



## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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# CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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## Safer Gas Water Heaters

*The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Gas Appliance Manufacturers Association (GAMA) recently announced new requirements to improve the safety of gas water heaters. Donald Switzer, the engineer who managed the project on gas water heaters at CPSC, discussed these changes.*

### ***What's safer about new gas water heaters?***

The gas water heater industry, in cooperation with CPSC staff, developed a new voluntary safety standard. To meet the new standard, conventional tank-type gas water heaters manufactured after July 1, 2003 must be equipped with new safety technology to help prevent fires. All water heater manufacturers are currently producing appliances equipped to prevent these fires.

### ***What does this new technology do?***

This technology, often referred to as a flame arrestor, prevents flashback fires by trapping and burning dangerous gas vapors inside the heater. This prevents ignition of the vapors in the room.

### ***What's been the problem with conventional gas water heaters?***

Gas-fired water heaters use surrounding air for combustion. The problem occurs when gasoline – or a similar flammable substance – is spilled into the

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## Recalls.Gov

To provide consumers easier access to all recall announcements, the federal government launched a new Web site at **www.Recalls.gov**.

The [www.Recalls.gov](http://www.Recalls.gov) site provides links to all federal agencies with statutory authority to issue recalls, including CPSC, the Food and Drug Administration, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, and the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Consumers can easily find information about all federal government recalls – regardless of the jurisdiction of the agency or the nature of the recall.

“We’re confident visitors will find [www.Recalls.gov](http://www.Recalls.gov) to be a convenient portal to important safety information covering consumer goods, automobiles, boats, drugs, cosmetics and environmental products,” said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. “It’s a ‘one-stop shop’ for the latest information on all federal government recalls.”

room where the water heater is located. The gasoline vapors, which are heavier than air, are pulled into the water heater with the combustion air and ignite in the water heater. The flames flash out of the combustion air openings in the water heater and ignite the vapors in the room. The resulting flash fire can result in severe burns or deaths.

***Are there typical scenarios in which this type of fire might occur?***

We have reports of kids who died from fires when they were playing with gasoline containers near gas water heaters. For example, we know of a 2-year-old boy who died of burns. He had been playing with a riding toy in the basement of his home while his mother cleaned there. At one point, she looked over at him, and he was standing in a puddle of gasoline, which he had poured from a one-gallon can. Before his mother could respond, the gasoline vapors reached the water heater and ignited, burning the boy and his clothing.

***What are other common scenarios that put people at risk?***

People die or are injured when they use gasoline to clean paint brushes and other things near water heaters. Still other injuries or deaths occur when gasoline containers are accidentally knocked over in a basement or garage near a gas water heater.

***How widespread is this problem?***

The latest figures show that gas water heater ignition of flammable vapors is involved in nearly 800 residential fires, resulting in an average of 5 deaths and 130 injuries annually.

***When did the new voluntary safety standard become effective?***

The final American National Standard Institute standard became effective on July 1, 2003. All 30, 40, and 50-gallon natural draft storage-type water heaters manufactured after that date are required to comply with the national safety standard. The standard was actually approved in two parts. The first requirement, for flammable vapors ignition-resistance, was approved in February 2000. The second requirement, for the heater to be resistant to lint, dust, and oil accumulation, was approved in November 2002.

***Does this new technology add to the cost of new gas water heaters?***

According to news accounts, some retailers estimate that the average cost of the new technology would add \$50 to \$70 to the price of a 40-gallon tank.

***How many older gas water heaters are in people's homes?***

We estimate there are between 50 and 60 million households in the U.S. that use gas water heaters. Consumers buy almost 5 million units a year and replace units about every 10 years.

***What should consumers do who have the old gas water heaters?***

First of all, you should never store or use gasoline, paint thinners, and other flammable substances in places like a basement or garage where there could be a gas water heater. These liquids can produce invisible explosive vapors that can ignite at considerable distances from the flammable substance. Gasoline and all flammable liquids should be stored in tightly-closed, properly-labeled, non-glass safety containers away from ignition sources and out of reach of children.

***Is there a way for consumers to retrofit their old gas water heaters?***

At present, building codes require water heaters, located where flammable liquids would be present, to be installed so that their burners are 18 inches above the floor. This provides some protection against igniting flammable vapors. However, it is probably less expensive to replace a water heater that is not elevated than it would be to change the piping and venting to raise the appliance to 18 inches.

***What has been the history of CPSC and industry working together on this issue?***

Over the years, CPSC staff worked closely with the industry as it developed a number of prototypes that performed well in flammability tests. In addition, CPSC endorsed a national campaign produced by GAMA to educate consumers about the hazards of flammable vapors.

***How did the education campaign alert consumers to these dangers?***

The program focused on educating children about the hazards of storing and using gasoline in the home. It included course materials that were provided to schools across the nation, a comic book developed by Marvel Comics, and television ads with William Shatner as the spokesperson.

*Cont. on page 5*

## Writing Product Instructions

Clearly-written and easy-to-follow instructions can enhance the safety of a consumer product. According to Tim Smith, an engineering psychologist with CPSC's Division of Human Factors, instructions are often the safety link between the consumer and the product. A product that is incorrectly assembled or misused because of confusing or misleading instructions could create a hazard.

To help address this issue, CPSC staff recently released new guidelines entitled, *Manufacturer's Guide to Developing Consumer Product Instructions*. The *Guide* includes chapters on planning a product's instructions, capturing readers' attention, ensuring comprehension, motivating consumers to follow instructions, and evaluating the instructions. In addition, a chapter is devoted to presenting safety information.

Below are excerpts from the *Guide*.

### Find out how consumers are likely to use your product under real-world conditions.

Consumers may use your product in ways you did not intend. Therefore, you must consider not only the intended uses of your product, but also other ways consumers may use it, including potential misuse and risk factors.

Detailed analyses of consumer injuries and deaths with your product or with products that share some common feature may also provide insight into likely hazards and problems in use.

For example, if you are analyzing hazards for a riding lawnmower, you also may analyze hazards posed by all-terrain vehicles and golf carts. These products are comparable because they share potential problems of stability on outdoor terrain.

### Consider the needs and abilities of non-English-literate users.

Although manufacturers have a legal duty to warn consumers of potential product hazards, no generally applicable laws or standards specifically state which conditions require you to provide instructions in multiple languages. Nonetheless, some court decisions have found manufacturers at fault for failing to provide

warnings in multiple languages. How many of your users cannot read English? What are the costs to those users if the instructions are only written in English?

### See if government agencies related to your product have available guidance or recommendations.

Federal or state agencies may have considered your type of product and put forth information and suggestions that might directly or indirectly relate to instructions. Agency Web sites provide one easy way of getting this information or finding appropriate contacts. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) is a useful source for many products.

### Identify voluntary standards and industry-recommended practices that relate to instructions, warnings, and other required consumer information for your type of product.

Besides standards and practices that apply narrowly to your product category, you also should address broader or cross-cutting standards and practices. This might include general standards on warning information, like the American National Standards Institute's ANSI Z535 series, or standards related to materials used in your product.

### Emphasize the benefits of complying with the instructions.

Be explicit about the benefits of compliance and the problems with noncompliance. If there are safety consequences, be clear about the reality of the hazard.

Consumers are less likely to comply with an instruction when the consequences seem distant in time or the outcome seems largely out of their control. Therefore, you should do what you can, while staying credible, to provide users with a sense of immediate results and emphasize their control of events.

*Cont. on page 4*

**When you include safety messages within your instructions, here are important points to remember.**

### Identify the severity of the hazard using a signal word.

Signal words are used to draw attention to a hazard. ANSI Z535.4-2002, the American National Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels, defines three signal words for use in safety signs:

- **DANGER**, which identifies “an imminently hazardous situation which, if not avoided, will result in death or serious injury.”
- **WARNING**, which identifies “a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, could result in death or injury.”
- **CAUTION**, which identifies “a potentially hazardous situation which, if not avoided, may result in minor or moderate injury” or in property damage incidents.

Do not use these signal words to alert consumers to installation, operation, or maintenance information unrelated to a specific hazard.

### Write safety messages so they are explicit and unambiguous.

Safety messages have more influence when the hazard or action is described in explicit, concrete words rather than abstract concepts. Personalizing the message also improves its effectiveness. For example, state that the hazard “can kill you” rather than “can cause death.”

Include only information that is directly safety-related within the safety message. Related instruction information can follow the separately formatted safety message.

Some practices that can undermine warnings include:

- downplaying the severity of the hazard.
- using vague rather than concrete descriptions of the hazard or injury.
- mixing marketing messages and up-beat statements with the safety message.
- telling consumers to use common sense or that the product is easy to use.
- implying that the safety message is required by an authority, but is not really necessary.
- failing to cast the message as a warning, or mixing the message with tips for use.

### For More Information

For a complete copy of the *Manufacturer's Guide to Developing Consumer Product Instructions*, please go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

### Make safety messages immediately recognizable as important for personal safety.

Consumers should not have to fully read the text of the message to know that it includes important safety information. When safety messages are mixed with and indistinguishable from non-safety messages, users may see the safety messages as trivial, making them harder to notice and remember.

The presence of safety information is conveyed primarily through the use of a unique format used only for safety messages. You can emphasize the message further through highlighting and graphics. Succinct, headline-style messages also help convey the general message both by their distinct format and because they require minimal reading.

If you want to list non-safety items such as notices or tips for more effective product use, keep these lists separate and clearly label each list. If you highlight notices or tips within the body of the instructions, do it in a way that is distinct from how you highlight safety messages.

### Consider using product labeling elements.

ANSI Z535.4-2002, the American National Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels, defines a number of label components and coding conventions. These are familiar to the public and may be adapted to safety messages within instructions.

- A safety alert symbol is an exclamation point surrounded by an equilateral triangle, and indicates a potential for personal injury. You should omit this symbol for property damage-only applications.
- The signal word, as described earlier, identifies the severity of the hazard. The **DANGER** signal word appears as red letters on a white background, **WARNING** as black letters on an orange background, and **CAUTION** as black letters on a yellow background.

ANSI Z535.4-2002 also guides font choice and other aspects of layout and message content.

*Cont. on page 5*

## Linking Smoke Alarms

Linking battery-powered home smoke alarms with wireless technology could potentially save lives, according to a recent study commissioned by CPSC staff.

By interconnecting all smoke alarms, an individual smoke alarm that detects smoke could trigger all the home's smoke alarms to sound. This could give occupants more time to escape a fire.

Building codes for new homes now require all residential smoke alarms to be interconnected. Older homes do not have this added protection. For these homes, wireless technology could link multiple, battery-powered, single-station smoke alarms, without the costly hardwiring currently needed for interconnecting smoke alarms.

### Study Results

The CPSC-funded study examined how off-the-shelf, battery-powered smoke alarms might be modified to include a wireless communication link. Several goals were set to demonstrate that wireless technology could be incorporated into battery-operated smoke alarms. These included: not drastically increasing the cost or size of a residential smoke alarm; retaining the 9-volt alkaline battery as the primary power source; and providing a reliable interconnection between smoke alarms within the same structure.

In the first phase of the study, researchers identified a number of wireless technologies that could be used in battery-powered smoke alarms. Sonic and radio frequency (RF) technologies appeared to be the most promising.

### For More Information

For a complete copy of *Smoke Alarms, Low-Cost Batteries, and Wireless Technology Technical Report*, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Sonic technology, which is relatively inexpensive to produce, consumes minimal battery power. The technology is currently in use. For example, if one misplaces a keychain with this technology, clapping one's hands would prompt this product to beep. RF technologies, also relatively inexpensive, are available in integrated circuit form and provide adequate range for signaling other alarms in a home. Communication systems such as portable and cellular phones, garage door openers, and remote fan/light controls use RF technology.

In the second phase of the study, researchers constructed several wireless, interconnected battery-operated smoke alarm prototypes. The prototypes were tested in a home. The testing demonstrated how one smoke alarm sounding can trigger other smoke alarms to sound. The testing also helped determine what improvements are needed.

### Future Uses

Expanding into the future, this wireless smoke alarm technology could be used to alert individuals with hearing aids, cause lights to flash for the hearing-impaired, and inform a fire-monitoring station. In addition, bi-directional wireless communication in products such as toasters or heaters could immediately trigger a smoke alarm if a fire occurs in the appliance – even before the smoke reaches the smoke alarm. When every second counts in a fire, this additional escape time could potentially save lives.

— Arthur Lee, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

## Water Heaters *cont. from page 2*

### ***What else is being done to help prevent fires from flammable liquids and vapors?***

Another voluntary industry safety standard calls for child-resistant gasoline cans. This standard, in addition to requirements for gasoline cans to be “spill-proof,” should help reduce the risk of water heaters igniting gasoline vapors.

## Clear Instructions *cont. from page 4*

### **Test and evaluate the instructions with the product.**

Do not have consumers simply read through the instructions and tell you what they think. They should perform the tasks described in the instructions while using the actual product. Measure the actual behavior of consumers while they are performing these tasks. Cover all tasks that consumers are asked to perform within the instructions.



# Electrocutions

Both total electrocutions in the U.S. and those related to consumer products have continued to decline (*Figure 1*).

According to a recent CPSC staff report, total electrocutions decreased from 670 in 1990 to 400 in 2000, a reduction of 40%. During the same period, the estimated number of electrocutions related to consumer products decreased from 270 to 150, a reduction of 44%.

In 1990, the rate for consumer product-related electrocutions was 1.09 per million people in the United States. In 2000, the rate dropped to 0.53 electrocutions per million. This is a decrease of 51%.

## Consumer Products

Large appliances, such as air conditioners, sump pumps, pool pumps, water heaters, furnaces, clothes dryers, refrigerators, and range hoods, were responsible for the largest proportion (19%) of the consumer product-related electrocutions during 2000.

Ladders coming in contact with power lines ranked second and accounted for 15% of the deaths.

The following consumer products also were associated with electrocutions.

- Small appliances, such as microwave ovens, electric fans, extension cords, and televisions, were involved in 11% of the electrocutions.
- Power tools such as drills, grinding machines, saws, and welding equipment, accounted for 10% of the electrocutions.
- Another 10% of the electrocutions involved some sort of damaged or exposed wiring, although the exact nature of the wiring was unspecified.
- Lighting equipment (lamps, fixtures, work lights, etc.) was involved in 8% of the deaths.
- Installed household wiring accounted for 7% of the electrocutions.
- Sports and recreational equipment, such as fishing and bowling equipment, boatlifts, and recreational vehicles, were responsible for 6% of the deaths.

- Gardening and farming equipment, antennas that touched overhead power lines, and other unspecified appliances, were responsible for 2%, 1%, and 1% of the deaths respectively.
- Miscellaneous other products, such as pipes and poles that contacted power lines, electric fences, septic tanks, and building structures (like mobile home tongues or metal carport roofs) accounted for another 9% of the deaths.
- No product was specified for the remaining 1% of the electrocutions.

— *Risana T. Chowdhury, Directorate for Epidemiology*

## Electrocution Safety Tips

- The best safety device to prevent electrocutions is a Ground-Fault Circuit-Interrupter (GFCI), especially in bathrooms, kitchens, basements, garages, and for all pool, spa, and hot tub electrical equipment.
- Have a qualified electrician install adequate GFCI protection for your home.
- When outdoors, keep all objects — including masts, poles, ladders, tools, and toys — far away from power lines at all times.

### For More Information

For a copy of the complete report, *2000 Electrocutions Associated with Consumer Products*, please visit [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

## Electrocutions in the U.S. 1990-2000

Year	U.S. Total Electrocutions*	Consumer Product-Related Electrocutions		Death Rates per Million Population
		Estimates	% of Total	
1990	670	270	40%	1.09
1991	630	250	40%	0.99
1992	530	200	38%	0.78
1993	550	210	38%	0.82
1994	560	230	41%	0.89
1995	560	230	41%	0.88
1996	480	190	40%	0.72
1997	490	190	39%	0.71
1998	550	200	36%	0.74
1999	440	170	39%	0.62
2000	400	150	38%	0.53

\*Source: National Center for Health Statistics, U.S. Census Bureau

Figure 1

# 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

# 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](mailto: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 April, May, and June of 2003, 829 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, 9 weeks, was found unresponsive in a small bassinette. His face was in a pillow. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

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

\*A female, 7 months, was sitting in her activity center drinking a bottle of milk. Her father left her unattended while he went to the bathroom. He returned a few minutes later to find the child unresponsive. She was leaning over the activity center. Her necklace, a gift from a relative, had become entangled in the top of the activity center. A friend performed CPR until emergency personnel arrived. They rushed the child to the hospital, where she died. The cause of death was hanging.

(A.L. Mosley, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Maricopa County, Phoenix, AZ)

\*A male, 2, was placed to sleep in a portable play yard. He was later found face down and unresponsive with his neck caught in the V-shape created by the collapsed side of the play yard. Emergency personnel took the child to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The play yard was obtained from a thrift shop and had been recalled more than five years prior to the incident. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

(Carol Fischer for Howard Fischer, Coroner, Juneau County, Mauston, WI)

A male, 2 months, and his twin sister were being nursed by their mother in an over-stuffed recliner chair. After nursing the children, the mother decided to sleep in the chair with them, placing the babies on two large pillows. The mother awoke later to find the male child between the pillow and her body. The baby was not breathing. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

(Leigh Hlavaty, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Wayne County, Detroit, MI)

\*A female, 6 months, was found unresponsive with her face wedged down between the side rail and mattress of her crib. Emergency personnel performed CPR. The child was rushed to the hospital, where she died. The family had purchased the crib used from a friend. The crib was over 16 years old, and some of its bolts were stripped. This allowed the side rail to separate from the crib and create the space where the child was entrapped. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

(Michael D. Hunter, M.D., District Sixteen Medical Examiner, Marathon Shores, FL)

\*A male, 10, was riding his father's ATV and attempted to make a jump on a small hill. The front of the ATV came up and rolled back over the child. The father attempted CPR until emergency personnel arrived and rushed the child to a hospital. The cause of death was mechanical chest asphyxia.

(Max Muse, R.N., Medical Examiner, Moore County, Raleigh, NC)

\*A male, 12, was found dead under his family's large ATV. The child lost control of the ATV while ascending a small hill, and the ATV landed on top of him. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia.

(C. Lee Bridges, M.D., Medical Examiner, Central District, Commonwealth of Virginia, Richmond, VA)

## CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

\*A female, 25 and a male, 32, were found dead in their basement apartment by police. After fireman obtained high carbon monoxide (CO) readings in the building, the occupants of the seven other apartments were asked to leave the building. A flue that vented gas appliances for the apartment building, including the gas furnace, was blocked by debris. The apartment did not have CO detectors. The cause of death was CO poisoning.

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



\*A female, 26, and her stepson, 13, were found unresponsive in their home during a power outage caused by an ice storm. The husband/father performed CPR on both family members until emergency personnel arrived. The female and boy were pronounced dead several hours later. A borrowed gasoline-powered generator had been running in the basement. A basement door had been left open to ventilate the CO outside, but the CO had gone up the basement stairs to the living room. Police observed a CO detector that had not been installed. The cause of death was CO intoxication.

(Mary I. Jumbelic, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Onondaga County, Syracuse, NY)

\*A female, 28, and her daughter, 8 months, were staying at a friend's home. The next day, the friend found them unresponsive. She called emergency personnel, who pronounced the mother and daughter dead at the scene. The local gas company found that two water heaters and a gas furnace were improperly vented, allowing CO to accumulate in the home. The cause of death was CO poisoning.

(R. D. Zurowski, M.D., Medical Examiner, Northern Virginia District, Commonwealth of Virginia, Fairfax, VA)

## DROWNINGS

\*A female, 12 months, and her brother, 2, were placed in a bathtub by their father. The female was placed in a bath seat. Both children were checked on periodically by their mother, who went upstairs to get their clothes. Upon the mother's return to the bathroom, she found the female infant unresponsive. The child was completely out of her bath seat and lying on her side submerged in the bath water. The mother took the child out of the bathtub, called 911, and began CPR. Emergency personnel took the child to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

(Dennis Kwiatkowski, Coroner, Cambria County, Johnstown, PA)

A male, 2, was taken by his grandmother to the home of other relatives. He was left in a spare room watching a videotape, and his grandmother checked

on him periodically. When she noticed he was gone, a search of the residence was conducted. The boy was found unresponsive under a pool cover on a large aboveground swimming pool. CPR was initiated, and the boy was taken to the hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning. (Karen Trusch, Deputy Medical Examiner, for Maureen P. Lavin, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Kenosha County, Kenosha, WI)

\*A female, 10 months, was in a bath seat taking a bath. Her mother left her unattended to take some clothes to the adjacent laundry room. The mother returned to find the bath seat tipped forward, and the child face first in the bath water. The mother called 911 and began CPR. Emergency personnel arrived and continued CPR to the hospital, where the child was pronounced dead on arrival. The cause of death was drowning.

(Eric A. Pfeifer, M. D., Coroner, Olmstead County, Rochester, MN)

## FIRES

\*A male, 19, was discovered unresponsive in his bed by firefighters after a fire at his apartment. The fire began when an unattended candle fell on a sofa cushion. Two other people were awakened by a smoke detector and escaped. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

(Cynthia D. Gardner, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Cook County, IL)

\*A female, 33, and a male, 42, were found unresponsive in their apartment by firefighters after a fire in their apartment. An electric space heater placed too close to bedding caused the fire. Three children living in the apartment were taken to the hospital. Other tenants were alerted by smoke detectors and evacuated the building. No smoke detectors were present in the apartment where the fire began. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

(Elizabeth A. Laposata, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner for Dorota Latuszynski, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, State of Rhode Island, Providence, RI)

\*A male, 37, was found unresponsive in his bed by firefighters after a fire at his apartment. The fire was caused by a hot light bulb in a lamp that fell onto and ignited a mattress. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

(Barbara Sampson, M.D., City Medical Examiner, City of New York, NY)

## MISCELLANEOUS

\*A male, 11, was riding on an ATV near his home. After about an hour, his mother could not hear the ATV. She called police, and a search was organized. The boy was found with the ATV lying on top of him and was taken to a hospital, where he died. The cause of death was multiple traumas.

(Richard S. Perren, M.D., Medical Examiner, Vance County, Raleigh, NC)

\*A male, 3, was riding on an ATV with his grandfather. His grandfather turned off the ATV to open a gate, leaving the key in the ignition. As he was opening the gate, his grandson turned the key and put the ATV in motion. The grandfather grabbed the ATV and hung on for 60 to 80 feet until the ATV ran over a hill and flipped, landing on the child. CPR was administered but emergency medical personnel pronounced the child dead at the scene. The cause of death was blunt trauma to the abdomen and chest.

(Erik Mitchell, M.D., District Coroner, Douglas County, Lawrence, KS)

A female, 15 months, climbed up a chest of drawers that had a television on it. The chest tipped over, and the television struck the child in the head. The cause of death was blunt force craniocerebral injury.

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

— *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).

### Infant Car Seats/Carriers

**Product:** About 1.2 million infant car seats/carriers by Dorel Juvenile Group Inc. On July 8, 1999, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), and Cosco, now known as the Dorel Juvenile Group, announced the recall of 670,000 of these infant car seat/carriers made from March 1995 through September 1997. This recall adds the same model infant car seats/carriers made through January 2000. The recalled car seats/carriers were sold under the Cosco Arriva and Turnabout brand names and were manufactured by Dorel Juvenile Group in the U.S. The car seat/carriers have the following model numbers: **ARRIVA** 02-665 02-727 02-728 02-729 02-731 02-732 02-733 02-750 02-751 02-755 02-757 02-774 **TURNABOUT** 02-753 02-756 02-758 02-759 02-760 02-761 02-762 02-763 02-764 02-765 02-770 02-771 02-772. The model number and manufacture date are located on the instruction and warning label on the side of the car seat/carrier. The recalled seats were manufactured on or before Jan. 31, 2000. Juvenile product, mass merchandise, department stores and major discount stores nationwide sold the Arriva and Turnabout infant car seats/carriers from Sept. 10, 1997 through December 2000 for between \$30 and \$60 when sold alone or \$90 to \$140 when sold with strollers. The recalled seats are no longer available for purchase. **Problem:** When the seat is used as a carrier, the plastic handle locks can unexpectedly break or release from the carrying position, causing the seat to unlatch or flip forward. When this happens, an infant can fall to the ground and suffer injuries. Dorel Juvenile Group has received 416 reports of the handle locks on the additional recalled infant car seats/carriers breaking or unlatching, resulting in nine injuries to children. These reports include bruises and scratches to the head and face. According to the reports, some injuries occurred to children restrained in the seat.

**What to do:** Consumers should continue to use the Arriva and Turnabout as a car seat but should stop using it as a carrier immediately and contact Dorel Juvenile Group to receive a free repair kit. Consumers should call Dorel at **(800) 880-9435** between 7 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or by going to the firm's Web site at [www.djgusa.com](http://www.djgusa.com).

### "Spit Smatter" Spray Foam

**Product:** About 1.3 million "Spit Smatter" Spray Foam by JAKKS Pacific Inc. The "Spit Smatter" spray comes in a pressurized can and emits a colored foam based on one of six brands: "Original Smatter," "Blueberry Smatter," "Banana Cream Smatter," "Lemon Meringue Smatter," and "Fatter Smatter." The brand name is printed on the can and the word "Nickelodeon" is printed on the orange trigger mechanism.

**Problem:** The aerosol cans can forcefully break apart, posing a risk of serious injury to nearby consumers. The company has received four reports of the aerosol cans breaking apart, including one incident that resulted in a laceration injury to a consumer and several incidents involving property damage. Discount department and toy stores nationwide sold the "Spit Smatter" foam cans between February 2002 and June 2003 for about \$10. The product was manufactured in China. **What to do:** Take the aerosol can away from children and contact the company for instructions on disposal and how to receive a full refund. Consumers can call JAKKS Pacific at **(800) 554-5516** between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, log on to the company's Web site at [www.jakksacific.com](http://www.jakksacific.com), or e-mail the company at [smatterrecall@jakks.net](mailto:smatterrecall@jakks.net).

### Crib Mobile Toys

**Product:** About 233,000 crib mobile toys by Fisher-Price. These are Sparkling Symphony™ Mobile crib toys that attach to the crib side rail and play music and lights that are activated by remote control. Four star and moon characters are suspended from the mobile, which turns. The recalled toys have model number 71985 found on both the lower arm of the mobile and the back of the remote control. The Fisher-Price logo appears at the top of the upper arm, over the silver decoration. The recalled mobiles were manufactured from October 1999 through November 2000. A date code is located on the upper arm of the mobile and on the back of the remote control. Consumers should contact Fisher Price with their date code to determine if their mobile is part of the recall. Discount department stores and toy stores nationwide sold these mobiles between December 1999 and December 2001 for about \$25. The toys are manufactured in China. **Problem:** If batteries used in the mobile leak, the caustic liquid can seep out of the battery compartment, posing a risk of chemical burns to babies. Fisher-Price has received 30 reports of batteries leaking from the toy's battery compartment, including six reports of minor burn injuries to babies. The firm is providing free repair kits containing a seal for the battery compartment, which will prevent battery leakage.

**What to do:** Contact Fisher-Price toll-free at **(800) 357-9460** anytime or visit [www.service.mattel.com](http://www.service.mattel.com) to determine if product is among the recalled models and to order the free repair kit if needed.

### Trampolines

**Product:** About 116,000 trampolines by Hedstrom Corp. These are 12-foot, 13-foot, and 14-foot trampolines, which were sold separately, and also banded together with safety enclosures. They were sold under the brand names Hedstrom and NBF. The brand name is written on the warning labels found on the products. The recalled trampolines have model numbers 10136, 101366, 101442, 10146, 102369, 102949, 10321, 103217 or 10381. They also have four-digit date codes ranging from 0403 through 2103 with the last two digits always being 03. Model I.D. labels showing the model number and date code are located on one of the frame rail legs on the trampoline. The trampolines were sold at department, toy, and discount stores nationwide between January 2003 and May 2003 for between \$160 and \$225 for the single trampolines, and between \$320 and \$360 for the trampolines banded together with safety enclosures. The trampolines were manufactured in the U.S.A.

**Problem:** Welds on the frame of these trampolines can break during use, causing consumers to fall to the ground and suffer injuries. Hedstrom has received about 700 reports of one or more welds breaking from the trampoline frame rails during use, resulting in 10 minor injuries.

**What to do:** Consumer Contact: Call Hedstrom at **(800) 841-4351** between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the company's Web site at [www.hedstrom.com](http://www.hedstrom.com) and click on Customer Service. Hedstrom is providing consumers with a free, in-home repair kit.

### Crib Drop-Side Rails

**Product:** Recalling to replace crib drop-side rails for about 2,000 "Tiffany" and "Josephine" model cribs by Babi Italia, a division of LaJobi Industries Inc. The "Tiffany" and "Josephine" model cribs are made of solid natural wood with a chest of drawers attached to the footboard. The cribs can be converted into a toddler bed and an adult bed. The Tiffany cribs were manufactured from June through October 2001 and the Josephine cribs were manufactured from January through October 2001. The crib manufacture date code is located on the inside bottom of the headboard. The four middle numbers inside the eight-digit production number indicate the month and year of manufacture. Tiffany cribs with production date codes (four middle numbers) 0601, 0701, 0801, 0901 and 1001 and Josephine cribs with production date codes (four middle numbers)

0101, 0201, 0301, 0401, 0501, 0601, 0701, 0801, 0901, and 1001 are included in the recall. Babies R Us sold the recalled cribs exclusively from July 2001 through January 2003 for about \$500.

**Problem:** The slats on the drop-side rails can come loose or detach. A child's head can get caught in the space left by loose or missing slats, presenting an entrapment hazard. In addition, children can fall through the slat opening. CPSC and LaJobi have received 41 reports of slats separating from rails of the crib. One child became entrapped between slats that came loose. Ten children fell out of the crib when the slats came out of the drop-side rail. No serious injuries have been reported.

**What to do:** Stop using these cribs immediately and contact LaJobi immediately to receive replacement drop-side rails. Consumers should contact LaJobi at **(877) 440-2224** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Consumers also can visit the firm's Web site at [www.babiitalia.com](http://www.babiitalia.com).

### Slow Cookers

**Product:** About 2.7 million slow cookers by Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex. The recalled slow cookers were sold under the Hamilton Beach and Proctor-Silex brand names, which are printed on the front of the base of the unit. The slow cookers are either round or oval, and were sold in solid white and various print designs. They have a capacity of 3.5 to 6.5 quarts. The slow cookers have series codes A through D which are printed on the bottom along with the model number: Hamilton Beach 33390, 33475, 33575, 33590, 33675, 33690, 33725, 33850, 33860; Hamilton Beach/Portfolio 33680 and Proctor-Silex 33320, 33320FD, 33325, 33375, 33380, 33625A.

**Problem:** The handles on the base of the slow cookers can break, posing a risk of burns from hot food spilling onto consumers. The company has received approximately 4,700 reports of handles breaking, including two reports of consumers who required medical attention for burns. The slow cookers were sold at discount department stores nationwide from January 1999 through December 2002 for between \$15 and \$45.

**What to do:** Contact Hamilton Beach toll-free at **(800) 429-6363** anytime or visit the firm's Web site at [www.proctor-silex.com](http://www.proctor-silex.com). Consumers will be shipped a replacement slow cooker base.

### Cordless Drill/Drivers

**Product:** About 265,000 18-volt cordless drill/drivers. By Black & Decker (U.S.) Inc. The recalled 18-volt, cordless drill/drivers are orange or jade and have the words, "Black & Decker" printed on the body of the drill. The drill/drivers have the following model numbers, date codes and color: CD1800, 20011952 through 20020652, Orange; PS3700, 973652 through 983052 Jade; PS3725, 20003852 through 20013652 Jade and PS3750, 20002454 through 20005252 Jade. The model number is printed on the nameplate on the side of the drill and the date code is printed on the bottom of the handle where the battery is inserted (remove the battery to locate date code). The recalled units were manufactured in China. Mass merchandisers, home centers and hardware stores nationwide sold the drill/drivers from September 1997 through February 2002 for between \$50 and \$80. The drill/drivers were sold separately and as part of various tool kits.

**Problem:** The drill's switch can malfunction and overheat, posing the possibility of a fire hazard to consumers. Black & Decker has received twenty reports of melting, smoking, or fires in the drills, including two minor burn injuries.

**What to do:** Stop using the drill/drivers immediately, remove the battery, and contact Black & Decker toll-free at **(866) 821-5444** between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday to receive a free repair. For additional information, consumers can log on to the company's Web site at [www.blackanddecker.com](http://www.blackanddecker.com).

### Voltage Testers

**Product:** About 122,000 Ideal Solenoid Voltage Testers by Ideal Industries Inc. These are Ideal voltage and voltage/continuity testers

with model numbers 61-065, 61-066, 61-067, 61-076, 61-079, and 61-080. "IDEAL" and the model number are located on the front of the tester. The tester body is yellow. The wire leads have one black and one red test probe. Recalled units were manufactured between November 1999 and May 2002. Contact Ideal to determine if your electrical tester is included in this recall. The voltage testers were sold at electrical distributors, industrial distributors and home centers nationwide between December 1999 and July 2003 for between \$30 and \$65. The voltage testers were manufactured in the U.S.A. and Canada.

**Problem:** These testers can short out at high voltages. Consumers can suffer burns. Ideal has received 11 reports of these testers shorting out at higher voltages, resulting in the faceplate blowing off the units. Two users were burned when their units reportedly shorted out. One reportedly sustained third-degree burns on his hands, forearms, neck and face, while the other suffered second- and third-degree burns to his hands.

**What to do:** Contact Ideal toll-free at **(877) 557-8598** between 7 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday. Consumers also can access Ideal's Web site at [www.idealindustries.com](http://www.idealindustries.com) to receive a free replacement tester.

### Propane Heaters

**Product:** About 40,400 Timber Creek Propane Heaters by Academy Sports and Outdoors. The heaters have a 6 inch heat reflector and operate with a disposable 16.4-ounce or 14.1-ounce propane tank, sold separately. The product has a chrome neck, a black "on/off" switch, and a black plastic base that houses the propane cylinder. "Academy Sports and Outdoors" stores exclusively sold the heaters in Alabama, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi, Oklahoma, Tennessee and Texas from Sept. 2001 through May 2003 for about \$20. The heaters were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The heaters can emit high levels of carbon monoxide (CO), posing a risk of CO poisoning to consumers if used indoors. No injuries have been reported. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

**What to do:** Return the heaters to any Academy Store for a refund. Consumers can contact Academy stores at **(800) 577-8684** between 8:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at [www.academy.com](http://www.academy.com).

### Electric Blankets

**Product:** About 18,000 SOIREE® and Soft n' Warm® Electric Blankets by Perfect Fit Industries. The recalled electric blankets are the SOIREE® (only those sold at Belk stores) and Soft n' Warm® (only sold at K-mart), both of which were sold in king, queen, full and twin sizes. At Belk, the electric blankets were sold only in ivory color. At K-mart, they were sold in ivory, light blue and hunter green colors. The model name appears on the packaging, but not on the blanket. Both models have a UL warning label and a permanent label that reads "Perfect Fit" and "Shell Made in China. Wired and Closed in U.S.A." The Soft n' Warm® model has a date code ranging from 02228 through 02305 printed on a warning label on the foot of the blanket. K-mart and Belk stores nationwide sold the electric blankets from September 2002 through February 2003 for between \$40 (twin size) and \$200 (king size).

**Problem:** These blankets can overheat, posing a risk of burn injuries to consumers, especially when the blanket is folded or bunched. Perfect Fit is aware of 44 reports of these blankets overheating, resulting in four reports of minor burn injuries. Damage to the blankets and bedding materials also have been reported.

**What to do:** Consumers should unplug the recalled units immediately and call the company at **(877) 882-9478** between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. The firm is providing a free replacement blanket.

— Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

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