



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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ACTING CHAIRMAN

NANCY NORD
COMMISSIONER

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Summer at CPSC

As summer begins, CPSC is busy working on many important issues. We are conducting extensive studies to address concerns raised about drywall. With our newly appropriated funds, we are stepping up our hiring of new employees. We just signed the lease on a new, upgraded laboratory facility that will be operational next year. This will be a very important tool for all our scientific work done to ensure consumer safety. We will soon be opening a CPSC office in Beijing to help improve the safety of consumer products we receive from China.

New leadership is also coming to the agency. President Obama has announced his intent to nominate Inez Moore Tenenbaum as the new Chairman of the CPSC. I am excited for the arrival of a new



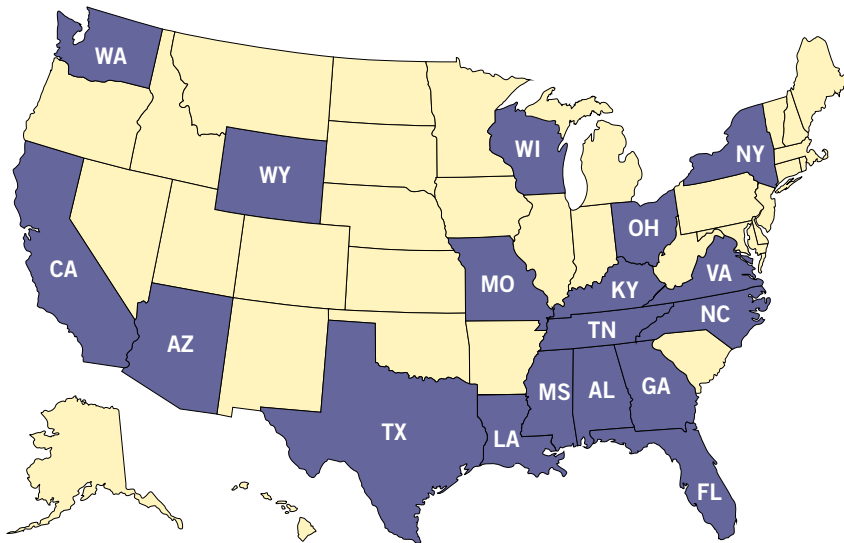
Chairman and to facilitate the transition in leadership, we have voted to make my fellow Commissioner, Thomas Moore, the Acting Chairman as of June 1. I will finish out my term at the CPSC as a Commissioner until 2012. It has been a true pleasure serving as the Acting Chairman of this agency for the past three years. I look forward to continue working to protect American consumers for years to come.

Nancy Nord
Commissioner



Drywall Concerns

Since December 2008, CPSC has received more than 265 reports from residents in 18 states and the District of Columbia who believe their health symptoms or the corrosion of certain metal components in their homes are related to issues with their drywall. State and local authorities have also received similar reports.



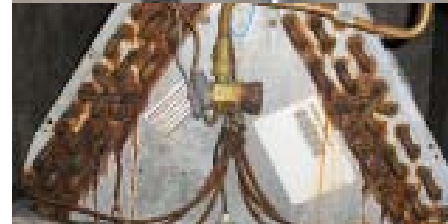
Consumers largely report that their homes were built from 2006 to 2007, when an unprecedented increase in new construction occurred in part due to the hurricanes of 2004 and 2005.

CPSC, together with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), is moving aggressively to use all available resources and expertise to fully investigate this serious matter and find solutions. We also are working with State and local authorities to coordinate our response.

The investigation is on three tracks: (1) evaluation of the relationship between the drywall and the reported health symptoms to perform a thorough health risk assessment; (2) evaluation of the relationship between the drywall and electrical and fire safety issues in the home; and (3) compliance and field operations collecting, analyzing and investigating incident reports. In addition, CPSC is tracing the origin and distribution of the drywall, working closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection, as well as continuing communications and joint efforts with our counterpart agency in China. CPSC will keep the public informed about our progress as we work to find solutions to this problem.



For more information or to report problem drywall, visit this new Web resource:
www.cpsc.gov/info/drywall



Consumers have reported:

- A “rotten egg” smell within their homes.
- Health concerns such as irritated and itchy eyes and skin, difficulty breathing, persistent cough, bloody noses, runny noses, recurrent headaches, sinus infections and asthma attacks.
- Blackened and/or corroded metal components (see example pictured above) in electrical components (wiring, faceplates, etc.), plumbing, air conditioning units and appliances.



CPSC's Early Warning System Saves Lives

From microwaves to cell phones to airplanes, technology has enhanced the quality of our everyday living. Many people remain divided in their beliefs of whether the overall effect of technology on society is good or bad. For CPSC, it's a no brainer. With thousands of products to monitor for consumer safety, technology has enhanced CPSC's ability to save lives.

One example of technology's life-saving capability is the creation of the Early Warning System (EWS). This initiative (see inset box) was launched in 2007 to identify emerging product safety hazard patterns more quickly and effectively.

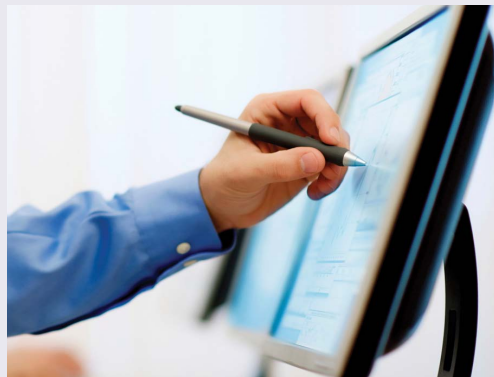
The Early Warning System relies on the integration of timely input from subject matter experts and electronic assessment tools. This synergy of people, processes and technology enables CPSC staff to rapidly identify emerging hazards. Recently, the success of the system has led to millions of products being recalled.

Following the success of the EWS in identifying hazards in cribs, bassinets and play yards, CPSC is looking to expand the use of new technologies to address emerging hazards in other product areas.

So while technology may not solve all the ills of society, CPSC is taking advantage of technology to fulfill its critical mission to protect consumers.

CPSC's Early Warning System Provides:

- Timely surveillance of incoming and historic incident reports
- Application of rule-based outcomes
- Collaborative electronic progress monitoring





New Additions to the CPSC Team

HELP WANTED: Are you a unique fusion of expertise mixed with creativity and passion? Do you strive to work for the benefit of others? Can you contribute to a highly-skilled team determined to make a difference in the safety of children?

For several recently-hired employees of America’s product safety watchdog, these questions stir a deep-rooted call to serve. Meet five CPSC “up-and-comers”. While very different in what they do, they share a strong desire to put their unique talents to work on challenging public safety issues.



“One of the reasons I decided to work here was CPSC’s mission of protecting the public, especially children, from unsafe products.”
— *Shelly Ziemer*
Operations Research Analyst



“My goal was to find a job that was challenging, exciting, and rewarding. I really didn’t think a job like that existed, but luckily, I was surprisingly wrong. I walk into CPSC every day, grateful that I have a job that requires only the best from its employees. At the end of the day, I know I am making a difference, and to me, that is a very rewarding feeling.”
— *Saba Tesfazion, Compliance Officer*

“I came to work for CPSC because it had all the components for a good job: interesting work, good atmosphere, the ability to make a difference. Being here has lived up to all my expectations. And I certainly like hearing other people tell me ‘at least your job sounds cool!’”
— *Matt Dreyfus, Ph.D., Chemist*



“Ideally, I wanted to work at an agency that dealt with public health and safety issues. For me this is the perfect fit – I love working on issues that affect consumers’ lives. I realized lately that I have gotten into the habit of checking my home for recalled products. My family likes to tease me about this, but I know they secretly appreciate it!”
— *Renee Haslett, Attorney*



“I came to CPSC looking for a job that offered me opportunities to interact with the public and help make a difference. Every day brings something new. I look forward to growing in the Commission and gaining useful knowledge along the way.”
— *Karina Salgado-Rivera, Field Investigator*



For these five and the other 450 scientists, engineers, lawyers and professionals at CPSC, a day at the office takes on new meaning as their work may prevent injuries and deaths from hazardous consumer products. Working in a place where “safety” is quite literally the Agency’s middle name means taking your work to a personal level. CPSCers wouldn’t have it any other way.



RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Fitness Balls Recalled by EB Brands Due to Fall Hazard; New Assembly Instructions Provided

Name of Product: Bally Total Fitness, Everlast, Valeo and Body Fit Fitness Balls

Units: About 3 million

Manufacturer: EB Brands, of Yonkers, New York

Hazard: An overinflated fitness ball can unexpectedly burst while in use, causing the user to fall to the floor.

Incidents/Injuries: EB Brands has received 47 reports of fitness balls unexpectedly bursting, including reports of a fracture, and multiple bruises.

Description: This recall involves rubber fitness balls sold in 55-, 65- and 75-cm diameter sizes. The fitness balls were sold with a pump and inflation instructions. The fitness balls were sold in various colors with the Bally Total Fitness, Everlast or Valeo logo printed on the ball.

Sold at: Department stores and fitness retailers nationwide from May 2000 to February 2009 for between \$15 and \$30.

Remedy: Consumers should contact EB Brands to receive a copy of the updated instructions on how to safely inflate the ball.

For additional information, contact EB Brands at (800) 624-5671 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or visit the firm's Web site at www.ebbrands.com.



SIGN UP for recalls



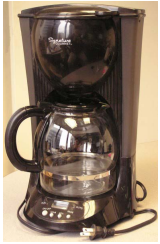
Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it's fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there's a recall, you'll know about it.

SIGN UP NOW



CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Coffeemakers

Atico International USA Inc., of Fort Lauderdale, Florida, is recalling about 500,000 Signature Gourmet™ 12-Cup Programmable Coffeemakers and Kitchen Gourmet® 10-Cup Coffeemakers. These coffeemakers can ignite due to an electrical failure, posing a fire hazard.



Athletic Cups

Under Armour Inc., of Baltimore, Maryland, is recalling about 211,000 Under Armour Athletic Cups. The cups can break if hit, posing a risk of serious injury to athletes.



Women's Shoes

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Arkansas, is recalling about 200,000 pairs of Women's Shoes. Heels on the shoes can easily detach, posing a fall hazard to consumers.



Chenille Robes

Blair LLC, of Warren, Pennsylvania, is recalling about 162,000 Full Length Women's Chenille Robes. Some robes fail to meet federal flammability requirements and present a risk of serious burns to consumers if they are exposed to an open flame.



One-Cup Coffeemakers

Philips Consumer Lifestyle, of Stamford, Connecticut, is recalling about 155,000 Philips Senseo One-Cup Coffeemakers. An electrical fault and the build-up of calcium from hard or medium water can cause an obstruction in the coffeemaker. If this happens, the boiler can burst, posing a burn hazard to consumers.



Toaster Oven/Broilers

Haier America Trading LLC, of New York, New York, is recalling about 106,000 Toaster Oven/Broilers. Electrical connections in the toaster oven/broilers can become loose, posing electrical shock and burn hazards.



Cribs

Jardine Enterprises, of Taipei, Taiwan, is recalling about 96,000 Jardine Cribs (320,000 units were previously recalled in June 2008 and 56,450 units were recalled in January 2009). The wooden crib slats can break, creating a gap, which can pose an entrapment and strangulation hazard to infants and toddlers.



Stud Sensors

The Stanley Works, of New Britain, Connecticut, and Solarwide Industrial Ltd., of Hong Kong, are recalling about 78,000 Stanley® Stud Sensors 200 and Stanley® FatMax® Stud Sensors 400. The stud sensor can fail to calibrate properly and detect AC electrical wires behind the wall, posing a shock hazard to the user.



Children's Shoes

Pagoda International Footwear Ltd., of Hong Kong, is recalling about 73,000 (distributed in the United States) and 18,000 (distributed in Canada) pairs of CARS Fleece Clog Children's Shoes. The shoe has four decorative wheels that can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Toy Maracas

Tupperware U.S. Inc., of Orlando, Florida, is recalling about 44,000 Shape-O Toy Maracas. The maracas can break and expose small parts, posing a choking hazard to young children. In addition, the handle poses a suffocation hazard to young children.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.