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Soccer Safety A Priority After Child's Death

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GERMANTOWN, Md. -- A child's death on a local soccer field is prompting national concern about soccer goal safety.

Hayden Barnes Ellias, 10, died this week when a goalpost fell on him at a school in Winchester, Va. Investigators are looking into what went wrong in hopes that something like it will never happen again.

Ellias' death prompted the Consumer Product Safety Commission to reissue a nationwide alert encouraging people to securely anchor goals, never climb on them, instruct players about the dangers of goals, use goals only on flat fields and check all connecting hardware before using.

Video: Watch The Report

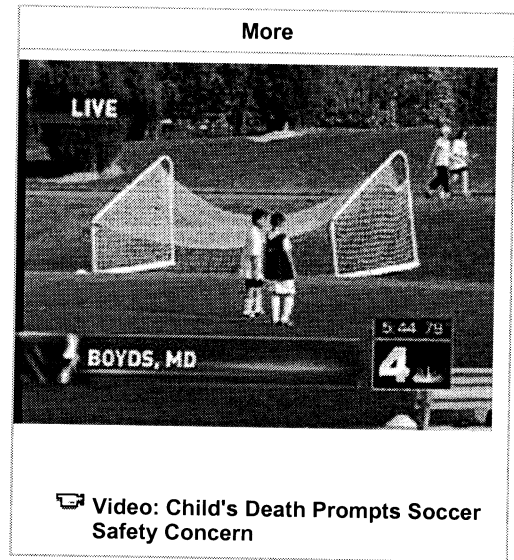
At the Maryland Soccerplex in Boyds, safety is the No. 1 concern. Keith Lenert, the director of operations, has played goalie since he was a kid and knows the dangers firsthand.

Soccer goals at the complex are stored facedown and installed just before the weekend games. Goals are secured with stakes. The goals come with straight spikes longer than a foot, but at the Soccerplex, an even more secure stake called a rebar is used.

More Safety Information:

- **Safe USA**
- **Tips For Soccer Moms And Dads**
- **Consumer Product Safety Commission**

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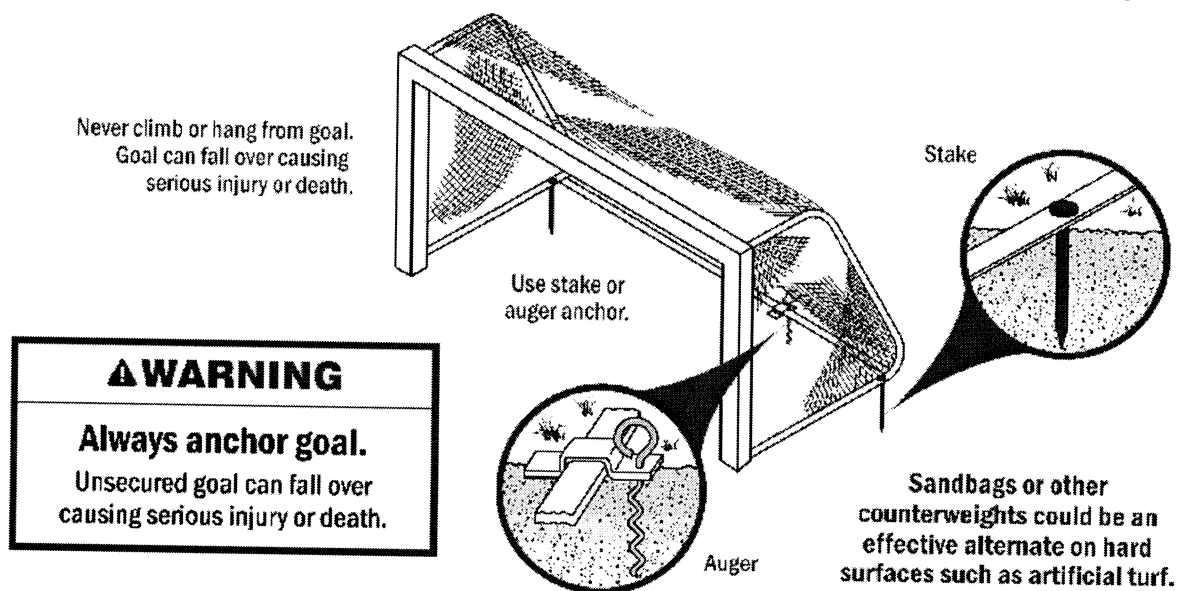
CPSC Safety Alert

Movable Soccer Goals Can Fall Over On Children

Movable soccer goals can fall over and kill or injure children who climb on them or hang from the crossbar. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has reports of at least 28 deaths since 1979 resulting from soccer goals falling over. Both homemade and professionally manufactured soccer goals are involved in these incidents. To help prevent deaths and injuries associated with soccer goals, follow these safety suggestions.

- Securely anchor or counter-weight movable soccer goals at all times (see illustration).
- Never climb on the soccer net or goal framework.
- Always instruct soccer players on the safe handling of and potential dangers associated with movable soccer goals.
- Use movable soccer goals only on level (flat) fields.
- Check all connecting hardware before every use. Replace damaged or missing fasteners immediately.
- Ensure safety labels are clearly visible.
- Remove nets when goals are not in use.
- Anchor or chain goals to nearby fence posts, dugouts, or similar sturdy fixtures when not in use.
- Fully disassemble goals for seasonal storage.

A voluntary safety standard for soccer goals and a guide for safer use are available from ASTM International at www.ASTM.org.



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