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Brodhead acts to save water fund

U. S. Rep. William M. Brodhead (D-Detroit) is sponsoring a bill to prevent the loss of \$700 million in federal water pollution control funds to states in the midwest and northeast.

Michigan is faced with the possible loss of \$50 million. Reason for the threatened loss is that it will be impossible to meet a Sept. 30 deadline for approval of grant applications by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, funds for any projects not approved by EPA by the end of September will revert to a general fund for redistribution to other states.

"I don't believe we call allow this to happen, especially in Michigan. These projects are urgently needed to prevent further deterioration of our precious water resources. In addition, the projects will create much needed jobs in our state's depressed construction industry," Brodhead said.

"Considering the fact of Michigan's record unemployment, the loss of these potential jobs would be a disaster."

The congressman noted that the reason EPA had fallen so far behind in processing applications was a lack of sufficient employees in regional offices in midwest and northeast states. He added that President Carter had requested 600 additional field employees for EPA in the fiscal 1978 budget.

He also pointed to the general economic decline in midwest and northeast states as causing increased demands for state tax dollars. As a result, some of the states have experienced delays in providing local matching funds which are required to qualify for the federal grants.

Brodhead's bill (HR 3190) provides for a one-year extension of the deadline for EPA approval of the applications.

In addition, Brodhead has written to EPA administrator Douglas Costle asking for special attention to the situation in Michigan. Citing the fact that Michigan leads the nation in unemployment, Brodhead asked Costle to assign high priority to the Michigan applications.

Learn the steps to save lives of choking victims

Although learning emergency procedures may not take the place of a community Emergency Medical Service, you might possibly save a life by taking a few minutes to learn emergency techniques.

Choking on food is the sixth-leading cause of accidental death in the U.S. and both preventive and emergency procedures could conceivably reduce that statistic.

The first sign of choking is when a person suddenly becomes quiet and a look of alarm comes over his face. He may clutch at his chest or throat and attempt to rise.

A person exhibiting these signs must not leave the table alone, according to experts. Soon after these first symptoms appear, he will start to turn blue and lose consciousness and is now just minutes from a preventable death.

Always call for medical help as soon as possible, but do not wait for help to arrive before beginning emergency procedures.

If the victim is conscious, ask if he can talk. If he can talk and cough effectively, do not interfere with his attempts to clear his throat. If he is unable to make a sound, he is probably choking.

THE FIRST STEP in helping a choking victim is to strike him sharply, several times, in rapid succession with the heel of your hand, between the shoulder blades.

If the throat remains blocked, use the Heimlich Maneuver by placing your arms around the victim's waist from behind. Make a fist with one hand and place it, thumb side against the abdomen, between the navel and rib cage.

Clasp the fist with your free hand and press in with a quick, upward thrust, repeating several times if necessary.

Repeat blows to the back and the Heimlich Maneuver if unsuccessful, and if the victim loses consciousness, try to restore breathing using the mouth-to-mouth technique.

Lift the neck and push the head back. Pinch the nostrils shut, keeping the neck up, and make a tight seal with your mouth around the victim's mouth, blowing into his mouth.

If the chest doesn't rise, treat for choking in the following manner: Roll the victim on his side, bracing his chest against your knee. Strike him sharply, several times between the

shoulder blades with the heel of your hand.

Remove any foreign matter from the mouth and begin mouth-to-mouth breathing.

If unsuccessful, kneel close beside the victim's hips and place the heel of your hand on the center of the abdomen, slightly above the navel and below the rib cage. Place your free hand on top of the other.

Press in toward the center with a quick upward thrust. Do not press to either side, and repeat several times if necessary.

If vomiting occurs, quickly turn the victim's head to one side, and clear the mouth and begin mouth-to-mouth breathing.

If the airway remains blocked, attempt to remove the object with your index finger, using a hooking motion across the back of the throat.

Repeat attempts to restore breathing, back blows, abdominal thrusts and finger probes until the obstruction is removed. Then use the mouth-to-mouth method to help the victim resume normal breathing.

In all cases, the choking victim should receive prompt medical attention following the emergency.

FOLLOWING PREVENTIVE measures may avoid the choking experience.

Be sure infants and toddlers do not put large pieces of food in their mouths. Cut or break solid food into bite-sized pieces and encourage children to chew thoroughly from a very early age.

Encourage children to be still while eating as food or candy may be inhaled if the child gets excited or trips while walking or running.

The most common causes of adult choking are difficulty in chewing because of missing teeth or loose-fitting dentures or a state of inebriation which affects judgment and numbs the senses of the throat and swallowing mechanisms.

Have ill-fitting dentures repaired or replaced, and if chewing teeth are missing, get dentures to restore normal chewing capability.

Avoid gulping huge pieces of food, and, if your mouth is sore and chewing is difficult, cut food into tiny bites that are easy to swallow.

Drinking alcoholic beverages will greatly increase the possibility of choking for all people. If you have lost chewing capability, be especially wary of drinking before eating.

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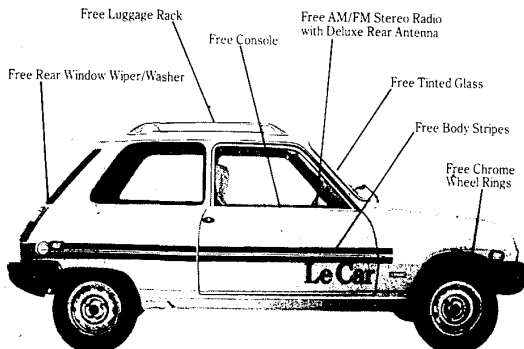
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