



U.S. Consumer
Product Safety
Commission

IN THIS ISSUE

Bike Helmets.....	1
Safer Furnaces.....	3
Dive Sticks.....	4
Asbestos & Children's Products.....	5
MECAP News.....	8
MECAP Commendation...	9
CPSC Recalls.....	10

This publication should be considered a staff document. It has been approved informally by CPSC Commissioners Thomas H. Moore and Mary Sheila Gall.

CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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Bike Helmet Safety

*The following was excerpted from Dr. Gregory Rodgers' article, "Effects of state helmet laws on bicycle helmet use by children and adolescents," in **Injury Prevention** (2002;8:42-46). Dr. Rodgers' analysis is the first nationwide evaluation of the effectiveness of state bike helmet laws.*

According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, an estimated 45,000 children under age 16, the age group affected by most state helmet laws, were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments for bicycle-related head injuries in 1998. In addition, an estimated 224 children under age 16 died from bicycling injuries in 1997, and most of these deaths resulted from head injuries.

Although head injuries are among the most serious sustained by bicyclists, they are also among the most preventable. Research has shown that helmet use substantially reduces both the likelihood and severity of head injury. Such findings have spurred a number of efforts to increase the use of helmets, ranging from community-based educational and outreach programs to state and local laws requiring that bicyclists wear helmets.

As of November 2001, 19 states and the District of Columbia had enacted legislation requiring the use of helmets by children. Twelve of the state laws apply only to children under the age of 16; one (the California law) requires helmets by children under age 18. Helmet use laws also have been enacted in over 50 localities outside of states, but these localities account for only a small proportion of the U.S. population. None of the state laws requires the use of helmets by adults; nor are the laws rigorously enforced.

Two of the state laws and several local laws have been shown to increase helmet use by children. Helmet laws also have been shown to increase helmet use in Australia and New Zealand.

Methods and Results¹

Data used in the analysis are from a 1998 national telephone survey of about 1,000 U.S. bicyclists conducted by Yankelovich Partners.² The survey was conducted during August 1998 and collected information about the characteristics of riders and their bicycle and helmet use. The impact of state helmet laws on the likelihood of helmet use by children was evaluated with a regression analysis, an analysis that controlled for a number of rider characteristics and demographic factors.

From this sample of bicyclists, 310 interviews collected information on helmet and bicycle use patterns of children under age 16. These observations represented an estimated 31.6 million children and formed the basis for the analysis

Continued on page 2

Bike Helmet Safety *cont. from page 1*

described in this article. At the time the survey was conducted, just over two-fifths (40.9%) of the children surveyed resided in states with helmet laws.

Figure 1 compares the characteristics of the children who always or almost always wore helmets (column 1) against those who did not (column 2). The findings suggest that the children who always wore helmets were more likely to reside in states with helmet laws, to be younger (i.e., under age 12), to live in northeastern or western states, and to be from households with higher incomes and higher levels of educational attainment.

The analysis of this data showed that helmet use was significantly higher in states with helmet use laws, even when adjusted for such demographic factors such as household income and education.

The analysis also was used to estimate the independent effect of the state laws on the average probability of helmet use. This analysis showed that, when all other factors were held constant, state helmet laws increased the expected average probability of helmet use by about 18.4%.

Discussion

The results of this analysis suggest that state helmet laws have significantly increased the likelihood of helmet use by children. Moreover, the effect has been substantial as well as statistically significant. If the increase in the average probability of helmet use associated with state laws were aggregated over the entire U.S. population of riders under age 16, the estimated effect would be to add about 18.4% of all child riders to the category of helmet users.

The helmet use estimates were self-reported, rather than observed and, therefore, could be overstated to some extent. It should be noted, however, that estimated use rates are not inconsistent with available data on the sales of helmets. Annual sales of bicycle helmets have ranged from about 8 to 11 million annually since the mid-1990s. Assuming that helmets last on average five years, there would have been about 40 to 55 million helmets in use at the time the survey was conducted. Based

Continued on page 6

Characteristics of Bike Riders Under Age 16 by Helmet Use

Variable	Wears Helmet Always Or Almost Always ^a	
	Yes	No
Age group (years)		
<12	79.1	60.9
12-15	20.9	39.1
Gender		
Male	55.4	50.9
Female	44.6	49.1
State helmet Law		
Yes	51.3	26.2
No	48.7	73.9
Region		
Northeast	27.3	14.9
Midwest	22.7	27.8
South	22.9	44.4
West	27.1	13.0
Education^b		
≤High school	16.8	47.4
Some college	30.2	20.4
College graduate	52.9	32.3
Household Income		
<\$15,000	2.7	10.5
\$15,000 to <\$30,000	16.5	30.0
\$30,000 to <\$45,000	21.2	21.9
\$45,000 or more	59.6	37.7

^aBased on 310 survey interviews that collected information on children under 16.

^bHighest level attained by any household member.

Figure 1

Safer Furnaces

CPSC's Directorate for Engineering Sciences recently completed a study of combustion sensors for furnaces – promising technologies that could help make furnaces safer. Ronald A. Jordan, the CPSC engineer who managed the research, discussed this technology.

Why did CPSC staff evaluate combustion sensors?

We were looking at ways to reduce consumers' exposure to carbon monoxide (CO) from malfunctioning or improperly maintained gas-fired central furnaces. We wanted to see if combustion sensing technology could detect high concentrations of CO in the flues and vent systems of gas furnaces and automatically shut down the furnaces in response.

What are the hazards to consumers when a furnace is not operating properly?

CO is a by-product of the incomplete combustion of hydrocarbon fuels, such as natural gas, propane, gasoline, and oil. When the flues and venting systems of appliances are intact, CO from incomplete combustion is typically vented safely to the outdoors. But if there's a problem with the flue or vents, CO can enter living spaces and pose a hazard to consumers. In 1998, for example, there were an estimated 180 unintentional, non-fire CO poisoning deaths associated with fuel-burning consumer products.

How did you go about conducting this research?

We first conducted patent and Internet searches to identify relevant technology and acquired samples of two different sensor technologies for testing. We started testing in March 2001.

How were these tests actually conducted?

The sensor testing was broken down into two parts. We first sought to determine what type of sensor output could be used to provide a shutoff signal to a furnace. Each sensor technology responds to a certain range of CO levels and generates a range of voltages in response.

So, we placed each sensor inside an environmental chamber, exposing it to known CO levels and recording the corresponding voltage levels.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI) standard for Gas-Fired Central Furnaces (ANSI Z21.47) requires that furnaces not produce a level of CO greater than 400 parts per million (ppm) in an air-free sample of its flue gases. Using this as a target, we determined the voltage for each sensor type that closely corresponded to this CO level.

For the second part of the testing, we connected each sensor to the furnace in order to evaluate its shut-off performance. The voltage levels that corresponded to 400 ppm of CO were then used as the signals to shut off the furnace when CO levels exceeded the ANSI standard.

What did the test results show?

The test results showed that it's technically possible to use a sensor to shut down gas furnaces when flue concentrations of CO exceed certain levels.

How could the results of this research be used?

The results could make a difference in voluntary standards for gas furnaces. CPSC staff proposed to the ANSI furnace subcommittee that two alternative sets of performance requirements be added to the furnace standard.

The first alternative would require the furnace to shut off if the vent pipe becomes disconnected or partially blocked. The second alternative would add requirements to either prevent furnace CO emissions from exceeding the limits set by the standard or provide a means to shut down the furnace if CO emissions exceeded these limits. The sensor technology that we evaluated would be applicable to the second alternative.

What other products could benefit from this technology?

Combustion sensors could also be used in a wide range of residential gas appliances, including boilers, wall furnaces, and vented space heaters.

Continued on page 6

Dive Sticks

CPSC recently banned certain dive sticks because of the risk they pose for serious impalement injuries.

Dive sticks are generally used in swimming pools for underwater activities, such as retrieval games and swimming instruction (*Figure 2*).

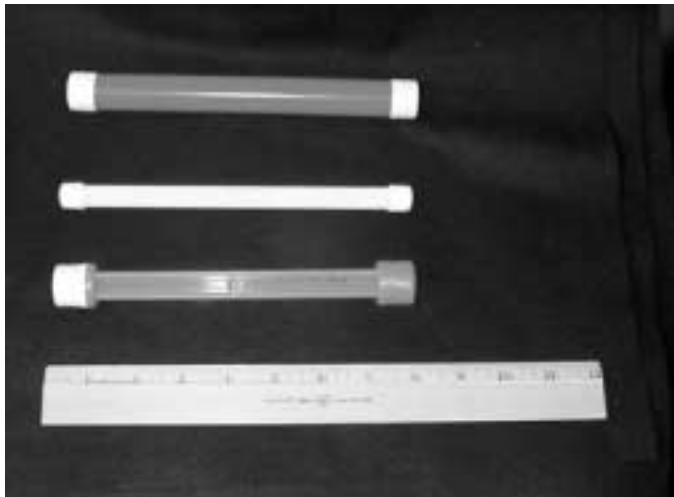


Figure 2

Older dive sticks that present an injury hazard are made of rigid plastic. They are typically cylindrical in shape – about 10 inches or less in length with a diameter of one inch or less. Dive sticks are usually weighted, so that when they are dropped into water, they sink and stand upright on the bottom of a pool.

Injuries

Serious rectal or vaginal injuries have occurred when a child accidentally sat, fell, or jumped buttocks-first into shallow water and landed on a dive stick.

The injuries ranged from laceration of the rectum and sphincter to puncture wounds and tears of the colon. Less serious facial and eye injuries also have occurred when a child attempted to retrieve a dive stick with a pointed end from under the water.

As of 2000, CPSC was aware of 9 confirmed impalement injuries involving submerged vertically-standing dive sticks. All the victims were children ranging in age from 3 to 9 years old.

Four females (ages 7 to 9) sustained injuries when the dive stick penetrated the vagina. Two males (ages 3 and 7) and two females (ages 5 and 6) suffered injuries when the dive stick penetrated the rectum. In the remaining incident, a female received external lacerations around the rectum after landing on a dive stick.

Medical attention was sought after each incident. Six of the injuries required surgery to address multiple internal and external injuries.

Eight of the impalement injuries occurred in shallow depths of water. Of these, five occurred in small wading pools with water levels between 12 and 24 inches. The other shallow-water incidents occurred on the top step of a spa, in a pool measuring three feet in height with approximately 27 inches of water, and in a bathtub with approximately six inches of water.

The ninth incident reportedly took place in a pool; however, neither the type of pool nor the water depth is known.

In addition to genital and rectal injuries, CPSC received reports of four less serious injuries to other body parts when the victim submerged onto the vertical-standing dive stick. The injuries occurred when the children attempted to retrieve the dive sticks from the bottom of shallow pools.

Rulemaking

In early 1999, when CPSC staff first learned of incidents involving dive sticks, the staff worked with product manufacturers to recall hazardous dive sticks. In June 1999, CPSC announced it had reached agreements with 15 manufacturers and importers to voluntarily recall their dive sticks.

The recalls have removed most dive sticks from the market. However, because the hazard posed by dive sticks appeared to be inherent to the product and not related to any specific model or manufacturer, CPSC began a proceeding to ban all dive sticks with hazardous characteristics. The final rule became effective in 2001.

The rule bans dive sticks that are rigid, submerge to the bottom of a pool of water, and stand upright in water. After considering the reported impalement injuries, CPSC believes that these are the essential characteristics creating the impalement hazard. Dive sticks and similar articles that do not have these characteristics, as well as dive rings and dive disks, are still allowed.

About 20 million dive sticks were sold from 1990 to 2001. Sales of dive sticks increased substantially during the 1990s, from less than one million a year before 1993 to as many as 5 million a year by 1997.

— *Scott Heh, Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction*

Asbestos and Children's Products

CPSC staff recently examined several children's products for the presence of asbestos. These products included crayons and chalk. The investigation revealed that the risk to children from asbestos in these products is extremely low.

Asbestos is not a single mineral, but a collective term applied to six naturally-occurring silicate minerals used commercially. The physical and chemical characteristics of these minerals vary, depending on where the material is mined. These minerals crystallize into long, thin fibers. The fibers are easily separated and flexible enough to be woven. They are good insulators and resistant to heat and chemicals.

In humans, the health effects of inhalation exposure to asbestos include various forms of non-malignant respiratory disease and cancer. These health effects have been well-documented in epidemiological and animal studies. Studies in humans and animals suggest little or no risk of injury from ingestion of asbestos.

Different asbestos minerals differ in their ability to cause injury, although the reasons for variable toxicity are not clearly understood. Fiber size is thought to be one of the most important characteristics, since animal studies indicate that the longer, rather than shorter, asbestos fibers are most closely associated with lung tumor development.

Crayons

CPSC staff examined crayons from several boxes from three major crayon companies to determine whether asbestos was found in the talc used as a binding agent. In addition, the staff evaluated the potential for exposure and risk to children.

Under contract to CPSC, an independent laboratory used polarized light microscopy (PLM) and transmission electron microscopy (TEM) to examine the crayons. Additional analysis was done in a laboratory at the Occupational Safety and Health Administration. Trace amounts of anthophyllite asbestos and larger amounts of other fibers ("transitional" fibers) were found in samples from two of the manufacturers. Samples from a third manufacturer did not contain any asbestos or transitional fibers. Transitional fibers are not asbestos, and their ability to cause injury is not known.

During a simulation of a child vigorously coloring with a crayon for half an hour, no fibers were found in the air. In addition, the staff concluded that if a child ate

a crayon, the fibers would remain imbedded in the crayon wax and would pass through a child's body. Based on this testing and evaluation, CPSC staff concluded that the risk to children who used crayons was extremely low.

Despite the very low risk, the industry agreed to reformulate crayons using substitute ingredients. Reformulated crayons are currently available.

Chalk

CPSC staff also tested pastels and chalk from several major manufacturers, including blackboard chalk and jumbo-size sidewalk chalk. These products were not manufactured with talc, and CPSC staff found no asbestos or transitional fibers in the chalk.

Regulatory Authority

Under the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA) and the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA), CPSC is charged with protecting consumers against hazardous exposures to substances like asbestos. To take action against a product that contains asbestos or any other toxic substance under the FHSA, CPSC must demonstrate that people are exposed to the substance during customary or reasonably foreseeable handling or use (including misuse) and that the exposure may cause substantial personal injury or substantial illness.

CPSC may act to protect consumers from hazardous asbestos exposures regardless of whether the asbestos is intentionally added to a consumer product or is an inadvertent or naturally-occurring component of the product. In the late 1970s, CPSC banned asbestos-containing consumer patching (spackling) compounds and artificial fireplace ash. CPSC determined that there was a risk of developing asbestos-related cancer from inhaling asbestos fibers released into the air during use of these products.

In 1986, CPSC issued an enforcement policy concerning labeling of household products containing intentionally-added asbestos. Additional CPSC activities resulted in eliminating asbestos in hair dryers and heat guns, and as a component of a school art modeling compound. CPSC will continue to monitor art materials and other children's products for potentially hazardous exposures to asbestos.

— *Kristina M. Hatlelid, Ph.D., M.P.H., Directorate for Health Sciences*

For More Information

To learn more about CPSC activities regarding children's products, visit www.cpsc.gov.

Bike Helmet Safety *cont. from page 2*

on the results of the full survey, including helmet use by adult riders, an estimated 48.5 million riders of all ages reported having helmets and using them at least some of the time; this included about 26.1 million children under age 16 and about 22.4 million older riders.

The major finding of this study -- that state laws substantially increased the likelihood of helmet use -- is supported by the results of two published pre- and post-law studies conducted in Georgia and Oregon. The laws in both states apply to children under age 16. The Georgia law became effective in July 1993; the Oregon law became effective in July 1994.

The Georgia study found that helmet use by children under 16 increased from 33% in the month before the law became effective to an average of about 52% during the five subsequent months. The attributable difference between the proportion of Georgia children using helmets during the pre- and post-law time periods was 19%, almost identical to the 18.4% difference found nationally in the present study. The Oregon study suggested that helmet use by children rose from 36.8% to 65.7% after the Oregon law was enacted, an attributable increase of 28.9%.

The results of this national study, when considered within the context of the Georgia and Oregon studies, suggest that state helmet laws may add a sizable segment of all child riders, perhaps on the order of about 20%, to the category of helmet users.

Implications for Prevention

An increase of this magnitude suggests that state helmet laws significantly increase the proportion of children who use helmets. Helmet laws are also more likely to be effective when combined with comprehensive education and outreach programs. Nevertheless, the results of this analysis suggest that state helmet laws, even as they are now constituted and enforced, can play an important role in getting children to wear helmets.

— *Gregory B. Rodgers, Ph.D., Directorate for Economic Analysis*

¹ For an extended discussion of the methods and results used for this analysis, please refer to the original article.

² Released by CPSC and McDonald's Corporation as part of a national education campaign on bike helmets (April 1999).

Safer Furnaces *cont. from page 3*

What other work has CPSC done in this area?

In 2000, CPSC staff completed CO emissions testing of five furnaces to determine their performance when conditions were normal and when the units were not burning completely and had disconnected or partially-blocked vent pipes. These test results formed part of the basis for safety proposals CPSC staff made to standards organizations, as well as the basis for the sensor testing we recently completed.

What is the future of combustion sensor technology?

The sensor technologies tested are promising. However, more work needs to be conducted in order to address issues such as reliability, durability, and longevity. CPSC

staff continues to discover new, comparable technologies that could be used in the same applications.

In addition to application and standards development for furnaces, we hope to make a difference in voluntary standards for a wide range of gas appliances. The ANSI Z21/83 Committee (which is the parent group to the furnace subcommittee and many other gas appliance subcommittees) has formed a standards working group to explore using sensor technology for a broad range of gas appliances.

Where can one find out more about this technology?

You can find our study of furnace combustion sensors on the CPSC website at www.cpsc.gov.

Consumer Product Incident Report

Please contact us about any injury or death involving consumer products. Call us toll free at: **1-800-638-8095**. Visit our website at **www.cpsc.gov**. Or, fill out the form below. Send it to: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission/EHDS, Washington, DC 20207 or fax it to: **1-800-809-0924**. We may contact you for further details. Please provide as much information as possible. Thank you.

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR TELEPHONE _____

NAME OF VICTIM (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES

VICTIM'S AGE _____ SEX _____ DATE OF INCIDENT _____

DESCRIBE PRODUCT INVOLVED _____

PRODUCT BRAND NAME/MANUFACTURER _____

IS PRODUCT INVOLVED STILL AVAILABLE? YES NO PRODUCT MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBER _____

WHEN WAS THE PRODUCT PURCHASED? _____

This information is collected by authority of 15 U.S.C. 2054 and may be shared with product manufacturers, distributors, or retailers. No names or other personal information, however, will be disclosed without explicit permission.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, DC 20207

TC-49

MECAP NEWS

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project and Emergency Physicians Reporting System

The MECAP-EPRS Project is designed to collect timely information on deaths and injuries involving consumer products. Please contact us whenever you encounter a death or situation that you believe should be considered during a safety evaluation of a product.

To report a case or ask for information about MECAP, please call our toll-free number, 1-800-638-8095, or our toll-free fax number, 1-800-809-0924, or send a message via Internet to AMCDONAL@CPSC.GOV.

*Indicates cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigations. Cases reported but not selected for follow-up also are important to CPSC. Every MECAP report is included in CPSC's injury data base and will be used to assess the hazards associated with consumer products.

During the months of February, March and April of 2002, 1,064 cases were reported to CPSC. Included here are samples of cases to illustrate the type and nature of the reported incidents.

ASPHYXIATIONS/SUFFOCATIONS

*A male, 1, was found hanging by a pacifier ribbon that got caught on the rail of his crib. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxiation.

(Rose Psara for Michael A. Graham, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, City of St. Louis, MO)

A male, 17 months, was found hanging between the mattress and ladder of a metal bunkbed at his home. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

(Nizam Peerwani, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Tarrant County, Fort Worth, TX)

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

*A male, 45, was found unresponsive in his travel trailer. A new outdoor propane tabletop heater was found in close proximity to the victim. The valve was turned to the "on" position, and the propane tank was empty. The cause of death was acute carbon monoxide poisoning.

(William R. Anderson, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, District Nine, Orlando, FL)

*A female, 57, and a male, 59, were found unresponsive by firemen in their home. The home was extremely warm, with the thermostat set at 82 degrees, and all the doors and windows were shut. An investigation by the fire department revealed that debris had clogged the chimney and had caused a build-up of carbon monoxide in the home. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

(Elizabeth K. Balraj, M.D., Coroner, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, OH)

*A male, 70, was found unresponsive in his motor home. The motor home had a build-up of carbon monoxide from a propane gas heater. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

(K. Podjaski, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA)

*A female, 79, was found unresponsive lying on the floor of her home, which had a high concentration of carbon monoxide. The woman had told friends of problems with her furnace. The cause of death was asphyxia due to carbon monoxide inhalation.

(Katherine P. Raven, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, King County, Seattle, WA)

DROWNING

A male, 20 months, was found floating unresponsive in an in-ground swimming pool behind his home. The child was under the care of his siblings, ages 10 and 12, while his mother took a shower. The swimming pool was not in use, was poorly maintained, and had no security fence. The cause of death was drowning.

(Christopher Wilson, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 15, Palm Beach County, West Palm Beach, FL)

A male, 19 months, was found floating in a neighbor's pool while under the care of his grandparents. Resuscitation was attempted, but the child died shortly thereafter at the hospital. The cause of death was drowning.

(Bruce Flitt, M.D., Medical Examiner, Gaston County, Gastonia, NC)

A male, 21 months, was found unresponsive, floating face down in a gated swimming pool. His mother was having a party, and a patio door had been left open.

(Joye M. Carter, Chief Medical Examiner, Harris County, Houston, TX)

A female, 16 months, was found floating face down in a swimming pool at her home. The child was left with a sibling while her mother took a shower. Another person at the residence left a carport door open that allowed the child to access the pool. The pool had neither a safety barrier nor a child alarm. The cause of death was drowning.

(Eroston Price, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 17, Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, FL)

ELECTROCUTIONS

A male, 54, was found lying on the ground with a large burn hole in one of his pant legs. The man had been on a long metal extension ladder removing Christmas lights from a large pine tree in front of his home. The lights got entangled on a power line, and the man fell 30 feet to the ground. The cause of death was high voltage electrocution.

(Sally S. Aiken, M.D., Medical Examiner, Spokane County, Spokane, WA)

A male, 25, became unresponsive immediately after hammering a nail to install an electrical outlet box for a ceiling fan. The nail hit an electric line above the ceiling. The cause of death was electrocution.

(Julia V. Martin, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, District 5, Leesburg, FL)

FIRES

*A male, 55, was found unresponsive on his bed after a travel trailer fire was extinguished. The fire was caused when an electric space heater was placed too close to curtains in the trailer. The cause of death was inhalation of smoke and soot.

(Rexene Worrell, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV)

A female, 4, was severely burned at her grandfather's house when the pilot light of a natural gas water heater ignited some gasoline that had spilled on the floor. The grandfather had brought a lawn mower and gasoline can into the kitchen of his home, and the gasoline can was accidentally knocked over. The child was taken to a hospital where she died about a month later. The cause of death was sepsis and pneumonia as a result of 3rd degree burns on 35% of her body.

(Jay M. Glass, M.P.A., Chief Deputy Coroner for Robert M. Brissie, M.D., Chief Coroner/Medical Examiner, Jefferson County, Birmingham, AL)

MECAP COMMENDATION

B. Parks Evans, Jr. has been selected to receive CPSC's MECAP Commendation, which recognizes outstanding contributions to CPSC's Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP).

Mr. Evans was appointed Coroner of Greenville County, South Carolina in September 1991 by Governor Carroll Campbell to fill the unexpired term of the Coroner who resigned. Mr. Evans has since been elected to three 4-year terms.

His office investigates an average of 1,300 cases a year.

During his tenure as Coroner, Mr. Evans completed extensive training in medico-legal death investigation, including several courses at St. Louis Medical University. He is certified by the American Board of Medicolegal Death Investigations as a Registered Medicolegal Death Investigator. He is the past President of the South Carolina Coroner's Association and current Chairman of the South Carolina Coroner's



From left to right: Ken Coppins, Bobbie Bogan, Linda Holbrook, Mike Ellis, and Mark Edmonds. Seated is B. Parks Evans, Jr.

Training Advisory Board. He also serves on the American Red Cross National Medical Examiner/Coroner's Advisory Committee for Tissue Services.

Prior to his current appointment, Mr. Evans served as a Deputy Coroner for three years. Before that, he worked with the Greenville County Sheriff's Office as a Deputy for five years.

His staff includes Administrative Assistant Bobbie Bogan; Chief Deputy Coroner Mike Ellis; Deputy Coroners Linda Holbrook, Ken Coppins, and Mark Edmonds; Part-time Deputy Coroner Kent Dill; and Reserve Deputy Coroner Tony Segars.

*A female, 27, suffered severe burn injuries after being awakened by the smell of smoke from a fire in her apartment. The fire started in the electrical system of a refrigerator, and the apartment had no smoke detectors. The woman was rescued by firefighters from a bathroom but died later that day at a hospital. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

(David R. Schomburg for Margaret Prial, M.D., Medical Examiner, New York, NY)

MISCELLANEOUS

*A female, 3, was visiting her grandparents along with her mother. Her mother sent her to find a movie video to watch on the television. A short time later, the mother heard a crashing sound and found a 36" television on top of the

child. Investigating officials believe the child tried to climb up the television stand to find a video. The television tipped over because it was too large for the stand. The cause of death was cranio-cerebral trauma.

(David A. Start, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Kent County, Grand Rapids, MI)

*A male, 55, was standing on a ladder trimming a tree branch with a small gas-powered chain saw. The chain saw kicked back and struck him in the throat.

(Junaid R. Shaikh, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, Regional Medical Examiner Office, Newark, NJ)

— *Denny Wierdak, Directorate for Epidemiology*



CPSC Recalls

The following product recalls were conducted by firms in cooperation with CPSC. For more information about recalls, visit www.cpsc.gov.

Portable Basketball Hoops

Product: About 1.7 million **portable basketball hoops** by Lifetime Products Inc. and about 16,000 basketball hoops by Escalade Sports. All Lifetime portable basketball system models, except the "Quick Court," are included in the recall. The Escalade Sports basketball hoop models included in the recall are the Harvard, The Big Easy, B3100, B3301, B3302, B3303, B3304, B3305, B3306, B3403, B3500, Spalding, The Big Easy B3402 and Apex B9995, Mini Court, Alley Court.

These portable basketball hoops come unassembled with a flat plastic base that is weighted down by either sand or water that is added during assembly. The basketball poles are made of black metal. The brand names or model names may appear on the backboard, main pole or the flat plastic base of the basketball hoops. Sporting good, department and toy stores including Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and Toys R Us nationwide sold the Lifetime basketball hoops between January 1994 and July 2000 and the Escalade Sports basketball hoops between March 1994 and December 2001 for between \$80 and \$500.

Problem: The basketball hoops may have a sharp protruding bolt on the players' side of the pole that can cause serious leg or body lacerations to consumers when the bolt is exposed. CPSC and Lifetime Products Inc. have received 27 reports of injuries and Escalade Sports has received one report of injury from the basketball hoop bolt. Injuries include scrapes, deep lacerations and bruises. Several consumers required stitches for their injuries. Players have been cut when they bump into the pole as they drive toward the basket.

What to do: Stop using the basketball hoops immediately and contact Lifetime Products or Escalade Sports to receive free cap nuts to cover the bolts. Consumers should call and get a cap nut regardless of whether their bolt protrudes. Consumers can contact Lifetime Products Inc. at (800) 225-3865 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MT or 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or the firm's website at www.lifetime.com. Escalade Sports can be reached at (800) 467-1397 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or the firm's website at www.escaladesports.com.

Toy Planes

Product: About 137,000 Firestormer and Skyblazer **toy planes** by Spin Master Toys. The recalled Firestormer plane is either red or blue in color with a flame graphic across the body and "Firestormer" printed on the wings of the plane. The Skyblazer plane is purple, green and white in color and has "Skyblazer" printed on the wings of the plane. These toys use a hand pump mechanism to compress air to make the plane fly.

Both planes are recommended for children 8 years old and over. The planes have an 8-digit date code on the bottom of the pump. The date code reads MM/DD/YY-KS. Only planes with date codes 12/29/01-KS through 03/24/02-KS are included in the recall. "Made In China" is written on the bottom of the pump below the date code. Planes manufactured before December 29, 2001 and after March 24, 2002 are not included in this recall. Hobby shops and department stores nationwide, including Wal-Mart, Toys R Us, Target and K-mart, sold these planes between January 2002 and May 20, 2002 for about \$20.

Problem: The plastic air intake chamber of the air-powered toy planes can burst, throwing plastic pieces, posing a laceration, bruise and abrasion hazard to consumers.

Spin Master Toys has received seven reports of Firestormer planes bursting, including four reports of injuries to children. Injuries included one chest abrasion, a cut leg, a bruised shoulder and ringing in the ears. There have been no reports involving the Skyblazer planes.

What to do: Stop using the planes immediately and contact Spin Master Toys at (800) 622-8339 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a free replacement plane. Consumers also can visit the firm's website at www.spinmaster.com.

Mountain Bicycles

Product: About 103,000 Mongoose and Roadmaster **mountain bicycles** with Ballistic 105 front suspension forks by Brunswick Corp. By Us International Co. Ltd., of Taiwan, the manufacturer of the bicycle forks, previously announced the recall of 13,500 of these forks in May 2000. The recall was expanded to about 40,000 forks in February 2001. By Us International is no longer cooperating with the recall. Brunswick Corp. is expanding the recall to include all Ballistic model 105 forks sold on the Mongoose and Roadmaster mountain bicycles they manufactured (except the Mongoose A40). The previous recalls were limited to forks with certain serial numbers. The recall includes only Ballistic 105 forks installed on Mongoose and Roadmaster model bicycles manufactured by Brunswick Corp. The forks on these bikes are black with decals that read "BALLISTIC" and "105" on the sides of the suspension fork legs. A small label on the bottom of the bicycle reads "Brunswick." The forks on the Mongoose A40 model bicycles and forks on bicycles not manufactured by Brunswick Corp. are not included in the recall. Discount department stores and toy stores nationwide sold the bicycles with these forks from June 1998 through December 2000 for between \$125 and \$150.

Additionally, consumers could have received a Ballistic model 105 fork as a replacement when participating in one of the previous recalls.

Problem: The forks on these bicycles can break apart, causing riders to lose control, fall and suffer serious injury. There have been 34 reports of forks on these bicycles breaking resulting in 31 riders, including children and teenagers, suffering serious head and bodily injuries, abrasions, bruises and chipped teeth.

What to do: Stop using these bicycles and call the firm to obtain information on receiving a \$65 refund for the bicycle fork. This applies to all owners of bicycles with Ballistic model 105 forks manufactured by Brunswick (except the Mongoose A40), even if they received a new Ballistic model 105 fork as a result of participating in a previous recall. For more information, consumers should call Brunswick Corp. at (800) 508-2762 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the recall website at www.ballisticforkrecall.com.

Baby Floats

Product: About 90,000 "SunSmart" **baby floats** by Aqua-Leisure Industries Inc. Baby floats purchased after September 2001 are not involved in this recall. The recalled floats are packaged as "SunSmart" Baby Adjustable Sunshade Boats. The baby floats are blue and white circular tubes with a seat in the middle, and a detachable protective sunshade. The vinyl floats, intended for ages 6 months to 18 months, have pictures of purple crabs and various colored fish along the top. The word "SunSmart" is printed across the front of the float. The recalled boats can be identified by the lettering "C/S" molded on the valve. Only floats with the "C/S" lettering are involved in the recall; subsequent floats have been corrected. Juvenile products, specialty and discount department stores nationwide, including Target, K-Mart, Bed Bath and Beyond and Baby Central, sold the baby floats from August 2000 through September 2001 for between \$10 and \$13.

Problem: The leg holes in the seat of the float can tear, causing children to unexpectedly fall into the water and possibly drown. Aqua-Leisure and CPSC have received 12 reports of the floats' seats tearing and causing children to fall into the water. There were four incidents of children becoming completely submerged before a caregiver was able to reach them. No injuries have been reported.

What to do: Stop using these recalled floats immediately and contact Aqua-Leisure for a free replacement. Consumers can contact Aqua-Leisure at 866-807-3998 between 9 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's website at www.aqualeisure.com.

Mini Beach Chairs

Product: About 100,000 Time Out folding **mini beach chairs** by Intercon Merchandising Source Inc. The recalled mini beach chairs can be used by both children and adults and were a free gift with the purchase of a Time Out cosmetic product at Sears stores. The mini beach chairs are white aluminum with a blue canvas seat and back. The name "Time Out" is printed on the canvas backrest. Sears stores nationwide distributed the mini beach chairs with the purchase of \$20 worth Time Out cosmetics from June 2000 through August 2000.

Problem: The chairs can collapse, posing crush and amputation hazards to consumer's fingers and toes. CPSC and Intercon are aware of one incident in which the tip of a 3-year old girl's finger was amputated when the chair collapsed.

What to do: Stop using these mini beach chairs immediately and contact Intercon for a free repair. Consumers can contact Intercon at (800) 634-0469 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. PST Monday through Friday.

Camping Lanterns

Product: About 290,000 propane-fueled **camping lanterns** with model names "Ozark Trail" or "Wenzel" by Wenzel Co. Lanterns purchased after September 1, 2001 are not covered by this recall. The recalled lanterns are green and silver with brass fittings, have a glass globe, and stand about 9 inches high (without the propane cylinder attached). The lanterns, when attached to the propane cylinder, sit on a green plastic base on which the model names "Ozark Trail" or "Wenzel" appear. The Ozark Trail model has a double cloth mantle for lighting and the Wenzel model has either a double or single cloth mantle. The models involved are Ozark Trail 824927 and 824928, and Wenzel 824208, 824226, 824227 and 824401, which appear on the box in which the lantern came. Wal-Mart sold the lanterns nationwide under the "Ozark Trail" label from March 1999 through August 2001 for about \$18. Sporting goods, camping equipment, and other retail stores nationwide sold these lanterns under the "Wenzel" brand from January 1999 through August 2001 for between \$18 and \$28. The propane cylinder, which is not affected by the recall and is not distributed by Wenzel, is sold separately from the lantern.

Problem: An insufficient connection between the lantern and the propane cylinder can allow gas to escape and ignite unexpectedly, posing a potential fire and injury hazard to consumers. This hazard can occur during the lighting or normal use of the lantern. Wenzel has received 12 reports of propane gas escaping from these lanterns and igniting unexpectedly. Two consumers sustained burns to the arm and hand. One of the consumers also suffered burns to the eye.

What to do: Consumers with Ozark Trail or Wenzel lanterns should stop using them immediately and detach the lantern from the propane cylinder. Consumers should return only the lanterns to the store where purchased for a refund. Consumers also can call Wenzel toll-free at (800) 325-8368 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CDT Monday through Friday; or visit the company's website at www.wenzelco.com. Consumers with Ozark Trail lanterns also can visit Wal-Mart's website at www.walmartstores.com.

Wheelbarrows

Product: About 647,000 **wheelbarrows** by Ames True Temper Inc. The wheel assemblies on these wheelbarrows have a black plastic rim and have an approximately 14-inch diameter wheel. They have red, green or orange tubs or trays made of steel or plastic. The recalled Ames wheelbarrows were sold under the brand name "Mustang" or "Douglas." The brand name was printed on the label attached to the tray at the time of purchase. Wheelbarrows with metal wheel assemblies are not part of this recall. Also, no "True Temper" wheelbarrow is part of this recall. The recalled wheelbarrow wheels were manufactured and sold by O. Ames Company, a predecessor company of Ames True Temper. Hardware stores and home centers nationwide sold the recalled wheelbarrows from January 1993 through December 2000 for between \$20 and \$30.

Problem: The plastic wheel assemblies on these wheelbarrows, manufactured by a predecessor company, can break when being inflated with high-pressure air hoses. This can result in plastic pieces exploding from the rims of the wheels, possibly hitting nearby consumers and causing lacerations and other injuries. Ames True Temper has received eight reports of plastic rims fracturing, seven of which involve lacerations to consumers' hands, face, chest or arms. Some of the lacerations were severe, and required numerous stitches. One report involved nasal and other facial bone fractures, three reports involved finger or knuckle fractures, and one report included torn wrist ligaments caused by the force of the pieces striking a consumer.

What to do: Consumers should not inflate the tires on these wheelbarrows. Consumers should contact Ames True Temper to receive a free replacement steel wheel assembly. For more information, call Ames True Temper toll-free at 866-239-2281 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Air Powered Rockets

Product: About 140,000 **air powered rockets** by Estes Industries. The blue, yellow and black GL-X200™ Estes Air™ Powered Rocket Systems contains two blue rockets with yellow foam tips and are recommended for children 8 years of age and older. "ESTES AIR" is printed in black and white lettering in a 6-inch wide yellow oval on the front of the pump. Underneath the pump appear the words, "Made in China." Department stores nationwide, including Wal-Mart, Toys R Us and Zany Brainy, as well as e-businesses, catalogers and hobby shops sold these rockets from February 2001 through February 2002 for between \$20 and \$40.

Problem: The rockets' foam tips can break off exposing sharp edges that can cause face lacerations or eye injuries to consumers. The rocket systems also have weak pump handles that can break during use, posing a risk of hand lacerations to consumers. Estes and CPSC have received 16 reports of rocket tips breaking off. Six children were struck in the face by the rockets, including two children who suffered detached retinas and four children who suffered lacerations that required stitches or sutures. There were 68 reports of broken pump handles, including six hand lacerations.

What to do: Stop using the air rockets immediately and call Estes Industries toll free at (800) 576-5811 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. MT for information on how to get a replacement rocket. For more information, consumers can log on to the company's website at www.estesrockets.com. Rocket pumps that have a label that reads, "WARNING: Stay away from rocket when pumping and launching" are not included in this recall.

Power Cord Sets

Product: About 2.5 million **power cord sets** by Longwell Electronics. The recalled power cord sets were sold with inkjet printers from Hewlett-Packard Company. The gray, two-wire power cord sets with a LS-7C connector were sold with the following HP printers: HP Deskjet 800 series and 900 series, HP Photosmart 1000 series, 1100 series, 1200 series, and 1300 series inkjet printers. The name "Longwell" is molded on the plug between the blades. Department, computer, office and electronic stores including Best Buy, CompUSA, Costco, Office Depot, Office Max, Staples and Wal-Mart stores sold the printers with the Longwell cord sets nationwide between April 2001 and February 2002 for between \$100 and \$400.

Problem: The connector can break, exposing electrical contacts and posing a shock hazard to consumers. No injuries or incidents have been reported. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

What to do: Stop using these printers immediately and contact HP for a free replacement cord. For more information, consumers can contact HP at 877-917-4378 anytime or visit the firm's website at www.hp.com.

Extra Outlet Scented Oil Air Fresheners

Product: About 2.5 million Glade® **Extra Outlet Scented Oil Air Fresheners** by SC Johnson. The Glade® Extra Outlet Scented Oil electric air fresheners come in two fragrances, Sky Breeze™ and Mystical Garden™. The air fresheners have a unique rotating plug-thru outlet, which allows other electrical devices to be used in the same outlet as the plug-in. The rotating outlet says "15 Amps Max" on the front and has a yellow disk on the back. The Extra Outlet Scented Oil units have a model number "SCJ079" on the back. No other products, sold under the Glade® PlugIns® brand names, are part of the recall. Grocery and retail stores nationwide sold the air fresheners between January 2002 and April 2002 for between \$4 and \$5.

Problem: These Extra Outlet PlugIns® may have been misassembled during manufacture, which could pose a risk of fire. SC Johnson has received five reports of misassembly and no reports of injury or property damage.

What to do: Unplug the air fresheners and contact SC Johnson at (800) 571-0920 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Sunday, or anytime on-line at www.scjohnson.com, for free, full value replacement coupons or a refund.

— Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

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