



Leisure – As safe as necessary, not as safe as possible

Presented by:

David Walker
Head of Leisure Safety

djwalker@rospa.com

ROSPA
*The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents*



RoSPA & The safety debate



Image: HTI issues paper 7 – Cotton Wool Kids



HSE Myth of the month, Sept 2007

Too much safety

Not enough safety

WHY DID OUR WEE CONNOR HAVE TO DIE?

Family call for action over canal where boy drowned

RECORD REPORTER

A GRIEVING gran last night demanded the disused canal where her little grandson drowned be filled in.

Connor Duncan was trapped under ice for 10 minutes before he was rescued by a pal's dad. Medics thought the four-year-old was going to survive but he lost his fight for life on Wednesday night.

Connor was found in the canal near his home in Port Elphinstone, Aberdeenshire.

He had been sledging with pal Daniel Whyte, five, at the waterway – a popular play spot, but one they had been warned to avoid. Gran Elisabeth Duncan, 67, said: "The family is devastated. He was a lovely little boy – a right character."

She added: "I don't think there should be water down there that children can get into."

Tribute

"It would be nice if it was turned into something like a play park as a tribute to Connor."

Connor and Daniel both fell into the icy water but Daniel was able to escape then run home and alert his dad, Colin, 37.

Colin jumped into the water and pulled Connor to safety but the boy later died at the Royal Aberdeen Children's Hospital.

Last night, Connor's parents, Marie, 33, and Gordon, 32, praised Colin. Debt collector Marie said: "We are very grateful to Daniel's father for rescuing Connor from the canal and we will never forget his strenuous efforts to revive him."

Connor and Daniel were inseparable and we hope Daniel will be able to come to terms with the loss of his close friend."

The couple also have an older daughter, Kacey. Daniel's parents told their son his friend was dead yesterday morning.

Colin said: "I hope the canal can be drained and turned into a nature reserve."

Aberdeenshire Council convener Raymond Bissart said the council was trying to work out who owns the waterway.

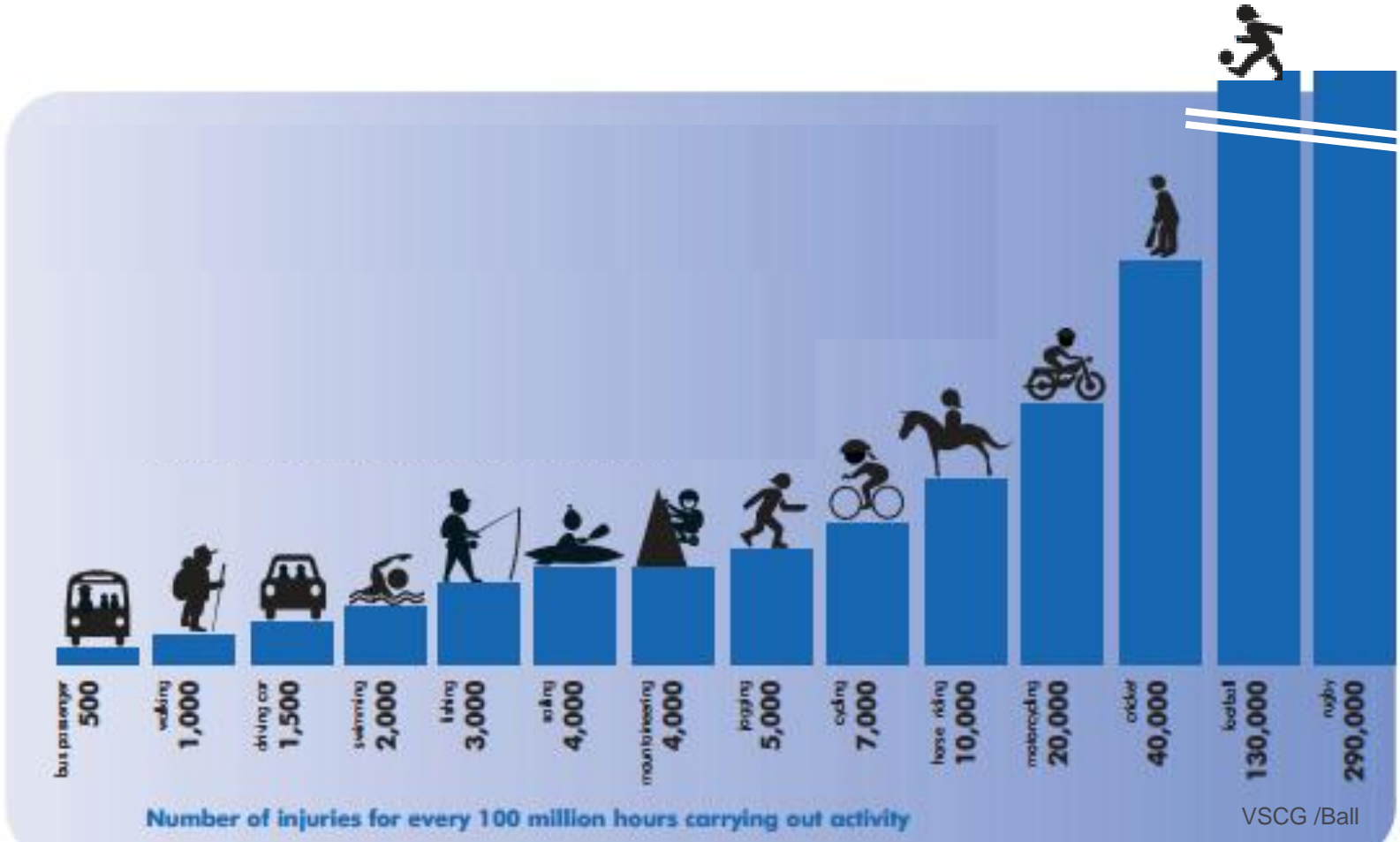
He added: "If anything can be done, the council will help in any way."

Connor's classmates at Port Elphinstone Primary, where he went to nursery, were told of his death at a special assembly.

RESCUE BID: Daniel and his dad, Colin. Left, the canal

RoSPA's mission is to save lives and reduce injuries

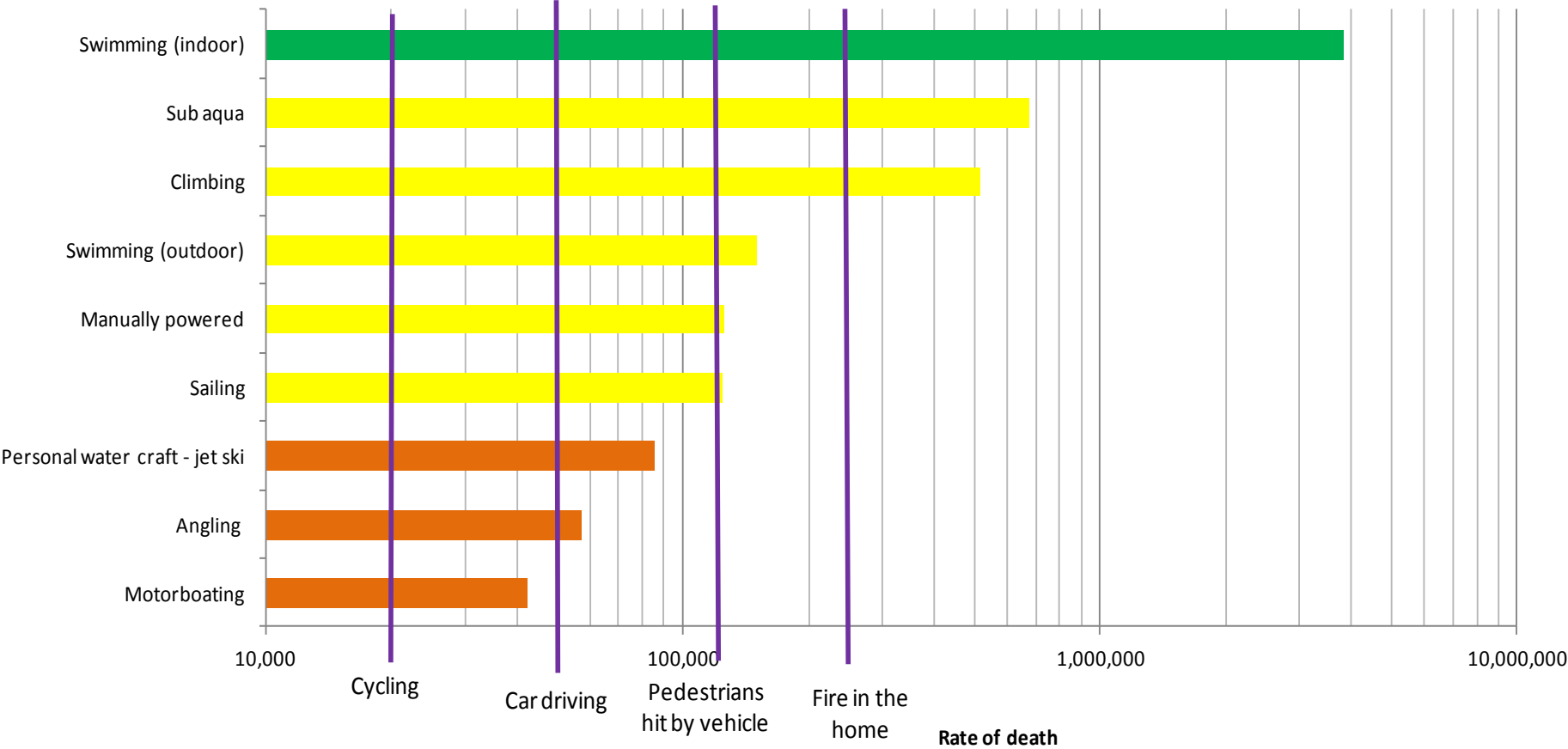
Countryside Risks (VSCG)





Inland water related risk (NWSF)

Fatality rate - 1 death per 'N' People



Active environments



...which are not risk averse



Key points

- n **Does ‘safety say no’**...Really? Or is it a proxy argument?
- n **Act collectively** – It’s much hard for special interests to be overly risk averse .
- n **Monitor incidents** – Try to ‘talk’ in terms of risk, not absolutes.
- n **Establish agreed principles** – Get buy in, use them to drive practise.
- n **Be honest** – Acknowledge the inherent risks.

ROSPA

*The Royal Society for the
Prevention of Accidents*

Questions

Presented by:

David Walker
dwalker@rospa.com
07967748511