

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Hal Stratton, Chairman Nancy Nord, Commissioner Thomas H. Moore, Commissione

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Carbon Monoxide

An estimated 188 people died from unintentional carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with consumer products in 2002, according to a recent U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) staff report. Carbon monoxide is a poisonous gas that results from the incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural or liquefied petroleum (LP) gas (propane), oil, wood, and coal. CO cannot be seen or smelled.

For each year from 1999 to 2002, on average, an estimated 141 people died in incidents associated with CO. These CO poisonings do not include those where CO gas resulted from fire or motor vehicles.

In 2002, 55% (103 incidents) of the estimated CO deaths were associated with heating systems. LP-gas heating accounted for 49% (50) of the estimated

heating deaths, and natural gas heating accounted for 21% (22) *(Figure 1)*. The 31 remaining deaths were divided among other or unspecified fuel types.

Health Effects of CO

The initial health effects related to CO depend upon its concentration in the blood. Some symptoms of CO poisoning mimic common illnesses, such as influenza or colds.

Patients are frequently unaware of being exposed to CO, and health care providers may not always consider CO poisoning as a cause of non-specific symptoms. Prompt medical attention is important to reduce the risk of permanent damage.

Sources of CO

Estimated Non-Fire CO Deaths By Fuel-Burning Product, 2002

Consumer Product '02 Annu	ual Est.
Total Deaths	188
Heating Systems	103
Unspecified Gas Heating	15
LP-Gas Heating	50
Natural Gas Heating	22
Coal/Wood Heating	5
Kerosene/Oil Heating	4
Diesel Fuel	1
Heating Systems, Not Specified	6
Charcoal Grills, Charcoal	10
Gas Water Heaters	1
Camp Stoves, Lanterns	4
Gas Ranges/ Ovens	3
Other/Multiple Appliances	15
Engine-Powered Tools (including	52
Portable Generators)	
Source: CPSC	

Figure 1

Any fuel-burning appliance can be a potential source of fatal or hazardous CO levels. Although CO is invisible and odorless, consumer products that burn kerosene, oil, coal or wood (such as wood stoves, oil boilers, and kerosene heaters) sometimes produce an irritating smoke or odor that can alert possible victims to a potentially hazardous CO situation. In some instances, however, these products may produce high CO levels without accompanying smoke or odor.

Engine-driven tools (including portable generators) that are powered by *Continued on page 2*

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gasoline, propane, or natural gas engines produce large amounts of CO. This occurs even when sufficient oxygen is available for combustion. These products may or may not emit an irritating exhaust.

Other fuels, such as charcoal briquettes and pressed wood-chip logs, produce relatively smokeless fires, even at times of inefficient combustion. In these cases, possible victims may receive no obvious sensory warning that high CO levels are present.

Natural and LPgas burn more efficiently and cleanly in appliances compared with other forms of fuel. In circumstances of poor maintenance, inadequate ventilation, or defective exhaust pathways,

For More Information

For the complete report, Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide Deaths Associated with the Use of Consumer Products 2002 Annual Estimates, please go to www.cpsc.gov.

natural and LP-gas appliances may emit potentially lethal amounts of CO without any irritating fumes. Again, people may be unaware of a potential problem.

Venting

Of the 50 estimated deaths associated with LP-gas heating systems, 20 of them involved unvented portable propane heaters. All 20 of the estimated deaths in 2002 with unvented portable propane heaters involved either camping heaters that used disposable propane tanks or one-pound propane bottles, or tank top heaters that used bulk tanks larger than one pound.

Some vented products had vents that became detached or were improperly installed or maintained. Sometimes vents were blocked by soot caused by inefficient combustion. This, in turn, may have been caused by malfunctioning burners, an over-firing condition, or inadequate combustion air.

Age and Gender of Victims

In 2002, children younger than 15 years old accounted for 6% of the CO poisoning deaths. Those 15 to 24 years old also represented 6% of the deaths. Adults between the ages of 25 and 44 represented 32% of the CO poisoning deaths. Adults between 45 and 64 represented 27% of the CO poisoning deaths.

Adults 65 years and older accounted for 28% of the CO poisoning deaths in 2002. Adults in this age group were more frequently reported to have pre-existing

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CO Safety Reminders

To help prevent carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning, get a professional inspection of your home's fuel-burning heating systems before the start of every heating season. These systems include furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, water heaters, space heaters, chimneys, flues, and vents.

Properly operating fuel-burning heating and cooking appliances pose minimal CO hazards. Under certain conditions, however, all appliances that burn fuels can produce deadly levels of CO in the home. For the yearly professional inspection, a qualified professional should do the following.

- Check the operation of all gas appliances to ensure proper fuel input rate, gas pressure, operating temperatures, a clean appliance filter, and an unobstructed return air register.
- Make sure the appliance is operating on the fuel it is designed to use.
- Check chimneys, flues, and vents for leakage and for blockage by debris that can cause deadly exhaust to enter the home.
- Make sure chimneys, flues, and vents are not loose or disconnected.

In addition, if you purchase an unvented portable propane heater, look for one with an oxygen depletion sensor (ODS). If oxygen levels fall, this safety sensor automatically shuts down the heater before it can produce dangerous levels of CO.

CO Alarms

To detect CO, every home should have a CO alarm in the hallway near the bedrooms in each sleeping area. If the alarm you use is battery-operated, check batteries monthly and replace them annually. With an electric-powered alarm, be sure it has a battery backup.

The CO alarm should meet one of these safety standards: Canadian Standards Association 6.19-01, 2001; Underwriters Laboratories Inc. 2034, Second Edition, March 2005; or the International Approval Services 6-96, Second Edition, June 1, 1998.

Fireworks

A recent CPSC staff study of fireworks deaths and injuries reported that an estimated 9,600 people were treated for fireworks-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency departments during 2004. In addition, CPSC has reports of 8 people who died in incidents associated with fireworks in 2004.

CPSC staff conducted a special study between June 19 and July 19, 2004. About 70% — or an estimated 6,600 — of the annual fireworks-related injuries for 2004 occurred during that period.

Special Study

CPSC staff conducted telephone follow-up investigations of some of the fireworks-related injuries reported at NEISS hospital emergency departments during the special study period. Most cases were selected for followup because they involved potentially serious injuries and/or hospital admissions.

Typical causes of injuries included: fireworks exploding earlier or later than expected; errant flight paths of aerial fireworks; and debris or sparks from fireworks devices. Of the injuries, about three times as many males were injured as females. Children under 15 accounted for 40% of all the estimated fireworks-related injuries (Figure 2).

Almost half the estimated 700 injuries to children under 5 were from sparklers. For children ages 5 to 14, injuries were about equally divided among sparklers, novelty devices, rockets, and firecrackers.

Almost two-thirds of the injuries involved burns. Burns were the most common injury to all parts of the body except the eyes, where contusions, lacerations, and foreign bodies occurred more frequently. The parts of the body most often injured were hands (2,200 injuries), eyes (1,400 injuries), and the head, face, and ear (1,400 injuries). Only about 300 incidents involved public display fireworks.

Fireworks Deaths

Of the 8 deaths, 2 victims were killed in incidents involving aerial devices. In the first incident, a man was killed when the device exploded in his face and his shirt caught on fire. The second victim was killed when struck by a flying part of a launching tube. Two victims were killed in house fires where fireworks were thrown into the house. Two other people were killed with homemade devices. The last 2 victims were launching fireworks from their car and were fatally burned when the interior of the car ignited.

Enforcement

For More Information

For the complete copy

Annual Report, please go

of the 2004 Fireworks

to www.cpsc.gov.

CPSC's Office of Compliance continued to work closely with other government agencies to conduct surveillance on imported fireworks and to enforce the provisions of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act. For example, CPSC and U.S. Customs staffs selectively sampled and tested 296 shipments of fireworks. Of those, approxi-

mately 28% were found to contain violative fireworks. These shipments accounted for more than 4.5 million units, with violations serious enough to warrant their seizure or other actions by Customs.

CPSC staff also initiated and participated in several multi-state criminal investigations with the Bureau of Alcohol,

Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATFE), the Department of Justice, and state and local law enforcement agencies.

— Michael A. Greene, Ph.D., Directorate for Epidemiology, and James Joholske, Office of Compliance

Fireworks Injuries By Age and Sex June 19-July 19, 2004

Age	Total	Male	Female	Per
Group				100,000
				People in
			A	ge Group

Total	6,600	5,000	1,600	2.3
0 to 4	700	300	400	3.5
5 to 14	2,000	1,600	400	5.1
5 to 9	1,000	800	300	5.5
10 to 14	1,000	900	100	4.7
15 to 24	1,700	1,400	300	4.1
15 to 19	1,000	800	200	4.8
20 to 24	700	600	100	3.5
25 to 44	1,900	1,500	400	2.3
45 to 64	300	200	100	0.5
65+	100	*	100	0.2

Source: CPSC; Numbers do not add due to rounding.

Figure 2

Fire Losses

According to a recent CPSC staff study, an estimated 369,000 unintentional, residential structure fires in the U.S. resulted in 2,280 civilian deaths, 12,870 civilian injuries, and \$5.32 billion in property loss in 2002, the latest year with complete data. The fire loss estimates for the three previous years included:

■ 361,200 fires, 2,570 deaths, 14,040 injuries, and \$4.39 billion in property loss in 2001,

- 337,600 fires, 2,720 deaths, 15,740 injuries, and \$4.78 billion in property loss in 2000, and
- 338,100 fires, 2,400 deaths, 14,590 injuries, and \$4.24 billion in property loss in 1999.

Products Involved

For each year from 1999 through 2002, the relative ranking of products that have been the greatest contributors to fire loss has remained unchanged. For example:

Equipment	1999 Revised	2000	2001	2002
Total Residential	2,400	2,720	2,570	2,270
Total Heating and Cooling Equipment	300	370	220	290
Local Fixed Heater	90	80	50	80
Portable Heater	100	150	50	140
Central Heating	20	30	30	10
Fireplace, Chimney, Chimney Connector	40	50	40	20
Water Heater	10	20	20	10
Air Conditioning	20	*	10	*
Other	20	30	20	20
Total Cooking Equipment	310	190	310	140
Range / Oven	260	140	250	120
Gas	100	70	80	30
Electric	150	60	170	70
Other	10	*	10	10
All Other Cooking	50	50	60	20
Gas	20	10	10	10
Electric	20	40	50	10
Other	*	*	*	*
Total Electric Distribution	180	310	190	100
Installed Wiring	40	60	50	10
Cord, Plug	80	140	40	70
Receptacle, Switch	10	20	20	*
Lighting	30	50	30	10
Other	20	40	50	*
Other Selected Equipment	60	30	30	20
Audio/Visual Equipment	40	*	10	*
Clothes Dryer	*	20	10	20
Washing Machine	*	*	*	*
Torch	10	*	*	*
Refrigerator/Freezer	10	10	*	*
Shop/Garden Tool	*	*	*	*

Source: CPSC, from data obtained from USFA and NFPA. Death estimates are rounded to the nearest 10. Estimates less than 10 are denoted by an asterisk (*). Because of rounding, subtotals may not add to heading totals.

- Cooking equipment accounted for the largest percentage of fires, averaging about 29.5% of total fires. The corresponding death estimates varied from a high of 12.9% in 1999 to a low of 6.2% of total deaths in 2002 (Figure 3). The resulting injury estimates remained steady, averaging about 27.4% of the total injuries. Most of these losses were associated with range and oven fires.
- Heating and cooling equipment fires accounted for an average of 14.4% of the total fires. The 1999, 2000, and 2002 death estimates pertaining to heating and cooling equipment were similar, at around 13.0% of total deaths. In 2001, however, there was a drop to 8.6% of total deaths. The corresponding injury estimates for all four years averaged 8.1% of the total injuries.
- For 1999 and 2000, an average of 10.8% of total fires was attributable to **electrical distribution system components** (e.g., wiring, lighting, etc.). For 2001 and 2002, these components accounted for about 7.0% of the total fires. The corresponding death estimates varied between a high of 11.4% of total deaths in 2000 and a low of 4.4% in 2002. The injury estimates showed a slight drop from 1999 (7.3%) to 2002 (4.7%).
- By **item first ignited**, upholstered furniture ignition was involved in the greatest number of deaths, accounting for an average of 20.9% of the total deaths associated with residential structure fires for the years 1999 to 2002. Mattress or bedding ignitions accounted for an average of 15.3% of the total deaths.
- By heat source, smoking materials were the largest contributor to deaths, accounting for an average of 28.5% of fire deaths. Death estimates from lighter fires varied between 1.6% (in 2001) and 4.0% (in 2002) of total deaths. Candles were responsible for 3.3% of total deaths in 1999; that proportion went up to 7.8% in 2001, dropping back slightly to 5.7% in 2002. Matches were responsible for an average of 1.5% of total deaths over the four years.

For More Information

For a copy of the complete report, 1999 Revised-2002 Residential Fire Loss Estimates, please go to www.cpsc.gov.

Changes in Data Collection

These estimates were derived from data from the U.S. Fire Administration's (USFA) National Fire Incident Reporting System (NFIRS) and the National Fire Protection Association's (NFPA) Annual Survey of Fire Losses. Because of major changes in the system design, the estimates reported here are best viewed as estimates from a substantially different reporting system and cannot be compared to estimates reported for pre-1999 years.

To maintain consistency with later years, a new set of fire loss estimates for 1999 is presented in this report.

— Risana Chowdhury, Directorate for Epidemiology

Carbon Monoxide Continued from page 2

health conditions affecting the heart, lungs, and circulatory system. The presence of one or more of these conditions may increase the risk of a fatal CO exposure.

Consumers in older age groups also may own older products, especially installed appliances, which may not reflect recent improvements in voluntary safety standards. Lack of routine product maintenance, especially in older products, may further increase the potential for fatal scenarios.

In 2002, 71% of CO victims were males, and 29% were females. This percentage has varied slightly in recent years. In 2001, 66% of the CO victims were males; in 2000, 76% of CO victims were males.

In 2002, 40% of the deaths occurred during the winter months of December, January, and February.

Location of Incidents

An estimated 133 CO poisoning deaths (71%) occurred in homes, including manufactured and mobile homes, in 2002. An estimated 43 deaths (23%) took place in temporary shelters, such as tents, recreational vehicles, cube vans, seasonal cabins, and trailers (including horse trailers).

Deaths in these temporary shelters were most commonly associated with gas or LP-gas heaters, which were involved in 21 of the 43 estimated deaths.

— Robin Ingle, M.A., Directorate for Epidemiology

Toys

CPSC has reports of 16 toy-related deaths involving children younger than 15 years old that occurred in 2004. In that same year, an estimated 161,100 children under 15 went to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries relating to toys.

Toy-Related Deaths

Victims of the 16 fatal incidents involving toys ranged in age from 3 months to 9 years old. Ten of the victims were males. Their deaths occurred in the following ways.

- Choking/Asphyxia: Seven children died when they choked on or were asphyxiated by a toy. The toys included four toy balls, one balloon, game dice, and one toy premium (a toy helmet). The children involved ranged from 3 months to 9 years old.
- Motor Vehicle Involvement: Four children died while on riding toys. These incidents occurred when the child was either struck by or ran into a motor vehicle. The children were 8, 3, and 2 years old, and a toddler of an unspecified age. The riding toys involved were two tricycles, a foot-powered scooter, and an unspecified riding toy.
- **Drowning:** Two children drowned in incidents involving tricycles. A 2-year-old boy drowned in his family's unfenced swimming pool, where he was found in the water with his tricycle. A 4-year-old girl was riding her tricycle on the backyard patio and was later found, drowned, in the swimming pool with her tricycle.
- Entanglement: Two children died from becoming entangled in toys. A 1-year-old boy died of asphyxia when the reins of a toy hobbyhorse became entangled around his neck. A 6-month-old boy died of neck compression when he became entangled in a suspended toy component of an activity gym placed in a playpen.
- Asphyxia/Smothering: There was one fatality involving a 6-month-old male. He smothered at a childcare center when older children piled stuffed animals into his crib.

Toy-Related Injuries

In 2004, an estimated 210,300 people of all ages were treated for toy-related injuries in U.S. hospital emergency rooms (*Figure 4*). This was not a statistically significant difference from the 2003 injury estimate of 206,500 toy-related injuries.

Toy-related injuries did decrease significantly from

Toy-Related Injuries 2000 to 2004

Calendar Year	Est. Injuries
2000	191,000
2001	255,100
2002	212,400
2003	206,500
2004	210,300
Source: CPSC	

2001 to 2004. In 2001, a large number of riding toy-related injuries (including unpowered scooters) affected the overall toy-related injury estimate of 255,100.

Children under 15 years comprised 77% (161,100) of the total toy-related injuries for 2004. Of these, 35% (72,800) were children under 5. Males were involved in 58% of the toy-related injury incidents. Most victims (97%) were treated and released from the hospital.

Forty-six percent of the injuries (96,800) occurred to the head and face area, which includes the head, face, eye-

ball, mouth, and ear. Arms, from shoulder to finger, accounted for 25% of the injuries (52,000), while the leg and foot area accounted for 18% (38,200). The individual body parts having the most injuries overall were faces (43,700), heads (24,800), and mouths (14,700). Lacerations, contusions, and abrasions were involved in over half of the total injuries (51%).

In 2004, riding toys (including unpowered scooters) continued to be associated with more injuries (71,100 or 34%) than any other category of toy. Of those, 51,400 of riding toy injuries were related to unpowered scooters.

— Joyce McDonald, Directorate for Epidemiology

Inflatable Amusement Rides

In a recent report, CPSC staff estimated that 4,900 people went to U.S. hospital emergency rooms with injuries relating to inflatable amusement rides in 2004. This is a statistically significant increase from the estimated 1,300 people injured on these rides in 1997.

From 2002 to 2005, CPSC has reports of 4 people who died in incidents relating to inflatable amusement rides. One 15-year-old male was killed when he fell headfirst off an inflatable obstacle course. Another teenager, an 18-year-old male, was killed when he fell off an inflatable slide. A 21-year-old male broke his neck and died while jumping in an inflatable bounce. A 24-year-old female died after falling from a 28-foot inflatable climbing wall and striking her head on the pavement.

Inflatable amusement rides include such products as inflatable slides and "moon bounces." CPSC has jurisdiction over mobile rides that move from location to location as part of fairs, carnivals, parties, and other events. It does not have jurisdiction over fixed-site rides that are permanently affixed to one site.

— Russell Roegner, Ph.D., Directorate for Epidemiology

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				
СІТУ			STATE	ZIP
YOUR TELEPHONE				
NAME OF VICTIM (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE)				
ADDRESS				
СІТУ			STATE	ZIP
TELEPHONE				
DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING	G DESCRIPTION O	f 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.



TC-49

MECAP NEWS

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project

The MECAP 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.

You can report a case or ask for information about MECAP in several ways.

- Call our toll-free number, 1-800-638-8095.
- Use our toll-free fax number, 1-800-809-0924.
- Send an e-mail message to tschroeder@cspc.gov.

MECAP reports also can be reported directly to the CPSC Web site.

- Go to www.cpsc.gov.
- Click on *Report an Unsafe Product*.
- Scroll down and click on File MECAP Reports.

*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 database and will be used to assess the hazards associated with consumer products.

During the months of March, April and May of 2005, 1,248 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, 18 months, was found entangled in the metal pull-chain of a vertical blind in his apartment. His parents were asleep at the time of the incident. The cause of death was hanging asphyxia. (Randy Dailey, Sr. for Laron Locke, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Office of the Chief Medical Examiner, Baltimore, MD)

*A male, 3 months, was placed on his back in a playpen for a nap at a residential childcare center. The playpen was lined with a thick foam pad that was too small for the playpen. The caregiver later checked on the child and found him unresponsive. His upper body and head were wedged in the 3-inch wide gap between the pad and the end of the playpen. The child's face lay against the thick fabric side of the playpen. The cause of death was suffocation.

(Karen E. Chancellor, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Shelby County, Memphis, TN)

*A female, 14, was riding on her brother's adult-size 4-wheel all-terrain vehicle (ATV) on a neighbor's field. The teenager had ridden the ATV only once before. A neighbor later came across the overturned ATV, which was lying on the unresponsive girl's back. The cause of death was traumatic asphyxia.

(Elizabeth Nichols for Susan P. Osborne, D.O., Medical Examiner, Western District, Roanoke, VA)

A male, 4 months, had been placed to sleep on a couch with his 2-year-old brother by their mother. She later found the child, unresponsive, with his face between the back of the couch and a cushion. The cause of death was suffocation.

(Mark R. Atkins, M.D., Medical Examiner, Burke County, Morganton, NC)

A female, 3 months, was placed to sleep on a love seat with her twin by their mother. The mother later found the infant unresponsive, with her face wedged into the corner of the love seat. The cause of death was asphyxia.

(N. Turner Gray, M.D., Medical Examiner, Tidewater District, Norfolk, VA)

A female, 2 months, was staying with her grandmother, who fed the infant a bottle of formula. The woman put the infant and the 2-year-old brother in bed with her. The infant was later found unresponsive, facedown in a pillow, with her brother's arm across the back of her neck. The cause of death was overlaying.

(Thomas W. Young, M.D., Medical Examiner, Jackson County, Kansas City, MO)

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

A male, 56, placed a gasoline-powered generator in a shed directly against his house and under the same roof. A hurricane had knocked out power to his home. He placed the generator in the shed because of concerns that it might be stolen. The next day, a friend entered the home to find the man unresponsive in his bed. The cause of death was carbon monoxide toxicity.

(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D., District Medical Examiner, District 21, Fort Myers, FL)

*A male, 52, was sleeping alone in a camper. Friends of his later found the man unresponsive in the bed in the camper. A liquid propane portable heater was on. The cause of death was acute carbon monoxide toxicity.

(Keith Lehman, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA)

*A male, 43, was found unresponsive in his home. He had borrowed a gasoline-powered generator from his friend after a hurricane had disrupted electrical power to his house. When the man had not been seen for a few days, his father broke into the home. He found his son in the kitchen. The cause of death was carbon monoxide intoxication.

(Debra Runyon for Vera V. Volnikh, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 10, Winter Haven, FL)

*A male, 58, was preparing to go on a camping trip. He went into his garage to "burn off" a gasoline-powered generator. His wife returned from work to find the man unresponsive in a lawn chair close to the generator. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

(P. Arthur Hoyt, Jr., M.D., Medical Examiner, Tidewater District, Norfolk, VA) A female, 61, and her husband, 67, were found unresponsive in the master bedroom of their home. Their family van was running in the attached garage with the garage door closed. A gas furnace in the garage was not properly sealed and circulated the van's exhaust throughout the house. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

(Heike Vargas, Deputy Coroner for Judy Arnold, Coroner, Thurston County, Olympia, WA)

DROWNINGS

*A male, 15 months, was playing inside his home with his mother. Before leaving the room for a few minutes, she placed an upright vacuum in front of a pet door. She was concerned the child might use the door to access the backyard. When the mother returned, the child was gone, and the vacuum was lying on its side. The mother found the child floating facedown in an in-ground pool in the backyard. The child died six days later at a hospital. The backyard was fenced-in but had no fence between the pet door and the pool. The cause of death was anoxic encephalopathy due to drowning.

(Shirley Stover-Wilkins for Margarita Arruza, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, District 4, Jacksonville, FL)

*A male, 15 months, was playing outside his home with his sister and brothers. His family had purchased an inflatable above-ground pool for the backyard 10 days before. The child was later found floating in the pool. Lumber had been purchased for a fence around the new pool, but it had not yet been built. The cause of death was drowning.

(Rebecca A. Hamilton, M.D., District Medical Examiner for Frederick P. Hobin, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 21, Fort Myers, FL)

A male, 19 months, was playing in the basement of his home. He was later found in a sump pump hole that was filled with water. The cause of death was drowning. (Carol Koop for Michael B. McGee, Chief Medical Examiner, Ramsey County, St. Paul, MN)

*A female, 16 months, was playing in a small wading pool with her 5-year-old brother at her grandparents' home. The grandfather went into the house to answer the telephone. About 10 minutes later, the brother told the grandfather that his sister was "asleep" in the pool. The grandfather found the child, unresponsive, with her face in the pool. The cause of death was drowning.

(Keith Lehman, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, for Lora Darrisaw, M.D., Forensic Pediatric Pathologist, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA)

ELECTROCUTIONS

A male, 48, was helping a friend cut down a dead tree branch with a retractable pole saw. After the branch fell, the pole saw touched an electric line. The man fell to the ground unconscious and stopped breathing. The cause of death was electrocution.

(H. Wayne Carver II, Chief Medical Examiner, State of Connecticut, Farmington, CT)

A male, 39, and a friend were moving a TV/radio antenna at his home. The antenna touched a high voltage power line, and the man fell to the ground. The cause of death was electrocution.

(Lee R. Miller, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 13, Tampa, FL)

FIRES

*A male, 33, sprayed an aerosol can of glue in his bathroom. A nearby candle ignited the can, which exploded and burned the man's clothes. A friend extinguished the burning clothes and drove the man to a fire station for emergency treatment. He died 12 days later at a hospital. The cause of death was complications of thermal burns.

(P. Michael Murphy, Coroner, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV)

A female, 77, fell asleep after lighting some candles. A house fire erupted, and she died at a hospital a week later. The cause of death was medical complications of thermal injuries.

(Bruce A. Hyma, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, District 11, Miami, FL)

A female, 55, and her grandson, 11, were found unresponsive after a fire in their home. An overloaded surge protector started the fire. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

(Richard L. Keller, M.D., Coroner, Lake County, Waukegan, IL)

MISCELLANEOUS

*A male, 16 months, was playing with his young sister and cousins in the master bedroom of his home. The child's grandmother heard a noise in the bedroom and found the boy and his 2-year-old cousin pinned underneath a 32-inch television set. The television had been on top of a small wooden night stand. The unresponsive child was bleeding profusely from his head; the cousin was uninjured. The cause of death was subdural hemorrhage.

(Michael S. Carona, Sheriff- Coroner, Orange County, Santa Ana, CA)

*A male, 4, was a passenger on his 12-year-old cousin's go-cart. The driver attempted to drive a "figure 8" pattern, and the go-cart overturned on the passenger's side. Both children were wearing seat belts, but the passenger's head struck the pavement. Neither child was wearing a safety helmet. The cause of death was blunt head injuries. (Roger E. Mittelman, M.D., Chief

(Roger E. Mittelman, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, District 19, Fort Pierce, FL)

*A female, 2, was alone in a bedroom in her home. Her grandparents heard screams and rushed to the bedroom. Their granddaughter had been struck by a large television set that had fallen from a dresser. The child apparently had pulled out the lower dresser drawers, climbed on them, and tipped over the dresser. The television had fallen off and hit the child. The cause of death was craniocerebral injuries.

(Todd C. Grey, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, State of Utah, Salt Lake City, UT)

A female, 14 months, was placed on a daybed for a nap. She climbed over the back of the daybed and leaned against a window screen. The bottom latch of the screen gave way, and the child fell to the deck below. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

(Hal Bennett for Brian Frist, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Cobb County, Marietta, GA)

— Denny Wierdak, Directorate for Epidemiology



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

Slow Cookers

Product: About 2.6 million Rival® Slow Cookers by The Holmes Group. The recall includes Rival® Crock-Pot® slow cookers with model numbers 3040, 3735, 5025, 5070 and 5445. The model number is printed on the UL label located on the bottom of the base. The recalled Rival® slow cooker has a removable ceramic bowl that sits inside a metal base. The Rival® logo is printed on the front of the unit above the control knob. The bases are round or oval shaped and were sold in various colors and designs. A date code is stamped on the side of one prong of the power plug. The first two digits represent the week of manufacture and the last two digits represent the year of manufacture. Any plug with a date code from 0199 (1st week of 1999) to 3504 (35th week of 2004) is included in this recall or the previous recall. The slow cookers were sold at Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and additional discount department stores nationwide from January 1999 through May 2005 for between \$15 and \$40. The slow cookers were manufactured in China.

Problem: The handles on the base of the slow cookers can break, posing a risk of burns from hot contents spilling onto consumers. These Rival® Slow Cookers, sold from January 1999 through May 2002, were previously recalled for the same hazard. The recall was expanded to include all units manufactured before September 2004. CPSC has received a total of 126 reports of handles breaking, including 33 reports of consumers who reported burn injuries from the hot contents of these slow cookers.

What to do: Consumers should immediately stop using the product and contact The Holmes Group to receive instructions on receiving a replacement base. Consumers can also visit The Holmes Group's Web site at www.rivalrecall.com or call (800) 299-1284 anytime.

Coffeemakers

Product: About 1.75 million Bunn® home coffeemakers by Bunn-O-Matic Corp. The recall involves Bunn® home coffeemakers with model numbers GR-10B, GR-10W, B-10B, B-10W, and BT-10B (including any of those same model numbers ending in the additional letter D) with six-digit date codes ending in "01," "02," or "03." Also involved in the recall are the same models with date codes ending in "04" and middle digits between "01" and "21." (If the date code has a seventh digit, consumers should ignore the last digit and use the first six digits.) The model number and date code are stamped on a small white or silver sticker on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The 10-cup Bunn® coffeemakers have either a black or white plastic base and top, and measure 14-inches high by 7-inches wide by 13-inches deep. The word "BUNN®" is printed on the front of the machine in chrome. The coffeemakers were sold at department and hardware stores nationwide between February 2001 and August 2004 for about \$100. The coffeemakers were manufactured in the United States.

Problem: The coffeemaker's plastic pour-in bowl and lid can melt or ignite due to an electrical failure, posing a burn and fire hazard to consumers. Bunn-O-Matic has received 17 reports of the bowl or lid melting, although no injuries have been reported.

What to do: Consumers should unplug the coffeemaker and allow it to cool (for at least three hours) before checking to see if they have one of the recalled units. Consumers can contact the firm to obtain a free repair or purchase a new unit at a discount. For more information, consumers can call Bunn-O-Matic at (800) 385-2652 between 7 a.m. and 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or log on to the firm's Web site at www.regcen.com/bunnrecall.

Product: About 529,000 KitchenAid® Coffeemakers distributed by Whirlpool Corp. The recalled KitchenAid® coffeemakers are black, white, red, or blue in color. They are manufactured in 10- and 12-cup models. Consumers can determine if they have one of the recalled coffeemakers by identifying the product's model and serial numbers, which are located on a label on the bottom of the coffeemaker. The affected models include the following: 10-cup models: KCM120OB, KCM300OB, KCM120WH, KCM300WH and 12-cup models: KCM200OB, KCM400OB, KCM200WH, KCM400WH, KCM400ER, and KCM400BU. The serial numbers of the affected products begin with the letters WCJ, WCK, WCL, WCM, and WCP.

Problem: An internal electrical component of the coffeemaker can overheat and ignite, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Whirlpool Corp. has received 13 reports of incidents involving coffeemakers overheating resulting in minor

property damage. No injuries have been reported. Coffeemakers were sold through catalogs, department stores, specialty retailers, and on-line retailers nationwide from January 1999 through December 2004 for between \$50 and \$130. Coffeemakers were manufactured in China.

What to do: Consumers should unplug and stop using the coffeemakers immediately and contact KitchenAid® for a free comparable coffeemaker model or an exchange for another KitchenAid® product. Consumers should not return the coffeemaker to the retailer where it was purchased. Consumers can also contact KitchenAid® at (800) 990-6255 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, and between 10 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET on Saturday, or go to the firm's Web site at www.KitchenAid.com/repair.

Children's Folding Chairs

Product: About 1.1 million children's folding chairs by Idea Nuova Inc. The recalled children's folding chairs are made of metal tubing with a vinyl padded seat and seat back. They were sold with the following designs: "Monkey Moods" with a monkey with stars; "Rock n Roll" with a monkey playing a guitar, "Princess" with pink flowers and a crown; "Sport" with a football, basketball, and soccer ball; "Training Camp" with frogs; "Rainbow Angel" with clouds, rainbows, and stars; Spiderman®; and Disney® Princess. The recalled chairs were sold as part of a set consisting of a table and two chairs. Each chair is about 22-inches high, 13-inches wide, and about 11-inches deep. "Idea Nuova Inc." or "I.N.I." is printed on a label located underneath the seat of the chairs. The chairs were sold at discount department and toy stores nationwide from September 2004 through June 2005 for between \$15 and \$25 per set. The chairs were manufactured in China.

Problem: The chair's safety lock can fail, allowing the chair to collapse or fold unexpectedly. Children's fingers can become caught or entrapped in the hinge and slot areas of the chair, posing a pinch or cut hazard. This can cause severe lacerations and fingertip amputations to children's fingers. CPSC and Idea Nuova are aware of five incidents involving children. In one incident, there was a fingertip amputation; the second incident involved a fingertip amputation and a laceration; and the third incident involved a finger fracture and a laceration. There were no injuries reported in the other two incidents.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these chairs immediately, and contact Idea Nuova for instructions on how to receive a free repair kit to replace the locking pin. Consumers can call Idea Nuova toll-free at 866-772-1666 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Consumers can also email Idea Nuova at repair@ideanuova.com.

Product: About 522,000 Kid's Folding Chairs by Fourstar Group Inc. The recalled kid's folding chairs are made of metal tubing with a vinyl padded seat and seatback. They were sold in red, blue, yellow, green, pink, and lavender solid colors. They also come in pink with "Princess" printed in red on the seat and seat back along with stars, crowns and hearts, or in blue with pictures of basketballs, soccer balls, footballs, football helmets, and rollerblades. The recalled chairs were sold individually or as part of a set consisting of a table and two chairs. Each chair is about 22-inches high, 13.5-inches wide, and about 11.5-inches deep. "MANUFACTURED BY FOURSTAR GROUP INC" or "IMPORTED BY FOURSTAR INTERNATIONAL TRADING COMPANY" is written on a label located underneath the seat of the chairs. The chairs were sold at discount and grocery stores nationwide from July 2003 through July 2005 for about \$5 individually or about \$25 for a set. The chairs were manufactured in China.

Problem: The chair's safety lock can fail, allowing the chair to collapse or fold unexpectedly. Children's fingers can become caught or entrapped in the hinge and slot areas of the chair, posing a pinch or cut hazard. This can cause severe lacerations and fingertip amputations to children's fingers. CPSC and Fourstar Group are aware of three incidents involving children. One resulted in a laceration to the finger and three finger fractures; the second incident resulted in a fracture and laceration to the fingers; and the third incident resulted in a pinched finger.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the chairs immediately, and contact Fourstar for instructions on how to receive a free repair kit to replace the locking pin. Consumers can call Fourstar Group toll-free at (866) 290-6191 between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Consumers can also visit the firm's Web site at www.fsgrecall.com.

Strollers

Product: About 1 million Duo Tandem and about 143,000 MetroLite strollers by Graco Children's Products Inc. The recalled Duo Tandem strollers were manufactured between 1994 and 1999 and have two seats, one in front and one in back. The strollers have a blue, white, or green plastic and steel frame. They have four wheels in the front and two wheels in the rear. The cloth seats and tops have various colors and patterns. There is a label with the model and serial number on the stroller's frame. Only strollers with the following serial numbers and model numbers are included in this recall: Model Numbers: 7950, 7955, 7960, 7965, 7970, 7980, and 7990. Serial Number Range: between 01011994

and 12311999 and between 01011996 and 10311998. The Duo tandem strollers were sold at discount, department, and juvenile product stores nationwide from January 1994 through December 2000 for between \$80 and \$150.

The recalled MetroLite strollers were manufactured in 2000 and 2001, have a blue, gray, or black plastic and steel frame. The cloth seat and top have various colors and patterns. The strollers have four wheels in the front and two wheels in the rear. These strollers were sold as a stand-alone stroller and also as part of a travel system that included an infant car seat/carrier and a base. The car seat/carrier is not affected. There is a label on the cross bar under the foot rest containing the model and serial number. Only strollers with serial numbers between 10012000 and 12312001 in the first 8 digits and the following model numbers are included in this recall: Model Numbers: 6110DW, 6114NGS, 6110F3, 7410CON, 6111FKB, 7413CML, 6114HAV, 7413MRN, and 6114JAM. The MetroLite strollers were sold at discount, department, and juvenile product stores nationwide from November 2000 through December 2002 for between \$100 and \$200. Both strollers were manufactured in China.

Problem: These strollers can fail to latch properly and unexpectedly collapse while in use. This can result in broken bones, cuts, bumps, bruises, and other injuries to young children riding in the stroller and consumers pushing the stroller. For the Duo Tandem strollers, Graco has received reports of 306 collapses causing 230 reported injuries, including a broken arm, and a cut to a child requiring 46 stitches. For the MetroLite strollers, Graco has received reports of 223 stroller collapses causing 34 reported injuries including 18 bumps and bruises to the head or body. Other injuries associated with both strollers include cuts, scrapes, scratches, pinched fingers, and muscle pulls.

What to do: Consumers should stop using these strollers immediately and contact the firm to receive a free repair kit. The kit includes a custom-designed latch that consumers should attach to the stroller's frame to ensure it is properly latched. Consumers can call Graco at (800) 981-4412 anytime or log on to the firm's Web site at www.gracobaby.com.

Bicycle Helmets

Product: About 494,000 bicycle helmets imported by Target. The recall includes Target's "Back Trails Jr." brand toddler, youth, and child bicycle helmets sold in various colors. They were manufactured after January 1, 2004. Helmet model numbers: 89888 or 88003 (toddler), 89951 or 88001 (girl's 8-vent youth), 89952 or 88002 (boy's 8-vent youth), or 89917 (14-vent child's) appear on a white label inside the helmets, along with date of manufacture (YYYY/MM/DD) and the words "Made in China." Target product identification numbers: 082-01-0520 (toddler), 082-01-0149 (girl's 8-vent youth), 082-01-0189 (boy's 8-vent youth), and 082-01-0334 (14-vent child's), and the brand name "back trails jr.," appear on the product packaging. The helmets were imported by Target, distributed by Dynacraft BSC Inc. and manufactured in China by UNA International Limited. The helmets were sold at Target stores nationwide from April 2004 through July 2005 for about \$13.

Problem: Some of these helmets do not meet CPSC safety standards for bicycle helmets, which poses a risk of riders suffering head injuries. No incidents or injuries were reported.

What to do: Consumers should take the helmets away from children and return them to the nearest Target Store for a gift card in the amount of a full refund. For more information, consumers can contact Target at (800) 440-0680 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or log on to the firm's Web site at www.target.com.

Children's Fishing Kits

Product: About 438,000 children's fishing kits distributed by Shakespeare Fishing Tackle Division. The recalled Shakespeare® brand fishing kits feature the following characters: TAZ® (Tazmanian Devil®), Tweety®, Mucha Lucha® and Spider-Man®. Other fishing kits feature Fishing Heroes™, sold with a silver-colored badge; Kids Kits™, sold with tackle boxes; and Shark™ and Dolphin™ Kits, which have reels in the shape of a shark or dolphin. The fishing kits have brightly colored red and yellow fishing rods, and "Shakespeare" is written on the reels. Fishing kits with purple, blue and pink rods are not included in this recall. Certain translucent red and yellow and metallic-colored red rods also are not included in this recall. The fishing kits were sold at discount department, sporting good, and toy stores nationwide from August 2001 through June 2005 for between \$9 and \$13. The fishing kits were manufactured in China.

Problem: The paint on the rods of these fishing poles contains lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects. The firm has not received any reports of complaints related to this product. This voluntary recall is being conducted to prevent any possibility of injury or illness. What to do: Consumers should stop using the recalled fishing poles and contact Shakespeare Fishing Tackle for information on receiving a free replacement fishing kit. For more information, call Shakespeare Fishing Tackle toll-free at (866) 466-0559 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through

Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at http://www.shakespeare-fishing.com/re-call

Torches

Product: About 963,000 torches and about 18,000 replacement canisters by Tiki® Bamboo Torches and Replacement Fuel Canisters by Lamplight Farms Inc. These 5-foot-tall Tiki® bamboo torches consist of a bamboo pole with a weaved basket at the top and a metal flame guard, which is a circular black piece that holds the wick in place and attaches to the fuel canister. The recall includes the Tiki® Beachcomber, Seagrass, and Sandpiper model torches. The recall also involves replacement canisters that have the metal flame guards. Recalled units have the following UPC numbers: 086861010372 (Beachcomber), 086861013335 (Seagrass), 086861010457 (Sandpiper), and 076354995262 (Replacement Canister). The UPC number and the model name are written on the packaging or attached tag. The torches were sold at Wal-Mart, The Home Depot, Lowe's, and other home and hardware stores nationwide from December 2004 through July 2005 for between \$5 and \$6. The replacement canisters were sold for about \$1.40. The torches were manufactured in China.

Problem: The surface coating of some flame guards on these bamboo torches and replacement canisters can absorb the fuel and ignite. This can cause the torch and nearby combustibles to catch on fire, posing a risk of burn injuries and property damage. Lamplight Farms has received 33 reports of torches catching on fire. There were six reports of minor injuries and nine reports of minor property damage.

What to do: Consumers should immediately stop using these torches and contact Lamplight Farms to determine if their torches are included in the recall. If so, consumers will receive free replacement flame guards. Consumers can call Lamplight Farms toll-free at (866) 239-6664 anytime, or visit its Web site at www.lamplightfarms.com.

Product: About 350,000 Tiki® Cone Metal Torches by Lamplight Farms Inc. a division of W.C. Bradley Company. The recalled Tiki® Cone Metal Torch is a 6-foot long, outdoor, open-flame lamp consisting of a black metal pole topped by a copper-colored, cone-shaped metal head. A black decorative rod spirals around the head of the torch. The torch head includes the fuel reservoir, cover, and wick. It was sold under Lamplight Farms model numbers 1263 and 126301 and Wal-Mart item numbers 1656121 and 1691366. Both items were sold with the same UPC number 086861012635, which is located on the bottom of the printed hangtag. The torches were sold at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from December 2003 through early June 2005 for about \$9. The torches were manufactured in China.

Problem: The head and cover of these torches can come loose or be dislodged during use, allowing torch fuel to spill. This poses a risk of burn injuries and property damage. Lamplight Farms has received one report that a torch head fell off the torch pole when bumped and spilled torch fuel. The spilled fuel was ignited by the burning wick, resulting in second and third degree burns to a consumer.

What to do: Consumers should immediately stop using these torches and return them to any Wal-Mart store for a refund. Consumers can call Lamplight Farms toll-free at (800) 645-5267 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit its Web site at www.lamplightfarms.com.

PowMax Battery Chargers

Product: About 584,000 PowMax™ battery chargers imported by Razor USA LLC and manufactured by Leadman Electronic Co. The recall involves PowMax battery chargers distributed with Razor battery-powered scooters and ride-on vehicles. The name "PowMax" appears prominently on the face of the battery charger unit. The vehicles that were sold with the recalled chargers include Razor™ electric scooters (Models E100, E125, E300, E300S, E200, and E200S), Razor Pocket Rocket™ mini-electric motorcycles, Razor Ground Force™ electric go-karts, and Razor Chopper mini-electric motorcycles. The battery chargers were sold at discount department, auto parts, and toy stores nationwide from October 2003 through May 2005 for between \$130 and \$250, depending on the model. The battery chargers were manufactured in China.

Problem: The battery charger can overheat and cause minor burns when touched. Also, nearby items can become damaged by the hot chargers. Razor USA has received 144 reports of battery chargers overheating. There have been no reports of injuries and six reports of minor property damage, such as a melted spot on a linoleum floor.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the battery charger and contact Razor for a free replacement. Razor model E300, E300S, E200, and E200S scooters will be repaired as part of another recall. Consumers can call Razor toll-free at (866) 664-1409 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. Monday through Friday ET, or visit the firm's Web site at www.razor.com.

— Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

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