

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
LOG OF MEETING**

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared  
7/30/01  
No Missed Privileges or  
Products Identified  
CPSC/CPSA OF EXEMPTED FIRM  
Firms Notified,  
2001 AUG 1 A 10:41  
Comments Processed.

**SUBJECT:** CPSC fire programs

**DATE OF MEETING:** July 24, 2001

**LOG ENTRY SOURCE:** William H. King, Jr., ES *W.H.K.*

**DATE OF LOG ENTRY:** July 31, 2001

**LOCATION:** Ramada Inn and Conference Center, Williamsburg, VA

**CPSC ATTENDEE(S):** William H. King, Jr., ES

**NON-CPSC ATTENDEE(S):**

James Tillett, Int'l. Assoc. of Arson Investigators (IAAI) - Virginia Chapter  
Carol Farris, IAAI - Virginia Chapter  
Harold Ornstein, Engineering and Fire Investigations  
Eugene Cohenour, Travelers Insurance  
Verlan Hall, Virginia State Police  
Charles Crim, Froehling & Robertson, Inc.  
Gary Haun, Fire Analysis Consulting Group  
Ronnie Hiteshew, Charnock Investigative Services, Ltd.  
L. R. Thomas, Investigations  
and other attendees at the IAAI sponsored fire investigation school.

**SUMMARY OF MEETING:** Mr. King spoke to the attendees at the IAAI fire

investigation school regarding CPSC's fire programs. Attached is a copy of the slides presented by Mr. King.

# U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION



Reducing Fire Deaths by Making Products  
Safer

William H. King, Jr.

July 24, 2001

## CPSC HISTORY

- Established in 1973 under the Consumer Product Safety Act
- Independent Federal regulatory agency
- Three Commissioners

## CPSC - 2001

- Total Budget - \$52 million
- Staff of 480 (incl. 40 engineers)
  - Headquarters 310 (Bethesda, MD)
  - Field 137
  - Laboratory 33 (Gaithersburg, MD)

### PRODUCT JURISDICTION

15,000 TYPES OF PRODUCTS

Most products found in the home, EXCEPT:

- Tobacco products
- Medical devices
- Food and drugs
- Motor vehicles
- Boats
- Aircraft
- Firearms
- Pesticides
- Cosmetics
- Workplace products



## CPSC FUNCTIONS

- Collect & Analyze Data
- Perform Applied Research
- Encourage Voluntary Standards
- Require Performance Safety Standards
- Enforce Regulations
- Require Safety Labeling & Special Packaging
- Recall Defective Products
- Ban Hazardous Products
- Inform Consumers

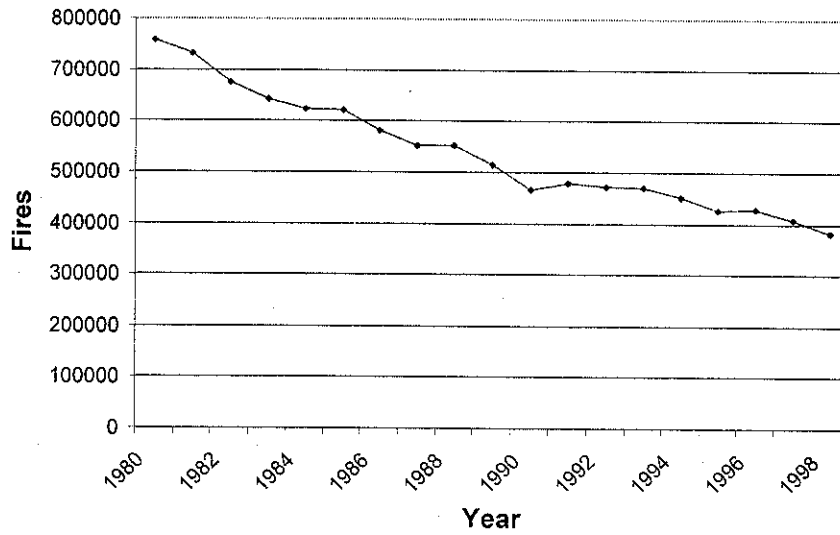
## Major Fire Safety Projects

- Upholstered Furniture
- Child-Resistant Lighters
- Gas-Fired Water Heaters

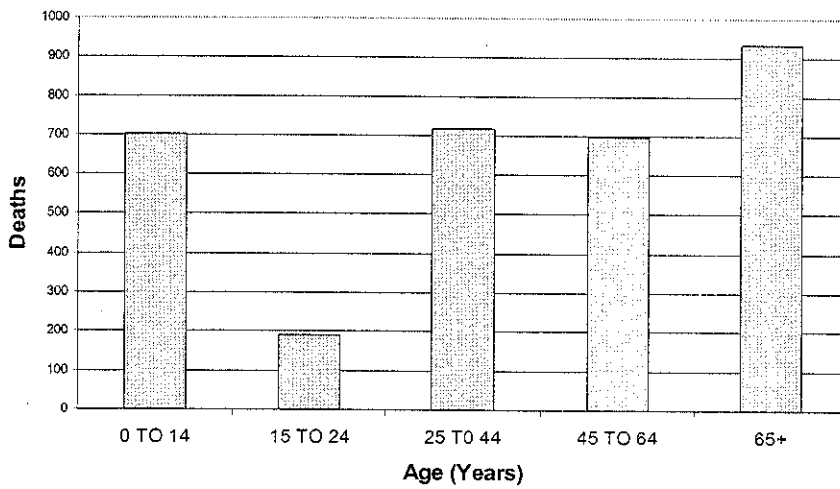
### Joint CPSC/USFA Effort

Fire Sprinklers  
Smoke Alarms  
Mattresses  
Ranges  
Home Wiring

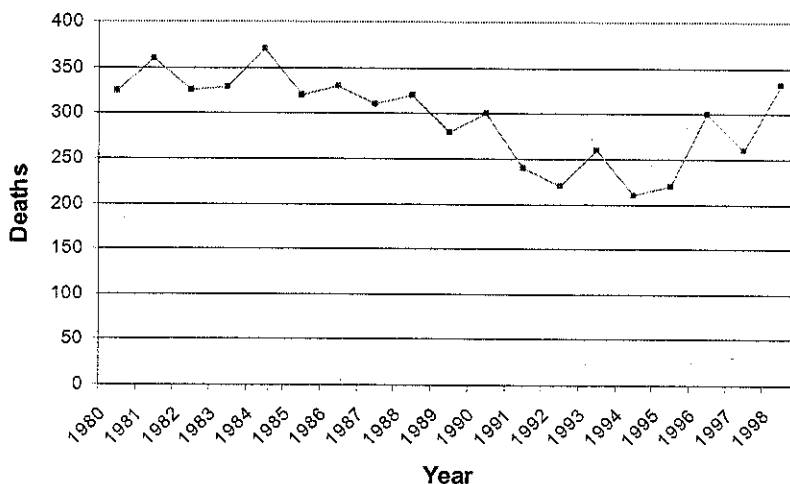
### Estimated Residential Fires



### Estimated Residential Fire Deaths by Age Group (1998)



### Estimated Residential Fire Deaths Involving Ranges/Ovens



### Smoke Alarms

- **Smoke Alarms Reduce Risk of Fire Death by 40-50 Percent**
- **Over 90 Percent of U.S. Households Have Smoke Alarms**
- **Smoke Alarms in 20 Percent (16 Million) of Those Homes Not Working**
- **Potential Exists for Improved Technology**
- **CPSC, with Public and Private Partners, Coordinating Large Research Project (CDC, USFA, HUD, CPSC, UL)**
  - Evaluating new and existing technology
  - Conducting full-scale tests
- **Research Will Be Completed in September 2002**

## **Sprinklers**

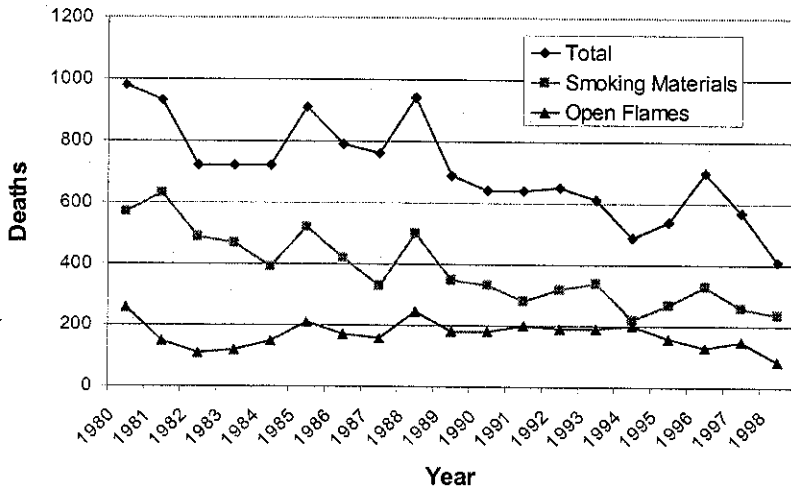
- **Vital Part of Nation's Fire Safety System**
- **CPSC Identified Operability Problems**
- **Standard Needs Upgrading**
- **CPSC Recalled 2 Brands, Over 9 Million Units**
- **Sprinkler Industry Has Formed a Consortium to Fund Research**
- **First Phase Will Be Completed in 6 - 9 Months**
- **Funding Support By U.S. Fire Administration**

## **HOME WIRING FIRES**

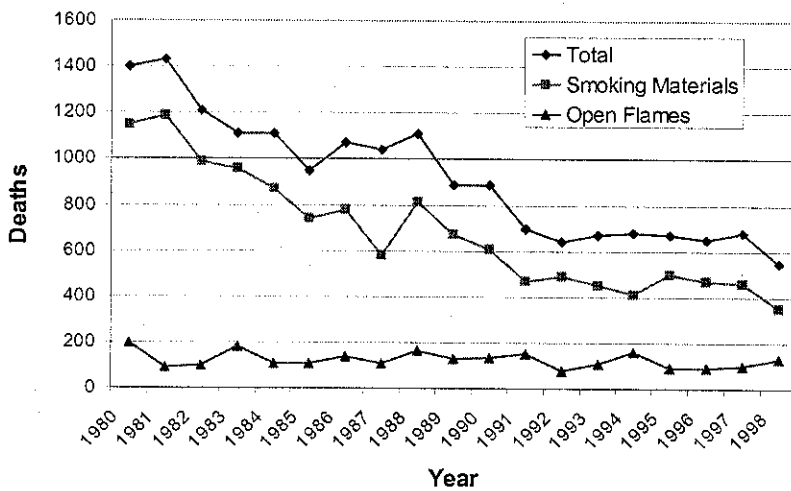
- **Project Goal**
  - Reduce fire deaths by inspection and correction of electrical wiring hazards in homes
- **Hazard Data**
  - >40,000 fires, >350 deaths, >1400 injuries
- **Partnership with USFA**
  - USFA funding the outreach of CPSC remedies
- **Review of CPSC Work**
  - Research led to AFCIs
  - Inspection guidelines (NFPA 73)
  - Community-based outreach



### Estimated Residential Fire Deaths Involving Mattresses/Bedding



### Estimated Residential Fire Deaths Involving Upholstered Furniture



## **Evaluation of Cigarette Lighter Standard**

### **Before Regulation**

1,100 Child-Play Fires

150 Deaths Caused by Child-Play Fires

Age of Children Starting Fires

96% of Those Fires Involved Disposable Butane Lighters

### **1994 Regulation Became Effective**

85% of Children Under 5 Cannot Activate Lighter

### **After Regulation (1998)**

#### **Reductions of**

130 Deaths, 950 Injuries, \$76.4M Property Damage

#### **Net Benefits of**

\$650M

## **CPSC'S Unique Role**

- We can change product designs through the application of technology.
- We can improve the safety of products and installation through our influence on codes and standards.
- CPSC can directly assist fire prevention goals ("America Burning Recommissioned") via research, data, & standards.

## **FY 2002 Priority Fire Initiatives**

- Upholstered Furniture
- Mattresses/Bedding
- Ranges
- Fire Sprinklers
- Smoke Alarms
- Home Wiring Fires/Circuit Breakers
- Candles
- Clothes Dryers
- Furnaces/Heaters

## **CONTACTING CPSC**

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- **William King**
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