



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Thomas H. Moore, Acting Chairman
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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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Children’s Products

Two U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) studies recently reported injuries and deaths for child-related products – specifically, toys and nursery products.

Injuries Related to Children’s Products

In the year 2000, the number of people treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for *toy-related* injuries increased from the year before. In addition, for children under 5, *nursery product-related* injuries increased from 1999 to 2000.¹

An estimated 191,000 people with *toy-related* injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 2000. This was an increase from 152,600 people in 1999. This increase can be primarily attributed to a rise in injuries associated with unpowered scooters — a new type of scooter that became popular very quickly. (The estimated number of injuries associated with unpowered scooters rose from 3,300 in 1999 to 42,500 in 2000).

Seventy-nine percent (150,800) of the *toy-related* injuries for 2000 were to children under 15 years of age and 37% (70,900) were to children under 5. Overall, males were involved in 61% of these injuries. Most of the victims (98%) were treated and released from the hospital.

Riding toys (including unpowered scooters) continued in 2000 to be associated with more injuries (65,000) than any other category of toy. In 1999, riding toys (including unpowered scooters) were associated with an estimated 26,100 injuries. Riding toy injuries overall more than doubled from 1999 to 2000 due to the rise in unpowered scooter-related injuries.

For injuries associated with *nursery products*, an estimated 69,100 children under age 5 were treated in hospital emergency rooms in 2000 (*Figure 1*).

Continued on page 2

Nursery Product-Related Injuries and Deaths Children Under Age Five

	Est. Injuries CY 2000	Total Deaths 1996-1998
Infant Carriers & Car Seats (excludes motor vehicle incidents)	14,530	19
Strollers & Carriages	12,520	6
Cribs	11,640	97
Baby Walkers & Jumpers	8,310	7
High Chairs	7,770	7
Changing Tables	3,170	1
Baby Gates & Barriers	1,130	1
Playpens & Play Yards	1,600	36
Baby Bath Seats	—	24
Other	8,810	33
TOTAL	69,100	231

Note: Due to rounding, injury estimates and deaths do not add up to total.
Source: CPSC

Figure 1

Children's Products *cont. from page 1*

This figure represents an increase from the 1999 estimate of 65,400, but the increase is not statistically significant.

The leading cause of all *nursery product-related* injuries reported through NEISS for 2000 was falls.

Deaths Related to Children's Products

CPSC has reports of 17 *toy-related* deaths that occurred in 2000.

Victims of the 17 fatal incidents ranged in age from 4 months to 7 years old. Fifteen of the fatalities involved male victims. The cause of death in 6 of the 17 fatalities was choking or aspiration. Two children choked on small toy balls. Other toys involved in the choking or aspiration deaths were a balloon, a small ball from the end of a toy caterpillar's antenna, a toy building block, and a marble.

Four riding toy and scooter-related fatalities involved motor vehicles. The products in those fatal incidents were two scooters, one tricycle, and a powered toy motorcycle. Two children drowned; one rode a low-slung tricycle into a swimming pool, and the other rode a battery-powered tricycle into a pond.

There were two suffocation deaths. One suffocation death involved a plastic hemisphere that had been half of a toy container and had become lodged over the vic-

tim's nose and mouth. The other involved a large stuffed bear that was found on top of the victim. The remaining fatal incidents were due to head trauma, mechanical asphyxia, and a fall injury. The severe head trauma incident occurred when a riding mower was backed over a child on a plastic play tractor. The mechanical asphyxia occurred with a toy box. The fall fatality was attributed to a scooter.

CPSC knows of 231 deaths (or an annual average of 77 deaths) associated with *nursery products* that occurred from 1996 through 1998. About 42% (97 total or 32 annually) of the deaths reported involved cribs. Playpens had the second highest number of deaths reported with 36 or 12 annually. Baby bath seats had the third largest number of reported deaths with 24 or 8 annually.

— *Joyce McDonald, Directorate for Epidemiology*

¹ Injury estimates are from CPSC's National Electronic Surveillance System (NEISS), which is based on a statistical sample of U.S. hospital emergency room-treated injuries.

For More Information

For a complete copy of *Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries for 2000* and the *Nursery Products Report for 2000*, visit CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

NEISS On-line

You can now access CPSC national injury estimates from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) on-line at www.cpsc.gov/neiss/default.html.

Although the site is still under development, it provides data on injuries associated with specific consumer products and activities – such as bicycles, doors, and baseball.

Users can generate estimates for the number of patients treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments within a broad set of categories — including treatment date, type of consumer product, victim's age and sex, diagnosis, body part injured, and disposition. These estimates reflect reporting of consumer product-related injuries from the full NEISS sample of 99 hospitals.

This CPSC site is different from the site maintained by the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/). This second site provides access to the all-trauma estimates from NEISS. These estimates are classified by mechanism of injury (falls, poisonings, etc.) and reflect reporting of all injuries and poisonings from a probability subsample of 65 NEISS hospitals.

If you have comments or suggestions for improving the CPSC site, please contact:

Arthur K. McDonald
Directorate for Epidemiology
amcdonald@cpsc.gov

Child-Resistant Packaging

CPSC recently voted to require child-resistant packaging for some common household products and cosmetics containing hydrocarbons that can poison children.

This federal safety standard will help prevent injuries and deaths to children under age 5 by making it more difficult for them to gain access to certain products containing hydrocarbons. When these products enter the lungs, chemical pneumonia can develop and cause death.

Certain products that contain 10% or more hydrocarbons by weight and have a low viscosity (i.e., are “watery”) will have to be in child-resistant packaging. Thicker products, which are less likely to be aspirated, are not included in this rule.

CPSC is aware of five fatalities of children under age 5 from 1993 to date involving aspiration of hydrocarbon products. CPSC data for 1997 through 1999 revealed an estimated 6,400 U.S. hospital emergency room visits involving children under 5 who ingested household chemical products frequently containing hydrocarbons that can pose an aspiration hazard.

In addition, data from the American Association of Poison Control Centers for 1993 through 1999 revealed 11,115 potential aspiration exposures to cosmetic and household products containing hydrocarbons.

Examples of hydrocarbon-containing products covered by the new poison prevention packaging requirements include the following:

- **Cosmetics** – Some: baby oils, hair oils, body oils, suntan oils, bath oils, massage oils, nail enamel dryers, and makeup removers.
- **Automotive chemicals** – Some: gasoline additives, fuel injection cleaners, and carburetor cleaners.
- **Cleaning solvents** – Some: wood oil cleaners, spot removers, metal cleaners, general-use household oils, adhesive removers, and gun cleaning solvents containing kerosene.
- **Other** – Water repellents containing mineral spirits used for decks, shoes, and sports equipment.

Child-resistant packaging must be in use for affected products containing hydrocarbons packaged on or after October 25, 2002.

— Suzanne Barone, Ph.D., Directorate for Health Sciences

Call 1-800-222-1222

For a poisoning emergency, call 1-800-222-1222. The American Association of Poison Control Centers has announced that a call to the above number from anywhere in the United States will connect you to the closest poison control center for help.



Preventing Poisonings

To help prevent poisonings from medicines and other hazardous household substances, parents and caregivers need to remember that *child-resistant* packaging does not mean *child-proof*. Therefore, the following precautions should be taken.

- Store all medicines, household cleaning products, and cosmetics (including baby oils and suntan oils) out of the reach of children.
- Be sure to put child-resistant features like safety caps back onto products after use. Store these products safely.
- Do not take products out of child-resistant packaging and store them in non-child-resistant packaging.
- Keep the telephone number (1-800-222-1222) of a poison control center handy — in the event of an emergency.

Preventing CO Poisoning

To detect deadly carbon monoxide (CO) leaks in your home, be sure to have a professional inspection of all fuel-burning appliances — including furnaces, stoves, fireplaces, clothes dryers, water heaters, and space heaters. Each year, CO poisoning associated with using fuel-burning appliances kills about 200 people.

Properly installed and maintained, fuel-burning appliances — which typically burn natural or liquefied petroleum (LP) gas, kerosene, oil, coal, and wood — are safe to use. Under certain conditions, however, these appliances can produce deadly CO.

An annual inspection of fuel-burning appliances and a CO alarm in your home can help prevent CO poisoning.

CO is a colorless, odorless gas produced by the incomplete burning of any carbon-based fuel. The initial symptoms of CO poisoning are similar to flu, including headache, fatigue, shortness of breath, nausea, and dizziness. Exposure to high levels of CO can cause death.

Annual Inspections

CPSC recommends that a yearly professional inspection include checking chimneys, flues and vent pipes for blockage, separation, or any other form of deterioration. These conditions can cause leakage of combustion products, including pollutants such as CO, into the home.

For example, birds, insects and other animals sometimes nest in vents and block exhaust gases. This can cause gases to enter the home. Leakage through cracks or holes can cause black stains on the outside of the chimney or flue. These stains and accompanying odors may mean that pollutants are leaking into the house. In addition, all vent pipes to furnaces, water heaters, boilers, and other fuel-burning appliances should be checked to make sure they are not loose or disconnected.

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

In addition, make sure the appliance is operating on the fuel that it is designed to use. For example, an appliance must be modified by a professional to convert from burning natural gas to burning propane.

CO Alarms

CPSC recommends that every home should have at least one CO alarm that meets the requirements of the most recent Underwriters Laboratories (UL) 2034 standard or Canadian Standards Association (CSA) 6-96 standard. A CO alarm should be installed in your home in the hallway near the bedrooms.

CPSC staff worked with UL on the CO alarm standard to improve the reliability of alarms and reduce the potential for nuisance alarming.

CPSC staff continues to work with the furnace industry to develop new technologies to address the hazards of CO poisoning and fire. These include a standard that added blocked vent shut-off devices to protect against blocked vent pipes and chimneys. These conditions could lead to CO poisoning.

In addition, all gas-fired furnaces manufactured since 1987 have flame roll-out protection technology that prevents flames from spilling out from the furnace's combustion chamber and starting a fire.

— Ronald A. Jordan, Directorate for Engineering

Vent Pipe Recall

Consumers also should have the vent pipes on their heating systems inspected.

In 1998, CPSC worked with the furnace and boiler industry and the manufacturers of high-temperature plastic vent (HTPV) pipes to conduct a vent pipe recall program. The program's purpose is to replace, free, an estimated 250,000 HTPV pipe systems attached to gas or propane furnaces or boilers in consumers' homes. The HTPV pipes could crack or separate at the joints and leak CO.

Consumers should call the recall hotline toll-free at **1-800-758-3688**, between 7 a.m. and 11 p.m. ET, seven days a week, to verify whether their appliance venting systems are subject to this program.

Automatic Security Gates

If your residence or apartment has an old automatic security gate, be aware that newer models meeting a tougher safety standard may help prevent injury or death.

These sliding or swinging automatic security gates are typically found at the entrances of residences, apartment buildings, condominiums, parking lots and garages, and commercial establishments.

From 1990 to 2000, CPSC staff has learned of 30 deaths related to automatic gates, including 15 deaths to children. During this period, CPSC estimates that nearly 25,000 people have been involved in automatic gate-related injuries, including 9,000 children under 15 years old. These U.S. hospital emergency room-treated injuries are typically to the head, neck, arm, or hand. Injuries can include cuts, broken bones, hematomas, and amputations.

Children and adults can be severely injured or killed if they become entrapped in these gates when the gates automatically open or close. Many older gates do not have sensing devices or reversing mechanisms to prevent these entrapments.

New Safety Standard

CPSC staff worked with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) and gate operator manufacturers to develop a tougher safety standard that requires automatic gates to have at least two mechanisms to prevent entrapment.

These provisions are similar to the standards in effect for automatic garage doors.

The standard, which UL adopted in March 2000, requires a sensing device that will reverse the gate if it encounters an obstruction when opening or closing. Also required is a secondary sensing mechanism, such as an electric eye or an edge sensor, that will reverse the gate if an obstruction is detected.

Additional gate installation safety measures include:

- Elimination of all openings and gaps greater than 2.25 inches from the bottom of the gate to a height of 4 feet above the ground in both the gate and the fence that the gate covers in the open position.
- Installation of controls far enough from the gate so users cannot come into contact with the gate while operating the controls.
- Installation of controls where the user has full view of the gate operation.
- Elimination of pinch points.
- Installation of guarding on exposed rollers.
- Posting of warning signs on each side of the gate.

If your apartment or condominium complex has an older gate, contact a manager or your homeowners' association and ask to have the gate replaced with a safer automatic gate that meets the new standard.

— *John Murphy, Directorate for Engineering*

Electric Deep Fryers

To help prevent burn-related injuries and deaths, CPSC staff worked with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to develop new requirements in the safety standard for electric deep fryers that call for “break-away” (detachable) power supply cords.

This new power cord will quickly disconnect from a deep fryer if someone pulls on it. This prevents the fryer from being pulled off a kitchen counter and spilling its contents, e.g. scalding hot cooking oil.

Since 1980, CPSC has received reports of 7 deaths and 64 serious burn injuries associated with deep fat fryers to children under 10. Almost all of these deaths and injuries resulted from young children pulling on the power cord, which caused the fryer to tip over and spill its hot contents.

The new “break-away” power cord is held to the deep fryer by a magnet. It operates safely and effectively during normal use. However, if someone pulls on the cord, it will quickly separate from the deep fryer with minimal force before the fryer can move.

These new safety requirements, which went into effect May 31, 2001, also apply to electric fondues and electric multi-purpose pots that use cooking oil.

Models with the new cord are available in stores. CPSC encourages consumers to consider buying a new deep-frying appliance that has the new break-away power cord.

— *Andrew Trotta, Directorate for Engineering*

Electrocutions

According to a recent CPSC report, total electrocutions in the U.S. have decreased from 710 deaths in 1988 to 550 in 1998. This is a reduction of 23% (Figure 2).

The estimated electrocutions related to consumer products decreased from 290 in 1988 to 200 in 1998, a reduction of 31%.

The death rates declined significantly from 1988 to 1998. In 1988, estimated consumer product-related electrocutions occurred at a rate of 1.18 per million U.S. population. In 1998, that rate was 0.74 per million, a reduction of almost 40%.

Small appliances, including microwaves, battery chargers, and extension cords, were the most frequently reported group of products (24%) involved in consumer product-related electrocutions in 1998.

Large appliances, such as air conditioners, pumps, and generators, were the next most frequently reported group of products (19%). This was followed by power tools (such as saws, drills, and pressure washers) which were involved in 14% of the consumer-product related electrocutions.

Installed household wiring accounted for 13% of the deaths. Lighting equipment (mainly lamps and light fixtures) was responsible for 9% of the deaths. Antennas and ladders that came in contact with power lines accounted for 6% and 5% of the electrocution deaths, respectively.

Farm and lawn and garden equipment accounted for 2% of the electrocutions. Other products, including

pipes, poles, fences, and amusement rides, accounted for the remaining 11%.

For the complete report *1998 Electrocutions Associated with Consumer Products*, visit the CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

— Russel H. Roegner, Ph.D., Directorate for Epidemiology

	U.S. TOTAL	CONSUMER PRODUCT RELATED	
		Number	% of U.S. Total
1988	710	290	41%
1989	710	300	42%
1990	670	270	40%
1991	630	250	40%
1992	530	200	38%
1993	550	210	38%
1994	560	230	41%
1995	560	230	41%
1996	480	190	40%
1997	490	190	39%
1998	550	200	36%

Source: National Center for Health Statistics.

Figure 2

April Conference

CPSC is a co-sponsor of the third National Congress on Childhood Emergencies: *Taking Action, Saving Lives*. The Congress is being planned by the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA).

The National Congress is scheduled for April 15-17, 2002 in Dallas, Texas. Approximately 1,200 participants are expected.

This Congress is designed for those working to improve the quality of pediatric emergency care and those who are involved in injury and violence prevention. This includes physicians, nurses, EMT/paramedics, hospital

and EMS administrators, and health advocates, as well as parents, youth and community advocates, business leaders, and policymakers.

The conference will include session and poster presentations on the latest research for emergency department clinical care, primary and acute care, patient safety, and prevention. The program also includes innovative injury prevention programs, community collaboration projects, and programs for special pediatric populations.

For more information about the Congress, visit www.ems-c.org.

Consumer Product Incident Report

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

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR TELEPHONE _____

NAME OF VICTIM (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES

VICTIM'S AGE _____ SEX _____ DATE OF INCIDENT _____

DESCRIBE PRODUCT INVOLVED _____

PRODUCT BRAND NAME/MANUFACTURER _____

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

WHEN WAS THE PRODUCT PURCHASED? _____

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



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

TC-49

PLEASE DUPLICATE THIS FORM FOR FUTURE USE.

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

MECAP NEWS

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project and Emergency Physicians Reporting System

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

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

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

During the months of September through November of 2001, 953 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, 4, was given a small rubber ball as a gift. About an hour later, his mother saw him choking and his father tried unsuccessfully to remove the ball from the boy's airway. Emergency Medical Service personnel removed the ball and took the boy to the hospital, where he later died. The cause of death was cerebral anoxia due to choking. (Carlos Fonseca, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Morris County, Parsippany, NJ)

*A female, 11 months, was placed to sleep for the night in a daybed. A crib bumper pad was being used to keep her from sliding off the daybed's mattress. The next morning, the child was discovered with her neck entangled in the crib bumper pad. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia. (Marie H. Hansen, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District 6, Largo, FL)

A female, 4 months, was placed in a playpen to sleep. The next morning she was found unresponsive, wedged between an improperly-fitted mattress and the side of the playpen. The cause of death was traumatic asphyxia by smothering. (D. Jones for Susan Venuti, M.D., Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, Western District, Roanoke County, Roanoke, VA)

A male, 16 months, was sleeping in his room with another infant. Sometime later, both children were found under a chest of drawers. The 16-month-old child was unresponsive, with his head within one of the drawer's slots. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia due to compression of the chest. (Alexander Melamud, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District Ten, Bartow, FL)

DROWNINGS

*A male, 2, had been inside his home after swimming with his mother in the family pool. After about 10 minutes, his parents realized they had not seen him and could not find him in the house. The child was found face down in a hot tub adjacent to the pool. A three-foot high fence surrounded the hot tub and pool. The cause of death was drowning. (Gregory A. Schmunk, M.D., Medical Examiner-County Coroner, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA)

A male, 58, was trying to replace one of the lines holding a heavy nylon-weave pool cover over his pool. He fell into the pool, and could not get out from under the pool cover to return to the surface. The cause of death was drowning. (Hal Bennett for Brian Frist, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Cobb County, Marietta, GA)

A male, 13 months, was at a party at his home. A guest left a sliding door open that accessed the swimming pool. The child was found face down in the pool. The cause of death was asphyxia due to drowning. (R. H. Imami, M.D., Ph.D., District Chief Medical Examiner, District 22, Port Charlotte, FL)

A male, 18 months, was left to play unattended in the fenced front yard of his home. Some time later, he was found submerged in an above-ground jacuzzi in his backyard. Two doors to a garage that accessed the backyard had been left open, and the cover to the jacuzzi was broken and found against the side of the house. The cause of death was drowning. (Steven Menkle, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, CA)

A male, 2, and his family were swimming in their pool. They went inside. The boy went back outside, opened a gate, and got into the pool. He was found floating in the pool with flotation devices on his arms. The cause of death was drowning. (David L. Schultz, Coroner, Lycoming County, Williamsport, PA)

A female, 1, was inside her home while her parents and grandparents were having dinner. After about 10 minutes, the family noticed the child was missing. A screen door was found to have been left open, and the child was found floating face down in the family's backyard hot tub. The cause of death was asphyxia due to drowning. (Gregory A. Schmunk, M.D., Medical Examiner-County Coroner, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA)

ELECTROCUTIONS

*A female, 71, was found unresponsive in her backyard with an electrical cord in her hand. She had gone into her backyard to cut the grass with an electric lawn mower, and the grass was wet from a rainstorm. The cause of death was electrocution. (Terry Brown for Jim Johnson, Deputy Coroner, Allegheny County, Pittsburgh, PA)

A male, 49, was flying a model airplane in a park. The man was holding a control wire to the plane when it struck an electrical wire. He was burned over 65% of his body and died 17 days later. The cause of death was electrocution. (Sawait Kanluen, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Wayne County, Detroit, MI)

FIRES

*A male, 3, was taking a nap with his mother. The boy awoke while his mother slept. He found a multi-purpose lighter and ignited an upholstered sofa in the living room. The mother awoke to flames and smoke, and could not find her son. The boy was later found dead under his bed. The cause of death was smoke inhalation. (John Kraemer for Dennis Klein, M.D., Deputy State Medical Examiner, Des Moines, IA)

*A female, 34, was asleep in her home with six family members and guests. A fire, which broke out in the laundry room of the home, had been caused by the ignition of lint in the dryer. Firefighters found the woman unresponsive in the bathroom while the fire was still burning. The cause of death was asphyxia due to smoke inhalation. (Gordon Sonne, Sheriff, Monterey County, Salinas, CA)

*A male, 5, was asleep in his home with his family. His parents inadvertently left on an electric space heater. The space heater ignited some combustibles, and a fire destroyed the home. Three family members escaped, but the boy was found dead about four feet from a door. The cause of death was smoke inhalation. (Frank Montellano, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner for Elpidio G. Mariano, M.D., County Medical Examiner, Clinton County, Clinton, IA)

*A male, 8, was asleep in his home with his older brother and sister while his parents were at work. An unattended candle in the living room set fire to combustibles, and the house caught fire. The boy was found unresponsive by firefighters in his room and died three days later at a hospital. The cause of death was smoke inhalation. (Ron Flud, M.P.A., Coroner-Medical Examiner, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV)

MISCELLANEOUS

*A female, 44, was mowing her lawn with a riding lawn mower. Her clothing became entangled in a drive belt of the

MECAP COMMENDATION

Dr. Joye Carter and Carolyn L. Gates have been selected to receive CPSC's MECAP Commendation.

Dr. Carter is the current Chief Medical Examiner for Harris County, Texas and resides in Houston. She is the first female to head a medical examiner's office in the state of Texas and is a board-certified forensic pathologist.



Prior to assuming the position in Houston, Dr. Carter served as the Chief Medical Examiner for the District of Columbia, where she also had the distinction of being the first female to be appointed to that position.

Before working with the Washington, D.C. office, Dr. Carter served as a Major in the U.S. Air Force and as Deputy Chief Medical Examiner for the Armed Forces Medical Examiner Department, located in the Walter Reed Army Hospital complex. While serving her military time, she traveled around the world investigating deaths of active duty military personnel and United States citizens at home and abroad.

Dr. Carter has held numerous appointments at George Washington University, Howard University, the University of Texas Health Science Center, the University of Texas School of Public Health, and Baylor College of Medicine. She has authored several articles in peer-reviewed medical journals and writes a monthly column on general health issues for a local newspaper in Houston.

Dr. Carter received her medical degree from Howard University College of Medicine. Her undergraduate education was received at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio. Dr. Carter's postgraduate medical education was completed in New York at Booth Memorial Hospital and at Howard University Hospital in Washington, D.C. She is also board-certified in Anatomical and Clinical Pathology. Her forensic training was conducted in Miami, Florida.

Carolyn L. Gates

is currently employed as an Administrative Assistant to the Senior Deputy Chief Medical Examiner in the Harris County, Texas, Medical Examiner's Office.



She worked in funeral services for 12 years prior to assuming her current position.

Ms. Gates also is currently Tour Director for the Saving Our Kids (SOK) Program, which is designed to educate teenagers about the dangers of driving while under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol.

She is a graduate of Commonwealth College of Mortuary Science in Houston. She also attended Gus George Training Academy for Law Enforcement Officers, sponsored by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and is certified in Fingerprint Classification.

— *Ralph Morgan, Investigator, Houston, TX*

mower, and she was found dead by a neighbor. The cause of death was strangulation. (Daniel S. Heinz, Coroner, Peoria County, Peoria, IL)

*A female, 2, pulled on a 27-inch color television set that was sitting on a rolling microwave cart in her kitchen. The television fell on her, and she died. The cause of death was blunt force trauma. (Hal Bennett for Brian Frist, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Cobb County, Marietta, GA)

*A female, 2, and her 1-year-old cousin were in a three-wheeled shopping cart with their grandmother at a market. The shopping cart flipped over, and both children fell to the concrete floor. The 2 year-old died. The cause of death was blunt force head and neck injuries. (Alejandra Garcia for Andrew Avery, Deputy Coroner, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, 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 website at www.cpsc.gov.

Booster Seats

Product: About 1.5 million **Fold-Up Booster Seats by Safety 1st**. The recalled booster seats are intended for children who can sit unassisted through about 4 years of age. Only Safety 1st Fold-Up Booster Seats with model numbers 173, 173A and 173B are included in this recall. Booster seats with model numbers 173C and 173D, which have four indentations on the bottom, are not included in this recall. The model number is located on the back of the booster seat, inside the left arm panel. The booster seat is made of blue plastic with green and red arms and includes a yellow feeding tray. The seat insert for the booster seat is made up of two halves that are “press-fitted” together. They have a smooth surface bottom, with no indentations. The booster seats have a restraint system made up of a two-piece waist strap and one crotch strap. “SAFETY 1ST” is molded on the top and bottom of the seat insert. Major toy, hardware and department stores nationwide sold these seats from January 1994 through August 1999 for about \$18.

Problem: The top half of the seat inserts can separate, and a child can fall from the chair and be injured. CPSC and Safety 1st have received 32 reports where the seat halves separated. There were seven reports of injuries from falls including bumps, cuts, bruises and a fractured arm.

What to do: Stop using these seats immediately and contact Safety 1st to receive a free repair kit with instructions. Consumers can contact Safety 1st at (888) 579-1730 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or go to the firm’s website at www.safety1st.com.

Swings

Product: About 250,000 **“2-in-1 Snug ‘n Secure” swings by Little Tikes Company**. The swings are made of molded plastic and have a blue seat with a red T-shaped restraint front. The model number 4117-00 is molded underneath the seat. The “Little Tikes” logo is written on the T-shaped restraint bar on the front of the swing. The swings were sold for children ages 9 months through 4-years old. The swing is suspended with four yellow ropes. Only swings with blue or white buckles are included in this recall. Juvenile product and toy stores nationwide sold the swings from December 2000 through September 2001 for about \$20.

Problem: The buckles on the swing can break and the shoulder restraint straps can pull out of the back of the seat, causing young children to fall. CPSC and Little Tikes have received 14 reports of problems with the swings. Five injuries to children included abrasions, bruises, cuts and bumps to the head.

What to do: Stop using the swings immediately and contact Little Tikes at www.littletikes.com or call (800) 815-4820 anytime to receive a repair kit.

Rattles

Product: About 455,000 **soft rattles by Sassy Inc.** The rattles involved in the recall include: “Lily Pad Rattle” - A green frog with four plastic legs and a multi-colored belly; “Bitty Kitty Rattle” - A clear, plastic tube filled with beads connects a purple, cat-like face to a purple ball. Three plastic pieces encircle the plastic tube and make a rattle sound when shaken; “This Little Piggy Rattle” - A pink pig-like face is connected to a green ball by a yellow and pink arm and a blue arm. Beads inside the green ball make a rattle sound when shaken; “Goo Goo Goldfish” - A multi-colored fish with pink lips, an orange fin, and a clear, plastic tube that

connects the head to the tail. Beads inside the tube make a rattle sound when shaken; “Smoochie Poochie Rattle” - A blue, puppy-like face with green spotted ears is connected to a blue and green spotted body. Five plastic pieces encircle the body and make a rattle sound when shaken; “Crinkly Crown Dragon Rattle” - A green dragon with a scaled, curved tail. Three blue ridges protrude from the dragon’s back. A care tag attached to the head of each rattle reads in part, “Sassy” and “1999 Made in China.” Rattles with the same appearance but embroidered eyes are not involved in this recall. Toy and mass merchandise stores nationwide sold these rattles from August 1999 through mid-October 2001 for about \$5.

Problem: The sewn-on, spherical shaped fabric eyes on the rattles can detach, posing a choking hazard to small children. Sassy has received 129 reports of eyes detaching from the rattles, including some incidents in which eyes were found in children’s mouths. One of these children started to choke on a detached eye and a parent used the Heimlich maneuver to remove the eye.

What to do: Take these toys away from young children and return them to Sassy to receive a free replacement toy. Consumers should call Sassy at (800) 781-1080 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday for information on how to receive the replacement toy. Consumers also can visit the firm’s website at www.sassybaby.com.

Product: About 100,000 **rattles by HandsOnToys, Inc.** The rattles were sold under the Wiggly Giggler brand name. The rattle can be shaken, stacked and rolled. The rattle is a 3-inch long tube with mushroom caps on each end. It was sold in three color combinations, green with purple caps, orange with pink caps and purple with orange caps. The rattle contains a noisemaker inside that produces a sound when the rattle is shaken. “Wiggly Giggler™” is written on the tube of the rattle. Specialty toy stores nationwide sold the rattles from May 2000 through September 2001 for between \$2 and \$3. Rattles with a small number “3” imprinted in the painted circle on the base of the mushroom end cap in the center of the four sound holes are not included in this recall.

Problem: The rattle can break and expose the noisemaker inside the rattle handle, posing a choking hazard to young children. CPSC and HandsOnToys have received 11 reports of the rattles breaking. A 9-month old girl was found with the plastic noisemaker lodged in her throat. Her mother removed it by performing the Heimlich maneuver.

What to do: Take these toy rattles away from children and contact HandsOnToys at (888) 442-6376 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a replacement toy.

Playpens

Product: About 102,000 Cosco “Zip n Go”, “Okie Dokie”, and “Carters” **playpens by Dorel Juvenile Group**. The recalled playpens were manufactured between May 1995 and December 1997. The recalled playpens were sold under the “Zip n Go”, “Okie Dokie”, and “Carters” brand names and were manufactured by Cosco. Only model numbers 05-361, 05-362, 05-363, and 05-364 are included in this recall. The model numbers are located on a label on the bottom of the playpen, on the metal tubular frame near one of the corners. The label reads in part, “MANUFACTURED IN CHINA FOR COSCO INC.” The 28-inch by 40-inch playpens have four mesh sides on a folding metal frame. The side rails have the name “Zip n Go”, “Okie Dokie”, or “Carters” written on it. The padded floorboard forms a carrying case for the playpen. Department, toy and juvenile specialty stores nationwide sold the “Zip n Go” and “Carters” playpens. JC Penney stores nationwide sold the “Okie Dokie” brand playpens exclusively. The playpens were sold from May 1995 through December 1999 for between \$40 and \$70.

Problem: The plastic tabs on the playpen that lock the rails into the corners can break or loosen over time, allowing the rails to turn inward, collapse and entrap an infant. In June 2001, an 11-month-old baby in Elyria, Ohio, died when his chest was caught in the V-shape created by the collapsed sides of his playpen. Dorel Juvenile Group has received 421 reports of rails not locking or collapsing.

What to do: Stop using these playpens immediately and call Dorel Juvenile Group to receive a refund or replacement product. Consumers can contact Dorel at (800) 314-9327 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's website at www.djgusa.com.

Girls' Shoes

Product: About 109,000 pairs of Munchkin T-Strap girls' shoes by **Stride Rite Children's Group Inc.** The Munchkin T-Strap girls' shoes were sold in children's sizes 4 through 12. They have a strap that is fastened by a metal buckle on the side of the shoe. The word "MUNCHKIN" is molded into the bottom of the shoe. The shoes have the following style numbers written inside the shoe below the words "Made in China." 3182011 (Brown Suede), 3182029 (Black Leather), 3182037 (Red Leather), 3182045 (Navy Leather), 3182052 (White Leather) and 3182094 (Black Patent). Shoe, department and Stride Rite Outlet stores nationwide sold these shoes from January 2001 through September 2001 for about \$25.

Problem: The buckle on these shoes can break, posing a choking hazard for young children. Stride Rite Children's Group has received four reports of the buckle breaking, and one report of a child putting a broken piece of the buckle in her mouth and starting to choke.

What to do: Take the shoes away from their children immediately and return the shoes to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement shoes. For more information, call Stride Rite at (800) 650-7708 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the company's website at www.strideritecorp.com.

Baby Floats

Product: About 90,000 "SunSmart" baby floats by **Aqua-Leisure Industries Inc.** The recalled floats are packaged as "SunSmart" Baby Adjustable Sunshade Boats. The baby floats are blue and white circular tubes with a seat in the middle, and a detachable protective sunshade. The vinyl floats, intended for ages 6 months to 18 months, have pictures of purple crabs and various colored fish along the top. The word, "SunSmart" is printed across the front of the float. The recalled boats can be identified by the lettering "C/S" molded on the valve. Juvenile products, specialty and discount department stores nationwide, including Target, K-Mart, Bed Bath and Beyond, and Baby Central, sold the baby floats from August 2000 through September 2001 for between \$10 and \$13.

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

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

Juice Extractors

Product: About 2.4 million juice extractors by **Hamilton Beach.** The recalled juice extractors are white plastic, about 12 inches in height, and have the name "Hamilton Beach" printed on the side of the unit. The juice extractors have the following model numbers, which can be found under each unit: 67150, 67180, 67180W, 395WS, 67199 and 3920JS. Mass merchandise stores nationwide sold these juice extractors between 1992 and October 2001 for between \$30 and \$40.

Problem: The juice extractor's strainer basket and lid can break apart, posing a risk of injury to nearby consumers, who can be struck by metal or plastic. Hamilton Beach has received 35 reports in the U.S. and Canada of strainer baskets breaking apart, including four incidents where consumers required stitches after being struck by broken metal and plastic.

What to do: Stop using these juice extractors immediately and call Hamilton Beach at (800) 298-9955 between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for information on how to participate in the recall. Consumers with models for which replacement parts are available (models 67150, 67180 and 67180W) will receive a free replacement strainer basket. Consumers with models for which replacement parts are not available (models 395WS, 67199 and 3920JS) will receive their choice of a new juice extractor or a \$10 refund. For more information, consumers can log on to the company's website at www.hamiltonbeach.com.

Microwave-Hood Combinations

Product: About 1.8 million microwave-hood combinations by **Whirlpool Corp.** These are microwave oven and exhaust fan hood combination units that are installed above ranges. They were sold under the Whirlpool®, KitchenAid® and Kenmore® brand names. They have serial numbers that begin with XC. Open the door to locate the serial and model numbers. Department, electronics, home and appliance stores, as well as builder and remodelers, sold the microwave-hood combinations nationwide from January 1998 through September 2001 for between \$249 and \$749.

Problem: These units can overheat and catch fire. Whirlpool has received seven reports of fires involving these microwave-hood combinations. These incidents have resulted in extensive property damage. No injuries have been reported.

What to do: Stop using the recalled microwave-hood combinations and disconnect the units by unplugging them. Consumers can call Whirlpool Corp. for a free repair. Consumers can contact Whirlpool at (800) 785-8897 anytime. Consumers also can visit Whirlpool's website at www.whirlpool.com. Consumers should have the model and serial number of their unit available when they call or visit the website. Whirlpool has developed a new "Consumer In-Home Service Repair Information" Pamphlet. This pamphlet will provide consumers with detailed information concerning the cause of the fires and what the in-home repair will entail. Countertop microwaves are not included in this recall.

Electric Blankets

Product: About 394,000 electric blankets by **Biddeford Textile Corp.** The electric blankets were sold under the model names Controlled Comfort, EH 2000, Starbright, Staywarm, Supreme 21, Warm Comfort, and had serial numbers A001A to C210C. "Biddeford Textile Corporation", along with the blanket's model name and its serial number, are printed on a label near where the control switch is plugged in. The blankets were sold in king, queen, double and twin sizes in various colors, including off-white, hunter green, light blue, navy blue, white, rose, plum, burgundy, French blue, sage green, teal and rawhide. Department stores, including Kohl's and Target, and direct mail order companies, such as Fingerhut and JCPenney, sold these blankets nationwide from August 1999 through July 2001 for between \$100 to \$150.

Problem: The plug that connects the detachable control switch to the blanket can become loose. The resulting poor electrical contacts can overheat, posing a fire hazard. CPSC and Biddeford Textile Corp. have received 34 reports of the electric blankets overheating, melting and scorching. No injuries or property damage, other than to the blanket, have been reported.

What to do: Stop using the electric blankets immediately and contact Biddeford Textile Corp. for a free replacement plug connector adapter. For more information, consumers should call Biddeford Textile Corp. toll-free at (877) 217-6294 anytime, or visit its website at www.blanketrecall.com. Consumers should not return the electric blankets to Biddeford Textile Corp.

— Carolyn Manley, Office of Compliance

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