

**Benton-Franklin
Health District**
www.bfhd.wa.gov

Kennewick
7102 West Okanogan Place

Pasco
412 West Clark Street

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www.safekids.org

Washington Department
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www.doh.wa.gov

National Highway Traffic
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www.nhtsa.gov
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Primary Contact

Contact: Annie Goodwin
Phone: 509-460-4246
E-mail: annieg@bfhd.wa.gov

Secondary Contact

BFHD Front Desk
509-460-4200

**Kathleen Clary-Cooke of Safe Kids Benton-Franklin Wins
Emilie Crown Safety Vanguard Award
at International Gathering of Safety Professionals**

*Clary-Cooke Recognized for Protecting Kids from Preventable
Injuries,
Number One Cause of Death to Children in the U.S.*

July 18, 2019 – (Kennewick, WA) – Kathleen Clary-Cooke won the Emilie Crown Safety Vanguard Award today at the Safe Kids Worldwide International Childhood Injury Prevention Convention (PrevCon) for her tireless work in preventing childhood injuries in her community. Clary-Cooke joined more than 500 safety professionals from the U.S. and countries around the world at the three-day convention to collaborate on efforts to enhance the safety of children on the road, at home and at play.

Clary-Cooke leads the Safe Kids Benton-Franklin (WA) coalition, which is generously supported by the Benton-Franklin Health District.

"Kathleen is a dynamic force, a recognized leader within Safe Kids, and an inspiration to our entire network," said Torine Creppy, President of Safe Kids Worldwide. "Too many kids do not have a chance to reach their full potential because of an injury that is preventable. Kathleen's passion and commitment are making a difference in her community and beyond as we work together to reach more families, prevent more injuries and save more lives."

The Emilie Crown Safety Vanguard award recognizes an outstanding Safe Kids coordinator for their leadership and commitment to the safety of children. Clary-Cooke was selected from coordinators in more than 400 coalitions across the United States.

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“I’m overwhelmed and humbled by this honor. The recognition really belongs to all the members of our coalition who work to keep kids safe in Benton and Franklin Counties,” said Clary-Cooke. “I’m especially grateful to our lead agency, Benton-Franklin Health District, for supporting Safe Kids Benton-Franklin for 20 years.”

“We knew from the moment she joined the Benton-Franklin Health District that Kathleen Clary-Cooke would be a more than competent and highly skilled employee,” said Jason Zaccaria, Public Health District Administrator. “She goes above and beyond every time when it comes to education and outreach to keep kids safe from preventable injuries.”

Emilie Crown, the coordinator for Safe Kids Montgomery County, passed away tragically in 2017. She ran the Montgomery County Fire and Rescue’s car seat program for more than 20 years, served on the National Child Passenger Safety Board and was recognized numerous times, including the 2016 National Safety Award from the Emergency Nurses Association.

“Keeping kids safe in and around cars was Emilie’s lifelong passion and we’re honored that her legacy is living on in the work of these outstanding coordinators,” said Monty Crown, Emilie’s husband. “Much like Emilie in Montgomery County, these coordinators lead programs that have been driving to improve the safety of children in motor vehicles with a passion to save lives and make a difference every day for future generations.”

Preventable injuries are the number one cause of death for children in the United States. Throughout the world, almost one million children die of an injury each year, and almost every one of these tragedies is preventable.

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