

JUNE IS GARAGE DOOR SAFETY MONTH

By Roy Bardowell, CDDC

We're already five months into 2020, and I don't know where the time went. May is an alarm for me, because the next month is JUNE, which is garage door safety month. June is the time for manufacturers who produce motorized door openers to remind homeowners your garage door could be unsafe and should be periodically maintained.

The Safety Month PR campaign started back in 1993, when the CPSC requested Underwriters Laboratories include more safety protection in residential garage door openers. This came about after a decade of nearly 100 documented deaths when children became stuck under the garage door. June is the time when manufacturers can raise safety awareness. Homeowners should be aware their garage door could be dangerous if the safety systems are not functioning at 100%. It is up to the owner of the household to ensure the primary safety components that drive your door are working at 100%. I have been told, "do I still need to make sure my door is up to date on safety issues, because I plan on selling my house very soon." Home inspectors have a list of safety guidelines they use to determine everything with your garage door is working 100%.

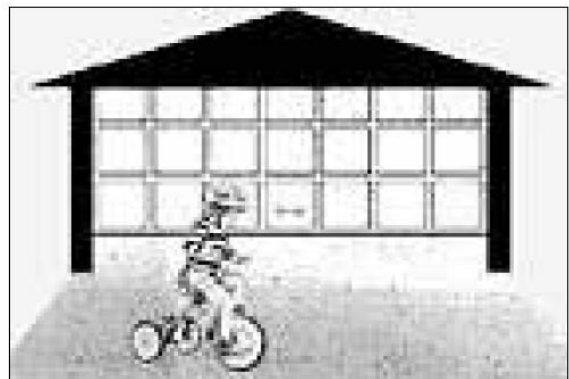
A buyer may choose to use any negative information to lower their offer or walk away from the house. Also, if you sell the home, and NOT reveal the faults you are aware of, you can be on the hook for repairs long after the sale. The worst-case scenario is you sell your house without telling the buyers of

a safety issue, and someone gets seriously injured or killed. No doubt, some savvy lawyer will pay you a visit in short time. You should follow the guidelines shown below to ensure your family is always safe around your motorized garage door. Print these guidelines and share them with your family members at your earliest convenience. I encourage you to teach your children first, by having everyone meet at the garage door for a safety conference.

A garage door is the largest moving object in the home. These doors are often operated by electric door openers. Proper installation, operation, maintenance, and testing of the garage door and automatic opener is necessary to provide safe, trouble-free operation.

An improperly adjusted garage door or automatic opener can exert deadly force when the door closes. This could lead to serious injury or death from being trapped under the door.

Guardian Safety Guidelines For Automatic Garage Door Systems



A few simple precautions can protect your family and friends from potential harm. Please take a few minutes to read the following safety tips. Refer to your garage door and opener owner's manual for details specific to the model you own. Then check the operation of your garage door and automatic opener.

! Do not stand or walk under a moving door!

Do not let children or adults play "beat the door." It is dangerous and can result in serious injury or death. Adults should set a good example. Know how to use the emergency release in case someone is pinned by the door.



Do not let children play with or use the transmitters or remote control. Always place and store them out of the reach of children.

Garage door openers are not toys. Careless operation and allowing children to play with or use garage door opener controls can lead to tragic results. Discuss garage door safety with your children. Explain the danger of being trapped under the door.



! The push button wall control should be out of reach


Of children (at least 5 feet from the floor) and away from all moving parts. Mount and use the button where you can clearly see the moving garage door.



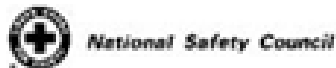
 **When using the push button or transmitter, keep the door in sight until it completely stops moving.**

Teach children never to play under or near an open garage door.



 **Teach children to keep their hands and fingers clear of section joints, hinges, track, springs, and other moving door parts.**

Contact with a moving door or its hardware could cause an injury.



In this blog there are many other documents that detail other safety guidelines, and rules. Feel free to browse through the list and enjoy reading them.

Images courtesy of DASMA

Roy Bardowell, CDDC, served as Operations Manager at Guardian Access & Door Hardware until 2014. He has been in the door and operator industry since 1973 and is known as one of the industry's most experienced operator technicians and trainers. Roy received the IDEA Commitment to Excellence award in 2008 and IDA's Jerry R. Reynolds Volunteer Service Award in 2017. Contact him at roythedoorman@gmail.com