In today’s technology-driven world, coin-sized button batteries are everywhere. They power gadgets and electronic items that we use every day. While they seem harmless, button batteries can be dangerous if swallowed by children. When a button battery is swallowed, it can get stuck in the esophagus on the way to the stomach and cause serious injury or death in less than two hours. Following a few safety tips can help prevent button battery-related injuries.

Prevention Tips

- Know which products in your home are powered by button batteries.
  - Keep these products out of the reach of young children.
  - Tape the battery compartments of these electronic devices shut.

- When buying electronic products, including toys or games, choose those that have compartments that require a screwdriver to open or have a child-resistant locking system.

- Store unused batteries in a locked cabinet or container that is out of reach of young children.

- Do not change batteries in front of children and throw away old batteries in a place that a young child cannot reach.

- When visiting other family members and friends, be aware that their homes may have button batteries easily accessible to young children.

Emergency Care

- If you think a child has swallowed a button battery or put one in his nose or ear, go to the nearest emergency department immediately.
  - Do not make her vomit
  - Do not let her eat or drink

Products That May Use Button Batteries

- Examples of products that use button batteries include:
  - Musical greeting cards
  - Watches
  - Calculators
  - Flashlights
  - Remote controls
  - Hearing aids
  - Thermometers
  - Bathroom scales
  - Cameras
  - Garage door openers
  - Talking books
  - Flashing shoes
  - Toothbrushes
  - Toys/Games
  - Home medical equipment
  - Electronic jewelry
  - Holiday ornaments
  - Electric candles