



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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ACTING CHAIRMAN

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Safety at the Start

Last month I wrote about the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act, a complex law requiring more than 40 new rulemakings and new standards to be introduced. Understanding these new changes is especially important for those who make the toys, electrical products, textiles, lighters and other goods we buy.

For this reason, I joined with my European counterparts in September for historic three-way meetings with Chinese authorities and exporters. Our meetings with government officials were combined with manufacturer seminars and factory tours, with the singular goal of helping China to get it right in the first place and to comply with our safety requirements. We were clear that we will aggressively enforce the new law.

Our CPSC team also held similar meetings in Vietnam, which is dramatically increasing its exports to the U.S. Again, our goal was to make our safety requirements clearly understood.

Foreign manufacturers need to start with safety in mind, from the very moment raw materials are sourced and products are made. Foreign government officials need to reinforce our safety message. As Chairman of CPSC, my job is to make sure products for American families meet our rigorous standards. I'll continue the dialogue with other countries because it's critical to consumers' safety.

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Gas, Chips, or Your Child's Safety?

For the price of a gallon of gas or a few bags of chips, you can purchase easy-to-install and effective life-saving devices.



A simple piece of hardware that secures furniture and appliances to the wall or floor can prevent tip-over accidents.

TVs, furniture and appliances can tip over and crush children, causing injury and death. From 2000–2006, CPSC received 180 reports of deaths related to tip-overs – 80 percent involved children younger than 10. Additionally, CPSC staff estimates that in 2006, more than 42,700 injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms because of incidents associated with tip-overs.

These deaths and injuries frequently occur when children climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests, and oven doors. Televisions placed on top of furniture can tip over and cause a child to suffer traumatic and sometimes fatal injuries.

Industry standards require that TV stands, chests, bureaus and dressers pass a stability test. If a piece of furniture violates these standards, the product can be subject to a safety recall.

To help prevent tip-over hazards, follow these safety tips:

- Verify that furniture and appliances are stable on their own. If not, anchor to the floor or wall stud using appropriate hardware, such as brackets, screws, or toggles.
- Place televisions on sturdy furniture appropriate for the size of the TV or on a low-rise base. Push the TV as far back as possible from the front of its stand.
- Place electrical cords out of a child's reach, and teach children not to play with the cords.
- Remove items that might tempt kids to climb, such as toys and remote controls, from the top of the TV and furniture.
- Use caution when travelling – the furniture in the hotel or home you're visiting may not be secure.



Hear More About Tip-Over Dangers!



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A Young Child's Fatal Fall

Excerpt from a news report from Oceanside, California:

A five-year old girl from Las Vegas died on August 5, after falling from a second-story condominium window.

She went to look out the bedroom window and pressed against the window's screen, pushing it out, said the Medical Examiner's investigator. The child fell about 30 feet.

The girl was flown to Rady Children's Hospital in San Diego, where she was declared dead. An autopsy showed she died of blunt-force injuries to her head and neck. The death is listed as an accident.

Source: San Diego Union Tribune

Every year, similar tragic stories are repeated. From 2002–2004, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) received an average of 25 reports a year of fatalities associated with falls from windows. Children younger than five account for about one-third of these fatalities.

These deaths and many more injuries occur when kids push against window screens or climb onto furniture located next to an open window. The weight of a small child can easily dislodge a screen.

CPSC is warning parents and caregivers to take simple precautions to keep children from falling from windows.

- Screens are meant to keep out bugs, not keep in kids. Do not depend on screens to keep children from falling out of windows.
- Install window guards (for windows on the 6th floor and below, install window guards that adults and older children can open easily in case of fire.)
- Window openings, including the space between window guards, should be less than 4 inches. Window stops can be used to limit window openings.
- Keep furniture away from windows, to discourage children from climbing near windows.





Don't Let Your Smoke Alarm Be A Nuisance

While we welcome the aroma of freshly cooked food wafting through our homes, cooking can sometimes cause a smoke alarm to sound even though there is no fire. When these “nuisance” alarms happen, many consumers might simply disable their smoke alarms, but that can have dire consequences.

CPSC strongly urges consumers to refrain from disabling their smoke alarms. Arthur Lee, a CPSC electrical engineer and Project Manager for smoke alarms says, “Instead, move the smoke alarm farther away from cooking appliances or install a different type of smoke alarm.” Lee is currently studying the frequency of nuisance alarm occurrences from photoelectric, ionization and dual smoke alarms.

Every year in the United States, about 3,000 people lose their lives in residential fires. From 2000–2004, the majority of those deaths occurred in homes that had no alarms or non-working alarms. The risk of dying from fires in homes without smoke alarms is twice as high as in homes that have working smoke alarms.* Smoke alarms save lives, prevent injuries, and minimize property damage by enabling residents to detect fires early.

Properly installed and maintained smoke alarms in the home are the best and least expensive way of providing an early warning of a potentially deadly fire. Of the two types of smoke alarms, ionization type detectors respond quickly to flaming fires, while photoelectric type detectors respond sooner to smoldering fires. Since homeowners cannot predict what type of fire might start in a home, CPSC recommends using both to best protect your family.

* M. Ahrens, U.S. Experience with Smoke Alarms and Other Fire Detection/Alarm Equipment, National Fire Protection Association, April 2007



CPSC's expert on smoke alarms, Arthur Lee, sets up an experiment to study the effectiveness of various types of alarms.

LEVELS OF PROTECTION

Best

- Install a smoke alarm on every level of the home, outside sleeping areas, and inside bedrooms.
- Use both ionization and photoelectric type smoke alarms.
- Install smoke alarms using house wiring with battery back-up.

Better

- Install more than one smoke alarm.
- Install interconnected smoke alarms.
- Install smoke alarms with sealed 10-year batteries.

Good

- Install a working smoke alarm in your home if you don't have one.

For more information on eliminating residential fire deaths, visit fireSafety.GOV



RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Bonne Bell Recalls Children's Cosmetics Accessory Bags Due to Risk of Lead Exposure

Name of Product: Bonne Bell Children's Cosmetics Accessory Bags

Units: About 945,000

Importer: Bonne Bell Co., of Lakewood, Ohio

Hazard: The metal clasps on the handle of the accessory bags contain excessive levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested and can cause adverse health effects.

Description: The recalled accessory bags are made of plastic and have a zipper and carrying handle. The bags come with an assortment of cosmetic products, which are not part of this recall. The model name and UPC numbers are located on the hangtag. The following recalled model names and UPC numbers are involved in this recall:

SMACKERS Sweet Treats Collection	UPC 0 50051 50575 7
SMACKERS Sparkle & Shine Collection	UPC 0 50051 50576 4
SMACKERS Glam It Up Collection	UPC 0 50051 50577 1
BONNEBELL Natural Neutrals Collection	UPC 0 50051 22640 9
BONNEBELL Pretty Pinks Collection	UPC 0 50051 22641 6
BONNEBELL Fresh Pinks Collection	UPC 0 50051 22642 3
BONNEBELL Glamorous Neutrals Collection	UPC 0 50051 22643 0

Sold at: Retail stores nationwide and Bonne Bell's Web site from September 2007 through August 2008 for about \$9.

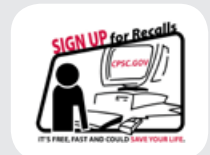
Manufactured in: China

Remedy: Consumers should immediately take the recalled accessory bag away from children and contact Bonne Bell for a replacement bag.

Consumer Contact: For more information, consumers can contact Bonne Bell toll-free at (866) 288-8643 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or via e-mail at quality@bonnebell.com, or visit the company's Web site at www.thebonnebellcompany.com/recall/



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Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it's fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there's a recall, you'll know about it.

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CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Halogen Spotlight Car Chargers

International Merchandising Service Inc. (IMS), of Fullerton, California, is recalling about 210,000 Car Chargers Used with Power System Plus 3 Million Candlepower Spotlights. The car charger is incompatible with the spotlight's battery, which can cause it to overcharge inside of a vehicle and pose a fire or burn hazard to consumers.



Halogen Work Lights

Harbor Freight Tools, of Camarillo, California, is recalling about 58,000 Chicago Electric Halogen Work Lights. The halogen work lights can overheat and melt, and pose a risk of fire and electrical shock to consumers.



Coffee Makers

Sears, Roebuck and Co. of Hoffman Estates, Illinois, is recalling about 145,000 Kenmore and Kenmore Elite Coffee Makers. The wiring in the coffee maker can overheat, posing burn and fire hazards to consumers.



Electrical Wire Splices

About 53,000 Electrical Wire Splices manufactured by Molex, of Lisle, Illinois. (also known as Butt Splice Connectors) are being recalled. The splice can fail to hold the wires adequately together, posing a shock and fire hazard to consumers.



Blenders

Atico International USA Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Florida (for the *Crofton*® model) (East West Distributing Co., of Deerfield Illinois distributed the *Signature Gourmet*™ model), is recalling about 124,000 Signature Gourmet and Crofton® Personal Blenders. While placing the cup on or off the base of the blender, the blender can be inadvertently turned on, activating the blade. This can pose a serious laceration hazard to consumers.



Countertop Water Dispensers

Greenway Home Products, of Northwood, Ohio, is recalling about 44,000 Countertop Water Dispensers. The internal heating element could overheat and drop molten metal through ventilation openings in the water dispenser's base onto the countertop, posing a fire hazard. The internal heating element also poses a shock hazard to consumers who touch it through the vents.



Strollers

Regal Lager Inc., of Kennesaw, Georgia, is recalling about 44,000 Phil & Teds e3 Single Buggy, e3 Twin Buggy and sport v1 Single Buggy Strollers. The stroller's hinge locking mechanism poses a laceration hazard to the user folding and unfolding the strollers.



Wooden Infant Toys

Habermaass Corp. Inc., of Skaneateles, New York, is recalling about 118,000 Wooden Puzzles, Infant Rattles, Pacifier Holders, and Stroller Toys. The products contain small pieces including glued-on mirrors and/or prisms that can detach, posing a choking hazard to infants.



Children's Hooded Sweatshirts and Jackets with Drawstrings

Orioxi International Corp., of Brea, California, is recalling about 43,000 Children's Hooded Sweatshirts and Jackets. The sweatshirts and jackets have drawstrings through the hood which pose a strangulation hazard to young children.



Bicycle Pedals

Look Cycle USA, of San Jose, California, is recalling about 80,000 (40,000 pairs) Kéo Bicycle Pedals. The steel axle inside the pedal can break, posing a fall hazard to cyclists.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.