For this reason, the National Safety Council has partnered with First Student, the largest provider of student transportation services in North America, to highlight school safety tips at nsc.org/back2school.

Meetings & Conferences

A special thanks to our national partners



...and to The Dow Chemical Company and ExxonMobil for local community coalition support.

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