



## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Hal Stratton, *Chairman*  
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# CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

WINTER 2005  
VOL. 9, NO. 3

## Transparency in Government

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is undertaking two pilot programs to allow more public review and comment on CPSC staff activities.

The first pilot program will provide information on CPSC staff participation in voluntary safety standards activities. The second pilot will allow public comment on staff and contractor research reports before they are published.

The primary goals of both programs are to make CPSC staff activities more transparent and to obtain the benefit of public input before finalizing CPSC staff positions.

CPSC staff will review the comments to ensure that its research reports and recommendations on voluntary standards activities are based on the best scientific, economic, and technological information available.

The two pilot programs are expected to be completed April 18, 2005. If the pilot programs are successful, they could be expanded to include a broader cross-section of CPSC staff voluntary standards activities and research reports.

### Voluntary Standards Pilot Program

CPSC staff members are actively engaged in more than 60 voluntary standards development activities on a wide range of consumer products. For example, CPSC staff members often provide expert advice, technical assistance, injury and death data and analysis, and supporting research. In addition, they commonly submit recommendations concerning new safety standards or modification of existing standards. These recommendations are often based on CPSC research, including recent injury and death data associated with the product category at issue.

For purposes of the pilot, CPSC has selected eight voluntary standards activities for public comment. These include: smoke alarms, arc-fault circuit interrupters, ground-fault circuit interrupters, pool and spa safety vacuum release systems, bunk beds, child-resistant gasoline containers, portable generators, and garage door and gate operators.

During the pilot, CPSC staff will post its proposed recommendations for selected voluntary standards activities in the voluntary standards area of the CPSC Web site. These recommendations will be posted for five working days. CPSC staff then will consider any comments received as it prepares final voluntary standards recommendations. In addition, the public can arrange to receive electronic mail updates on new CPSC activities or recommendations regarding voluntary standards within the pilot program.

### Research Reports Pilot Program

CPSC staff also conducts and sponsors many research projects to improve the safety of consumer products. This research may develop and refine positions on

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# Carbon Monoxide Poisonings

An estimated 130 people died from unintentional non-fire carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning associated with consumer products in 2001, according to a CPSC staff study that reported on the most recent year of complete data (Figure 1). These poisonings do not include those where the CO gas resulted from a fire or motor vehicle.

Of these CO poisoning deaths, an estimated 75 people (or 58% of all deaths) died in incidents related to heating systems. An estimated 23 deaths (18%) were associated with engine-powered tools, including generators and power lawn mowers.

In addition, 12 deaths (9%) were associated with charcoal grills; 10 deaths (8%) were associated with gas ranges and ovens; one death (1%) was associated with camp stoves and lanterns; and 9 deaths (7%) were associated with other or multiple appliances.

Of the estimated 75 deaths associated just with heating systems, gas heating systems were associated with 60 deaths (80% of heating deaths). Coal/wood heating systems and kerosene oil heating each were associated with 6 deaths (8%). An estimated one death was associated with a heating system, not specified.

Sixty-six percent of the CO victims were male. Sixty-two percent of the CO deaths occurred during the winter months of January, February, and December.

## CO Health Effects

CO is a colorless, odorless, and poisonous gas that results from the incomplete combustion of fuels such as natural or LP gas, oil, wood, coal, and other fossil fuels.

The health effects related to CO exposure depend upon its concentration in the blood, as well as its concentration in the air, the duration of CO exposure, and each individual's general health.

Some symptoms of moderate CO poisoning may mimic common illnesses, such as influenza or colds. Therefore, initial misdiagnosis by physicians and victims is a real possibility. Patients are frequently unaware of exposure 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. Acute high-level CO poisoning can rapidly cause mental confusion and loss of consciousness. A fatal outcome is likely if no intervention occurs.

## CO Dangers

Any fuel-burning appliance can be a potential source of fatal or hazardous CO levels. Fuels can produce large

amounts of CO when there is insufficient oxygen available for combustion.

Consumer products that burn kerosene, oil, gasoline, coal, or wood (such as wood stoves, oil boilers, and kerosene heaters) may produce an irritating smoke that can alert the victim to a potentially hazardous situation. But other products, such as charcoal briquettes and pressed wood-chip logs, produce relatively smokeless fires, even at times of inefficient combustion. With these products, victims may receive no obvious sensory warning that high CO levels are present.

**Non-Fire CO Poisoning Deaths  
by Fuel-Burning Consumer Product  
1999-2001**

Consumer Product	Annual Estimate		
	1999	2000	2001
<b>Total Deaths</b>	<b>109</b>	<b>138</b>	<b>130</b>
Heating Systems	49	82	75
Unspecified Gas Heating	3	7	6
LP Gas Heating	22	29	26
Natural Gas Heating	19	37	28
Coal/Wood Heating	0	2	6
Kerosene/Oil Heating	2	6	6
Heating Systems, Not Specified	2	1	1
Charcoal Grills, Charcoal	17	8	12
Gas Water Heaters	1	3	0
Camp Stoves, Lanterns	9	3	1
Gas Ranges/ Ovens	6	11	10
Other/Multiple Appliances	14	3	9
Engine-Powered Tools	13	27	23

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; National Center for Health Statistics (Totals are rounded.)

Figure 1

A different hazard scenario is present when gas appliances are not vented properly or malfunction. Natural and LP gas burn more efficiently and cleanly compared with other forms of fuel. In circumstances of poor maintenance, inadequate ventilation, or defective exhaust pathways, appliances powered by these fuels may emit potentially lethal amounts of CO without any irritating fumes. Again, many victims may be unaware of a potential problem.

## Venting

Conditions that compromised vent systems, flue passageways, or chimneys for furnaces, boilers, vented natural gas, and LP gas heaters were mentioned as contributing to 17% of the total CO deaths and 29% of CO deaths associated with heating systems. Vent systems include the portion of piping that connects the flue outlet of the appliance and exhausts air to the outside through the ceiling or sidewall, or connects to the chimney.

Some vented products had vents that became detached or were improperly installed or maintained. Vents also sometimes were blocked by soot caused by inefficient combustion. This, in turn, may have been caused by factors such as leaky or clogged burners, an over-firing condition, or inadequate combustion air.

In some incidents, gas heaters intended to be vented to the outside or heaters meant for outdoor use were used in an enclosed space without ventilation. Less frequently, other conditions related to furnaces included compromised heat exchangers or a filter door or covers that were removed or not sealed.

Other incidents mentioned a back draft condition, use of a heater with a different gas supply than intended, and the use of a product that was later red-tagged (designated unsafe to operate) by the utility company. Cooking stoves and ovens used as heating devices were involved in the majority of deaths associated with these products.

## Ages of Victims

For the three most recent years of data, 1999 to 2001, children and adults younger than 25 years old accounted for an annual average of 15% of CO poisoning deaths (Figure 2). Adults 25 to 44 accounted for an annual average of 26% of CO poisoning deaths. Adults 45 to 64 represented 39% of the annual average of deaths, and those 65 and older accounted for 19% of these deaths.

Adults in the older age groups were more frequently reported to have pre-existing health conditions affecting the heart, lungs, and circulatory system that increased their susceptibility to CO poisoning. In 2001, an estimated 21% of the CO victims were noted as having a pre-ex-

## Non-Fire CO Poisoning Deaths by Age 1999-2001

Age	Average Estimate	Average %
Total	126	100%
Under 5	2	2%
5 – 14	5	4%
15 – 24	12	9%
25 – 44	33	26%
45 – 64	48	39%
65 and over	24	19%
Unknown	0	0%

Source: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; National Center for Health Statistics (Totals are rounded.)

Figure 2

isting health condition not related to the CO poisoning. Eighty-one percent of these 27 deaths were individuals 45 or older.

In addition, consumers in the older age groups tended to own older products, especially installed appliances. These may not have been affected by recent improvements in voluntary standards. In addition, lack of routine product maintenance, especially in older products, may have further increased the potential for a fatal scenario.

## Location of Incidents

In 2001, an estimated 90 CO poisoning deaths (69%) occurred in homes, including manufactured and mobile homes. An estimated 27 (21%) deaths took place in temporary shelters, such as tents, recreational vehicles, seasonal cabins, and trailers (including horse trailers).

Deaths in these temporary shelters were most commonly associated with generators and LP gas heaters. Charcoal grills, an LP gas camp stove, an LP gas lantern, and an LP gas cook stove were also associated with these scenarios.

A consistently small percentage of deaths occurred in passenger vans, trucks, or automobiles in which victims

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## Safe Children's Products

Enforcing regulations dealing with small parts in children's products is one way CPSC helps ensure that toys are safe. Under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA), products intended for children younger than 3 years old may not contain small parts. By banning these products, the regulations help prevent deaths and injuries to young children from choking on, inhaling, or swallowing small objects.

In determining which toys and children's articles are subject to the small parts requirements, CPSC staff considers several factors. These include the manufacturer's stated intent for the product (such as the age on a toy label) if it is reasonable; the advertising, promotion, and marketing of the product; and whether the product is commonly recognized as being intended for children under 3.

### Testing Toys

If CPSC staff is alerted to a child's product that could be hazardous, it tests the product for small parts. The staff uses procedures, as described in CPSC's regulations, that simulate normal or reasonably foreseeable use and abuse of a child's product. For example, to test the durability of a product, the staff may drop the item a certain number of times from a certain height.

CPSC staff determines if an object is a small part by checking whether it fits completely into a specially-designed cylinder. This cylinder is 2.25 inches long, 1 inch long on the opposite side, and 1.25 inches wide.

A small part can be the entire children's product, a separate piece of the product, or a piece of the product that breaks off during testing.

If the small part fits completely into the test cylinder, and the toy or product is intended for use by children under 3 years old, the product – because the small part presents a choking, aspiration, or ingestion hazard – is banned.

The FHSA also bans small balls for children under 3 that pass through a circular hole with a diameter of 1.75 inches. Rattles and pacifiers are subject to their own small parts requirements.

A few products are exempt from these requirements. These include products that cannot be manufactured in a way that prevents them from breaking into small parts (crayons and chalk) or that need to be small to perform their intended purpose (buttons on children's clothing).

### Other Toy Regulations

In addition to the small parts regulations, children's toys have other standards they must meet. For example, products intended for children under 8 are subject to sharp point and sharp edge technical requirements. Toys and children's products that have paint or similar surface coating material in excess of 0.06% lead are banned. Children's articles also are banned if (1) they contain a hazardous substance that is accessible to children and (2) substantial personal injury or illness may result from reasonable foreseeable use, including ingestion.

Children's product firms are not required to test toys and children's articles for compliance with these regulations. However, the firms are responsible for making sure that the toys and children's articles they distribute comply with the law. CPSC staff strongly encourages testing as the best way to determine compliance with regulations. Firms may conduct their own testing or have a third party conduct the testing.

### Choking Hazard Warnings

The FHSA also imposes specific warning label requirements for certain toys and games containing small parts intended for use by children 3 and over but not older than 6; for small balls and marbles intended for children 3 or older; and for balloons.

These requirements warn purchasers that, in addition to the age recommendation on the product, these products present choking hazards and are not suitable for children under 3. In the case of balloons, children under 8 can choke or suffocate on uninflated or broken balloons.

### Importance of Age Grading

To help consumers and industry better match toys with children's varying abilities, proper age grading of children's products is critical.

Children are in a state of developmental flux, with their abilities changing frequently. They often play with toys in ways other than those envisioned by the manufacturer. For example, some games of skill, construction sets, and intricate puzzles suitable for children 3 and older would not only be difficult for children under 3 to use but also could be hazardous. Because younger children lack the ability to play with the toy as intended, they may insert the toy into an eye, ear, or nose, or otherwise use it inappropriately. Children under 3 are especially at risk, because they put so many things, safe or not, into their mouths.

— Theresa D. Rogers, Office of Compliance



## Toy Deaths and Injuries

For 2003, CPSC has reports of 11 children and two adults who died in incidents associated with toys. An estimated 206,500 people were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.

The 11 deaths involved children ranging in age from 4 months to 9 years old. Six were males.

Ten deaths occurred when a child choked on or aspirated a toy. The toys included five toy balls, three balloons, one game piece, and one toy bead. One 4-month-old baby died from positional asphyxia, which involved the closure of the child's airway by a stuffed toy.

Although the majority of toy-related deaths involved children under 15, CPSC has reports of two adults – a 62-year-old male and a 43-year-old female – who were killed in toy-related incidents in 2003. Both incidents involved falls from non-powered scooters (products categorized as toys) and resulted in fatal head injuries.

### Toy-Related Injuries

The 2003 estimate of 206,500 people injured in toy-related incidents was not significantly different from the 2002 estimate of 212,400 people injured. Toy-related injuries did drop significantly, however, from 2001 to 2003. In 2001, a large number of injuries associated with riding toys (including non-powered scooters) contributed to the overall annual estimate of 255,100 (Figure 3).

#### Toy-Related Injuries 1999 to 2003

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries
1999	152,600
2000	191,000
2001	255,100
2002	212,400
2003	206,500

Figure 3

In 2003, 75% (155,400) of toy-related injuries occurred to children under 15, and 34% (71,200) were to

children under 5. Twenty-five percent (51,100) of the injuries were to persons 15 and older.

Overall, males were involved in 58% of the toy-related incidents. Most of the victims (97%) were treated and released from the hospital.

Forty-five percent of the total injuries (93,700) occurred to the head and face area. Arms, from shoulder to finger, accounted for 26% of the injuries (53,200). The leg and foot area accounted for 17% (35,900). Lacerations, contusions, and abrasions were involved in over half of the total injuries (51%).

In 2003, riding toys (including non-powered scooters) continued to be associated with more injuries, 70,600 or 34%, than any other category of toy. In 2002, riding toys (including non-powered scooters) were associated with an estimated 81,300 injuries or 38% of all the toy-related injuries.

— Joyce McDonald, Directorate for Epidemiology

### Toy Safety Tips

Here are some safety tips that may help you choose the appropriate toy for any age child.

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts, which could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy construction on plush toys, such as secure seams on eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- Avoid toys with sharp edges and points, especially for children younger than 8 years old.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements (like toy ovens) for children under 8.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels that give age and safety recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- Check instructions for clarity. The instructions should be clear to you and, when appropriate, to the child.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys. Plastic wrappings can cause suffocation.

### For More Information

To learn more about toy safety, please go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov). CPSC staff also has prepared a guide to age grading called *Age Determination Guidelines: Relating Children's Ages to Toy Characteristics and Play Behavior*. It can be found on CPSC's Web site.

## Transparency in Government cont. from page 1

voluntary and mandatory product safety standards, as well as evaluate emerging technologies that enhance product safety.

### For More Information

To access information on CPSC's pilot program on voluntary standards activities or draft research reports, go to CPSC's home page at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and click on "Voluntary Standards/Research Reports."

For additional information, please contact: Hugh McLaurin, 4330 East-West Highway, Room 611-B, Bethesda, MD 20814, Phone: (301) 504-7531, E-mail: [hmclaurin@cpsc.gov](mailto:hmclaurin@cpsc.gov).

The research reports pilot program will allow the public to review and comment on CPSC staff research reports and CPSC-sponsored research reports. CPSC staff will assess these technical comments before issuing its final research studies.

Reports on the following research projects are the initial ones posted as part of the pilot program: electric clothes dryers, smoke alarms, paper shredder machines, fire indicators, and smooth cooktop sensors. Draft research reports and contractor reports will be available for public comment on CPSC's Web site for a minimum of 45 days.

— *Hugh McLaurin, Directorate for Engineering Sciences*

## Carbon Monoxide Poisonings cont. from page 3

were spending the night. The products used in these settings were charcoal grills and LP gas portable heaters.

In 2001, the "other" location category included a resort and a detached workshop on a farm. Products used within these locations included a charcoal grill and an LP gas heater.

— *Debra S. Ascone, Directorate for Epidemiology*

### For More Information

For a complete copy of the report *Non-Fire Carbon Monoxide Deaths Associated with the Use of Consumer Products, 2001 Annual Estimates*, please go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

### Heating Systems and CO Safety

To detect potentially deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks, it's important to have an annual professional inspection of all fuel-burning heating systems – including furnaces, boilers, fireplaces, water heaters, and space heaters. Under certain conditions, all appliances that burn fuels can leak CO. These fuels include kerosene, oil, coal, wood, and both natural and liquefied petroleum gas.

A professional inspection should include checking:

- All fuel-burning appliances for gas leaks and adequate ventilation. A supply of fresh air is important to help carry pollutants up the chimney, stovepipe, or flue, and for the complete combustion of any fuel. Never block ventilation air open-

ings. In addition, be sure appliances are operating on the fuel they're designed to use.

- All vents to furnaces, water heaters, boilers, and other fuel-burning heating appliances to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.
- Chimneys, flues, and vents for leakage and blockage by debris. Birds, other animals, and insects sometimes nest in vents and block exhaust gases, causing the gases to enter the home.

Every home should have a CO alarm in the hallway near the bedrooms in each separate sleeping area. The CO alarms should be certified to the requirements of the most recent UL, CSA, or IAS safety standard for CO alarms.

# 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 Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://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

PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE.

CPCSC FORM 175A (6/96) OMB CLEARANCE NO. 3041-0029

# 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.

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 [tschroeder@cpsc.gov](mailto:tschroeder@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 March, April, and May 2004, 1,167 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, 2, was taken to his room for a nap by his mother. She then went downstairs and watched television. She checked on the child several hours later and found him unresponsive with his upper torso and head under the dresser in his room. The child had climbed on the dresser in the past, and investigators indicated the dresser was thinly constructed and unsteady. The cause of death was asphyxia. (Kanthi Von Guenther, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, the City and County of Honolulu, HI)

A female, 2 months, was being nursed by her mother on a couch. The mother fell asleep and awoke some time later to find the child unresponsive. Resuscitative efforts failed, and the child was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was asphyxia (co-sleeping with overlay). (Edward I. Gordon, M.D., Medical Examiner, Central District, Richmond, VA)

A male, 3 months, was placed by his mother on top of a comforter on a bed. His twin sister was placed on one side of him, and his mother lay down on his other side. The mother awoke to find him unresponsive, and he was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was asphyxia due to sleeping facedown in soft-blanket bedding. (Mary Baudino for Patrick K. O'Neil, M.S.F.S., Coroner, Will County, Joliet, IL)

## CARBON MONOXIDE (CO) POISONINGS

\*A male, 64, was found unresponsive in his home along with his dog. A gasoline-powered generator was found in the kitchen with its gas tank empty and its switch in the "on" position. The home had no CO alarms. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning. (Keith Lehman for Kris Sperry, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Georgia Bureau of Investigation, Decatur, GA)

\*A male, 53, was found unresponsive in his bed in a lower-level apartment of a home. The air in the apartment smelled bad and looked foggy. An old propane-powered refrigerator was found working, but the pilot-light flame was unusually large and orange in color. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning. (A.L. Mosely, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ)

## DROWNINGS

\*A male, 4 months, was placed by his mother in a baby bathseat in a bathtub with six inches of water. The mother then went downstairs to fix a bottle for the child. The child's grandmother went upstairs and found the child facedown and unresponsive in the bathtub. The grandmother administered CPR, and the child was flown to a children's trauma center, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was complications of near-drowning. (Dolores Jones-Butler for Susan Williams, M.D., Forensic Pathology Fellow, City of Philadelphia, PA)

A male, 4, was being watched by his mother's friend while his mother took a nap. About 20 minutes later, a neighbor looked out his kitchen window and saw the child floating in his pool. A single plank was missing



from a six-foot high fence that separated the yards, creating an opening large enough for a child. The victim apparently had left the home and crawled through the hole in the fence. The cause of death was drowning.

(Staci Wilcox for John Keeping, Deputy Coroner, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, CA)

A female, 18 months, was playing in her home, and her brothers went outside to play. The child apparently followed them and was later found unresponsive and facedown in the shallow end of the family's swimming pool. The pool had a safety fence, but the family dog had dug a hole under the fence. The cause of death was drowning.

(Emma O. Lew, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, District 11, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL)

## FIRES

\*A male, 62, was sitting in his home, and his propane heater suddenly exploded. The man called paramedics. They took him to a hospital, where he died. The cause of death was thermal burns.

(Richard Harruff, M.D., Ph.D., Chief Medical Examiner, King County, Seattle, WA)

A female, 62, was lighting candles in her home. Her robe caught on fire, and she was severely burned. She died a month later. The cause of death was sepsis due to massive burn trauma.

(Ryan Hendren, M.D., Medical Examiner, Orange County, Hillsborough, NC)

A male, 45, was found unresponsive in his home after a small fire. The fire was caused by something cooking on the stove that caught fire. The man tried to escape but could not locate the key to unlock a

double key deadbolt lock. The cause of death was asphyxia due to smoke inhalation.

(David Eckert, M.D., Medical Examiner Edgecombe County, Tarboro, NC)

A female, 58, was found unresponsive by fire fighters in her bedroom during a fire. The fire was caused by cooking materials left unattended. The cause of death was asphyxia by carbon monoxide (smoke inhalation).

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

\*A male, 9 months, was playing with other children at a home child-care facility. The provider was checking the cable connection on her television set by rolling the TV, which was on a home entertainment center, away from the wall. The television fell off and landed on the child's head. Resuscitation was attempted, and the child was rushed to the hospital, where he died. The cause of death was blunt force cranio-cerebral injuries.

(Phil Pascuzzi for Gary F. Peterson, M.D., J.D., Medical Examiner, Hennepin County, Minneapolis, MN)

\*A male, 10 months, was getting his diaper changed by his mother. The mother left the child standing on the changing table by the window while she went to get something. The child fell through the screen of the third-story window and landed on a concrete patio. Paramedics rushed the child to the hospital, where he died after surgery. The cause of death was skull fracture.

(Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

\*A male, 8, was driving a 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicle (ATV) with an 18-year-old passenger. The driver lost control of the ATV, and it hit a cinder block wall at a high rate of speed. Both males were ejected from the ATV and thrown over the wall. Fire department personnel transported the victims to the hospital, where they were pronounced dead. The cause of death for both males was craniocerebral blunt force trauma.

(Kevin D. Horn, M.D., Medical Examiner, Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ)

\*A female, 18, was lying on a glass table and reading the newspaper at her home. The table broke, and the woman fell through the glass tabletop. She sustained a large laceration to her forehead and a large and deep laceration to her thigh. She was airlifted to the hospital, where she died. The cause of death was multiple sharp force injuries.

(Martha J. Burt, M.D., and Matthew J. Bowes, M.D., Associate Medical Examiners, District 11, Miami-Dade County, Miami, FL)

\*A male, 12, was driving his 4-wheeled ATV on a dirt trail with some friends on their ATVs. His friends noticed that he was not following them, so they went back to check on him. They found that his ATV had gone over a cliff. Highway patrol officers responded and found the boy unresponsive at the bottom of the cliff. The cause of death was blunt force injuries.

(Larry D. Smith, Sheriff-Coroner, Riverside County, Riverside, CA)

— *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 the CPSC Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

### Metal Toy Jewelry Sold in Vending Machines

**Product:** 150 million pieces of toy jewelry sold in vending machines across America by four toy jewelry importers. The four toy firms are A & A Global Industries, Inc.; Brand Imports, LLC; Cardinal Distributing Co. Inc. and L. M. Becker & Co., Inc. The toy jewelry recall involves various styles of rings, necklaces and bracelets. The rings are gold- or silver-colored with different designs and paint finishes with various shaped center stones. The necklaces have black cord or rope or gold- or silver-colored chains. The necklaces have pendants, crosses or various geometrical designs or shapes, and can include gemstones. The various styles of bracelets include charm bracelets, bracelets with medallion links, and bracelets with faux stones. All the jewelry was manufactured in India. The toy jewelry was sold in vending machines located in malls and discount, department and grocery stores nationwide from January 2002 through June 2004 for between \$0.25 and \$0.75. The industry estimates that this toy jewelry is kept in homes for a short period of time, but parents should look for these items in their homes.

**Problem:** CPSC has determined that some of this toy jewelry contains dangerous levels of lead, posing a risk of lead poisoning to children. Only about half of the 150 million pieces of toy jewelry actually contains lead, but because it is difficult to distinguish the lead jewelry from the non-lead jewelry, the industry decided to recall all of it. CPSC has received one report of lead poisoning when a child swallowed a piece of lead-containing toy jewelry that was previously recalled. No reports of injury or illness have been received for the recalled products announced for this recall. Young children sometimes mouth or swallow items like these, and lead can leach from the jewelry into the child's body. Lead poisoning in children is associated with behavioral problems, learning disabilities, hearing problems and growth retardation.

**What to do:** Throw away recalled jewelry. Consumers can contact the Toy Jewelry Recall Hotline for more information about this recall. Visit the Toy Jewelry Recall Hotline at (800) 441-4234 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firms' Web site at [www.toyjewelryrecall.com](http://www.toyjewelryrecall.com).

### Decorative Light Bulbs

**Product:** About 5.6 million 60-watt B10 Décor light bulbs by Osram Sylvania Products Inc. The recalled 60-watt B10 medium base light bulbs were sold in packages of two or four units. The bulbs are clear. Some were packaged as "Ceiling Fan" and "Double Life" light bulbs. "SYLVANIA" is printed on the front of the packaging and on the bulb base. The bulbs involved have a UPC bar code on the back of the package ending in the following five digits: 13323, 13329, 13333, 13442, 13445, 13454, 13565, 13650, and 13721. The bulbs were sold at home improvement centers and grocery, drug and discount department stores from September 2002 through June 2004 for between \$2 and \$4. The bulbs were manufactured in the U.S.

**Problem:** The glass bulb can separate from its base and break during use. The broken glass can present a laceration injury to consumers; the hot broken bulb can present a burn injury to consumers; and an exposed bulb filament can present a shock hazard if handled while power remains applied to the fixture. Osram Sylvania has received 119 reports of the glass bulbs breaking, including 29 reports of minor cuts or burns from consumers picking up broken glass from a hot bulb.

**What to do:** If the bulb is broken, consumers should first unplug the light fixture or turn off the main circuit breaker before attempting to remove the bulb. Cloth or leather gloves should also be worn to prevent cuts or scratches during bulb removal. Remove the light bulbs from any fixture where they are installed and contact OSRAM Sylvania at (877) 423-3772 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for free replacement bulbs.

### Portable Electric Heaters

**Product:** About 1 million portable electric whole room heaters by Vornado Air Circulation Systems Inc. The recalled portable electric whole room heaters are designed for indoor use and have model numbers 180VH®, VH®, Intellitemp®, EVH®, and DVH®. The model numbers are located on the bottom of each unit. Each heater is about 11 3/4 inches long, 9 1/2 inches wide and about 12 inches tall; weighs about 6 lbs.; and has the "Vornado" name and symbol on the front. Retailers and distributors nationwide, as well as Vornado's Web site, sold the heaters from July 1991 through January 2004 for between \$50 and \$120. The heaters were assembled in the United States.

**Problem:** A faulty electrical connection can cause the heater to overheat and stop working, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Vornado has received 24 reports of heater fires, though no injuries have been reported.

**What to do:** Stop using the recalled heaters immediately and contact Vornado to arrange for shipping and a free repair. Consumers can contact Vornado at (888) 221-5431 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or log on to the company's Web site at [www.vornado.com](http://www.vornado.com).

### Slow Cookers

**Product:** About 1.8 million Rival Slow Cookers by The Holmes Group Inc. Only Rival Crock-Pot® slow cookers with model numbers 3040, 3735, 5025, 5070 and 5445 manufactured before May 2002 are included in the recall. 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 of a metal base. The Rival logo is printed on the front of the unit above the control knob. The bases are round or oval in shape and were sold in various colors and designs. A date code is stamped onto the plug at the end of the power cord attached to each unit. 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 1802 (18th week of 2002) is included in this recall. The slow cookers were sold at Wal-Mart, Kmart, Target and additional discount department stores nationwide from January 1999 through May 2002 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. CPSC has received 45 reports of handles breaking, including 14 reports of consumers who reported burn injuries from the hot contents.

**What to do:** Stop using the product and contact The Holmes Group to receive instructions on receiving a replacement base. Consumers can contact The Holmes Group at (800) 299-1284 anytime or visit the firm's Web site at [www.rivalrecall.com](http://www.rivalrecall.com).

### Chrome Dumbbells

**Product:** About 1.2 million Reebok and NordicTrack Chrome Dumbbells manufactured by Coaster Co. and imported by Jumpking Inc. The chrome dumbbells weigh between 2 and 50 pounds and have the Reebok or NordicTrack trademark name on the outside of the bells along with the weight of the dumbbell. The dumbbells were sold at Gart Sports, Sears, Target and other retail stores who carry sporting good products nationwide from June 2000 through May 14, 2004 for between \$4 and \$45. The dumbbells were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** Because they do not fit together properly, the weights can fall off the handles of these dumbbells and strike the user. Jumpking has received nine reports of weights falling off handles, including five consumers who received injuries such as bruising, a broken nose, and a broken toe.

**What to do:** Examine the dumbbells to make sure the weights on both ends are tightly secured to the handle. If they are loose, contact Jumpking to obtain instructions on how to receive the free repair kit. Consumers can contact Jumpking at (800) 322-2211 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or go to the company's Web site at [www.jumpking.com](http://www.jumpking.com).

### Combination TV/VCRs

**Product:** About 500,000 Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, and JCPenney Combination TV/VCRs by Matsushita Electric Corporation. The recalled combination TV/VCRs are gray/black and have these brand names: Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, or JCPenney. The cabinets have ventilation holes in the top rear of the cabinet. Only the 13" and 20" combination TV/VCR sets manufactured between January 1, 1995, and December 30, 1995 are

recalled. These sets can be identified by the model number which appears on the front and rear of the cabinet. The following brands and model numbers are included in this recall: *Panasonic 13-inch models:* PV-M1325, PV-M1345, PVM1365AD, AG-513B, *20-inch models:* PV-M2025, PV-M2035, PV-M2045, PV-M2065, AG-520B; *Quasar 13-inch model:* VV-1305, *20-inch models:* VV-2005T, VV-2005, VV-2025; *Thomson (RCA) 13-inch models:* T13015BC, T13018BC, *20-inch models:* T20015BC, T20018BC, T20020BC; *JCPenney 20-inch model:* 685-0879. The combination TV/VCR sets were sold at retail stores nationwide from January 1995 through December 1996 for between \$300 and \$490, depending on the model and manufactured in the USA.

**Problem:** The TV/VCR cabinets can break when lifted by the ventilation holes in the top rear of the cabinet, permitting the TV/VCR to fall and injure hands and feet. About 10 incidents have been reported in which the TV/VCR cabinet broke at the ventilation holes when lifted or carried, resulting in the TV/VCR dropping to the floor. Minor cuts and bruises have been reported in four incidents.

**What to do:** Consumers should contact Panasonic, Quasar, RCA, and JCPenney to receive a free retrofit kit to cover the ventilation holes and prevent lifting from this area. Consumers can also call Panasonic at (800) 833-9626 between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday. Visit Panasonic's Web site at [www.Panasonic.com](http://www.Panasonic.com) and [www.RCA.com](http://www.RCA.com).

### Travel Lite™ Swings

**Product:** About 140,000 Travel Lite Swings by Graco Children's Products. The recalled Travel Lite portable swings have an adjustable reclining seat, a rotating handle and a canopy and include model numbers 1850JJP, 1850JGB, and 1870DAL. The swings, which were manufactured between May 2003 and December 11, 2003, also have a serial number between 050503 and 121103. Both the model and serial numbers can be found on a white label underneath the seat. The swings have the words "Graco" and "Travel Lite swing" printed on each side, and have buttons on the handle to activate lights and music. On the underside of the handle are multicolored designs of the sun, moon, and stars that light up when the light button is pressed. The swings were sold at discount, department and juvenile stores from June 2003 through June 2004 for about \$60. The swings were manufactured in the United States.

**Problem:** The swing's carrying handle can fail to stay in place properly and drop or be pushed down, hitting a child in the head. Additionally, the 3-point seatbelt can fail to prevent a child from leaning forward or to either side, posing a risk that the child can fall forward and strike his/her head on the floor or the swing's frame. Graco has received about 28 reports of incidents involving the handle falling down on young children. In addition, Graco has received 100 reports of children falling forward or to the side. Injuries resulting from these incidents include bloody or swollen lips, red marks, bumps and bruises.

**What to do:** Consumers who have a Travel Lite swing with a 3-point seatbelt (waist belt and crotch strap only) or a Travel Lite swing without a release button should stop using it immediately and contact Graco for a free repair kit. Consumers can contact Graco at (800) 345-4109 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the company's Web site at [www.gracobaby.com](http://www.gracobaby.com).

### Plush Toy

**Product:** About 90,000 plush frog stuffed animals by Determined Productions Inc. The recalled toy is an 11 1/2 inch purple stuffed frog with a green chin, belly, hands and feet. The stuffed frog has the word "BRAVE" sewn in purple letters onto the underside of its right foot. Kohl's Department Stores sold the toys exclusively throughout July 2004 for about \$5. The toy was manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The seams in the toy can tear open and expose small plastic pellets, posing a choking or aspiration hazard to young children who mouth the pellets. Determined Productions has received one report of seam breakage on the toy, resulting in a child choking on the plastic pellets. The child was taken to the hospital and released without any injury after a procedure to look for aspirated beads.

**What to do:** Stop using the toy immediately and contact Determined Productions at (877) 925-0660 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, e-mail the firm at [Normamail@dpisf.com](mailto:Normamail@dpisf.com) or stop at a local Kohl's Department Store to receive a refund or store credit. Consumers can also visit Kohl's Web site at [www.kohls.com](http://www.kohls.com).

### Tree Stands

**Product:** About 78,000 Big Foot Series and Lite Foot Series hunting tree stands by Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. The recalled Big Foot and Lite Foot Series hunting tree stands are "hang-on" stands that can be identified by a yellow warning label affixed to the stand that reads: "Rivers Edge Hunting Products." These tree stands have dual post seat uprights and a gold-colored strap hook bracket. Only these model tree stands with the gold-colored bracket are included in this recall. The tree stands were sold in hunting stores and catalogs nationwide beginning in January 1998 for between \$60 and \$120. The tree stands were manufactured in the U.S.A. from January 1998 through July 2001.

**Problem:** If the strap mounting bracket loosens or rotates, the strap hook can release, causing the tree stand to detach from the tree. If this occurs, the consumer could fall to the ground. Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. has received three reports of consumers falling when their stands detached. Two of these consumers reportedly suffered serious injuries, including broken bones.

**What to do:** Contact Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. to receive free replacement hardware for self-installation. Consumers can call Rivers Edge/Ardisam, Inc. at (800) 204-7435 or visit its Web site at [www.ardisam.com](http://www.ardisam.com).

### Pool Pump Water Guns

**Product:** About 38,600 Pool Pump Water Guns by Kmart Corporation. The 15-inch-long water guns are shaped like giant syringes. When placed in a pool, they fill with water when the handle at the top of the device is pulled, and shoot water when pushed. They have either an orange tube with green handle and nozzle or a yellow tube with blue handle and nozzle. There is no writing on the water guns themselves. The water guns were sold at Kmart stores nationwide from January 2004 through June 2004 for about \$2. The water guns were manufactured in Hong Kong.

**Problem:** The cone-shaped nozzle can unexpectedly come off the water gun and be propelled causing injury. There have been four reports of injuries to children including cuts and bruises to the face and head.

**What to do:** Stop using the water guns and return them to a Kmart store for a full refund. Consumers can call Kmart at (866) KMART4U anytime or log on to the company's Web site at [www.kmart.com](http://www.kmart.com).

### Bottled Water Coolers

**Product:** About 145,000 Elkay hot/cold bottled water coolers by Elkay Manufacturing Company. These 115 volt hot/cold bottled water coolers have both cold and hot water faucets. Most of the coolers are white, but some are granite colored. The water coolers have the name "Elkay" on the serial number plate on the back of the unit. The five design names are: Classic, Legend, Eclipse, Sentry and Legend Countertop. Consumers should go to the Elkay recall Web site at [www.coolerfix.com](http://www.coolerfix.com) and type in their serial number to determine if the water cooler is recalled. Consumers also can call the firm at (800) 788-2499 to determine if their water cooler is included in the recall. The recall also includes a small number of point-of-use water coolers sold for commercial use. Commercial customers are being directly notified of the recall. Point-of-use water coolers have the water plumbed directly to the units. These water coolers were sold to bottled water companies and other businesses in the U.S. and Canada, who in turn sold or leased the recalled coolers from 1997 through 2002. Recalled coolers also were sold at BJs Wholesale Club and Sam's Club stores nationwide from 1999 through October 2003. Prices ranged from \$139 to \$149. The water coolers were manufactured in the U.S.A. and Malaysia.

**Problem:** These electric water coolers can overheat and present a fire hazard. There have been 14 reports of overheating, but no injuries reported.

**What to do:** Unplug the recalled water coolers immediately. Commercial customers who lease or own Elkay hot/cold bottled and point-of-use water coolers also should check their cooler to see if it is recalled, and unplug the cooler if it is recalled. Contact Elkay to get information about a free repair of the recalled coolers. Consumers can call Elkay at (800) 788-2499 from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or go to the company's recall Web site at [www.coolerfix.com](http://www.coolerfix.com).

— Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

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