



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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Preventing Child Drownings

Drowning is the second leading cause of death from unintentional injuries to children under 5 years old. Only motor vehicle crashes kill more children.

Drowning prevention is one of CPSC's strategic goals. By 2013, CPSC hopes to reduce drownings of children under 5 by 10% from recent levels for swimming pools and other at-home incidents.

To accomplish this goal, a number of strategies will be used. These include: public hearings, voluntary standards, model building codes, revised barrier and entrapment guidelines, educational campaigns, and data collection and analysis. (For more information about the public hearings on swimming pool safety, please go to www.cpsc.gov.)

Swimming Pools

From 1999 to 2001, an average of 242 children under 5 drowned in swimming pools each year. In 2003, approximately 1,800 children under 5 were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for near-drowning injuries related to swimming pools. About 69% of these children were hospitalized or further treated.

About 58% of the near-drowning injuries were reported to have occurred at home swimming pools. Approximately 11% were reported to have occurred in public or recreational pools. For about 30% of the incidents, no location was reported.

continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE

Preventing Child Drownings.....	1
Neighborhood Safety Network.....	1
Child-Resistant Packaging..	4
ATVs.....	5
Portable Fans.....	6
Reporting Form.....	7
MECAP News.....	8
CPSC Recalls.....	10

Neighborhood Safety Network

CPSC is launching the Neighborhood Safety Network to help get lifesaving information to groups of people who don't always hear about CPSC's safety messages. These groups include the elderly, urban and rural low-income families, and some minorities.

The Neighborhood Safety Network is developing a grassroots e-mail list and will provide monthly safety messages (like posters and publications) and recall information to local, state, and national organizations. In turn, these groups will share this information directly with their members and constituents.

Some organizations that have committed already to participating in the Network include: Meals on Wheels, Boys and Girls Clubs of America, U.S. Health and Human Services, Indian Health Services, and the National SAFE KIDS Campaign.

If your organization would like to be part of the Neighborhood Safety Network, please go to CPSC's homepage at www.cpsc.gov and enter your contact information. By doing so, your group will join in the campaign to share lifesaving safety information with those who may not be aware of the many hazards that exist in and around the home.

In-Depth Study

In the late 1980s, CPSC staff examined submersion incidents to children under 5 in residential swimming pools in eight counties in California, Arizona, and Florida. The general characteristics of recent child drownings are likely to be similar to those in the original study.

Most victims were boys between 1 and 3 years old. In the majority of cases (77%), the young victims had been missing five minutes or less when they were found.

Almost half of the victims had been seen last inside the house, while 23% had been seen last outside on the porch or patio or in the yard. Most of the victims (69%) were not expected to be in or at the pool.

About 65% of the incidents occurred at pools owned by the victims' immediate families. Another 33% of the incidents occurred at pools owned by relatives or friends. Fewer than 2% of the incidents were due to trespassing.

The societal costs of drownings and near-drownings associated with swimming pools are substantial, at al-

continued on page 3

Baby Bath Seats

CPSC has reports of 106 drowning deaths and 163 non-fatal incidents involving baby bath seats from January 1983 to October 2003. The three major hazard scenarios included: tipover of the bath seats; children becoming entrapped and submerged in the leg openings; and children climbing out of the bath seats.

To address these problems, CPSC voted unanimously last year to propose a federal mandatory rule for baby bath seats to help prevent drownings. The regulation, if adopted would, in effect, end the old-style baby bath seats that adhere to the tub bottom with suction cups. Industry also is working on a voluntary standard that would incorporate the same provisions.

The comment period for the proposed rule closed in March 2004. CPSC will consider these comments and other information before deciding whether to issue a final rule.

Suction Drain Entrapments

Suction drain entrapments involving hair or body parts are another cause of death or injury involving spas, swimming pools, and wading pools.

Hair Entrapment

From January 1990 through October 2003, CPSC has reports of 40 cases where a female's hair became entangled in a pool or spa drain. Eleven of these incidents resulted in death.

The ages of the victims ranged from 4 to 42, with the median age 9. Most were younger than 15.

Twenty-six of the incidents occurred at home, 12 were at public facilities, and the location is unknown in two incidents. Four incidents occurred in a pool, and the other 36 occurred in spas, hot tubs, or whirlpools.

Body Entrapment

From January 1990 through October 2003, there were 73 cases reported where a body part was sucked into or onto a spa or pool drain. Twelve of the incidents resulted in death.

The ages of the victims ranged from 22 months to 89 years, with the median age 9. Seventy-seven percent were under 15.

Twenty-two of the incidents occurred at home, 30 were at public facilities, and the location is unknown in 21 incidents. Thirty-one occurred in pools, 38 occurred in spas, hot tubs, or whirlpools, three occurred in wading pools, and in one case the product is unknown.

From January 1990 through October 2003, there were two cases reported as disembowelment; neither victim died, but their injuries were severe. One case was a 3-year-old male in 1995; the other was a 5-year-old female in 1993. Both incidents occurred in public wading pools.

Other or Unknown Entrapment

There were nine cases of drain entrapment, including two deaths, where what was caught in the drain is unknown. There were two cases where something the person was wearing caught in the drain. One case was a 43-year-old woman whose necklace was caught. The other case was a 21-year-old man whose shorts were caught. Both received minor injuries.

most \$2 billion each year. Near-drowning can result in severe brain damage, with heavy impacts on families.

At-Home Drownings

From 1996 through 1999, CPSC staff is aware of 459 children under age 5 who died from drowning or complications of near-drowning in products found in and around the home. This is a minimum count of deaths and is in addition to drownings associated with swimming pools.

Bathtubs

The most frequent cause of child drownings in the

home is submersion in bathtubs. From 1996 through 1999, CPSC has reports of 292 children under 5 who died from drowning in bathtubs. In many instances, the child was reported to have been left unsupervised while in the bathtub.

The majority of the children were in the bathtub without a bathing aid. In 29 of the bathtub drowning incidents, the victims reportedly were in baby bath seats (see *Baby Bath Seats, page 2*). Children younger than 1 year old were most frequently involved in fatal bathtub drowning incidents, constituting just over half of the bathtub fatalities of children under 5.

continued on page 4

Keeping Kids Safe Around Water at Home

There are many things parents and caregivers can do to help protect children from drowning – whether it's a swimming pool outside the home or a bathtub indoors.

Swimming Pool Safety

The key to preventing drownings around swimming pools includes placing barriers completely around the pool, closely supervising young children, and being prepared in case of emergency. Be sure to take the following steps.

- Never leave a child alone near water. A child can drown in the few minutes it takes to answer the telephone. Drownings occur quickly and silently, often without any splashing or screaming.
- Flotation devices are never to be used as a substitute for supervision. Also, knowing how to swim doesn't make a child drown-proof.
- If a child is missing, always look first in the pool. Seconds count in preventing death or disability..
- If your house forms one side of the barrier for the pool, doors leading from the house to the pool should be protected with alarms that produce an audible sound when a door is unexpectedly opened. A power safety cover – a motor-powered barrier that can be placed over the water area – can be used as an alternative to door alarms.
- Be sure to install physical barriers around the pool to limit access. Fences and walls should be at least 4-feet high and installed completely around the pool. Gates should be self-closing and self-latching. The latch should be out of a small child's reach.
- For above-ground pools, steps and ladders to the pool should be secured and locked or removed from the pool when it is not in use.

- Keep rescue equipment by the pool. Be sure a phone is poolside with emergency numbers posted. Parents and other caregivers who know cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) can greatly improve a drowning victim's chances for survival.

At-Home Drowning Prevention Tips

- Never leave a baby alone in a bathtub for even a second. Always keep the baby within arm's reach. Don't leave the baby in the care of another young child. Never leave to answer the phone, answer the door, to get a towel, or for any other reason. If you must leave, take the baby with you.
- A baby bath seat is not a substitute for supervision. A bath seat is a bathing aid, not a safety device. Never use a baby bath seat with suction cups in a nonskid, slip-resistant bathtub or in one that has slip-resistant safety strips or decals. This is because the suction cups will not adhere to the bathtub surface or can detach unexpectedly.
- Never leave unattended a bucket containing even a small amount of liquid. When finished using a bucket, always empty it immediately. Store buckets where young children cannot reach them. Buckets left outside to collect rainwater are a hazard.
- Consider placing latches on bathroom doors out of reach of young children. This limits children's access to water.
- To prevent children from gaining access to spas or hot tubs when not in use, firmly secure safety covers and barriers.
- Learn cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR). It can be a lifesaver when seconds count.

Child-Resistant Aspirin Packaging

Child-resistant packaging of aspirin bottles is responsible for reducing aspirin-related deaths in children by about one-third, according to a recent study by CPSC economist, Dr. Gregory B. Rodgers. The study is excerpted below. (The complete article can be found in the Archives of Pediatric and Adolescent Medicine 2002;156:929-933.)

During the 1950s and 1960s, aspirin constituted a substantial poisoning hazard for children. From 1958 through 1963, for example, there was an average of about 120 fatal aspirin poisonings annually that involved children under age 5. These poisonings accounted for just over 25% of all fatal child poisonings involving the ingestion of solids and liquids, and almost two-thirds of fatal poisonings involving drugs.

Concern over the high incidence of aspirin poisonings provided strong impetus for the enactment of the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) of 1970, an act designed to protect children under the age of 5 from poisonings caused by the unintentional ingestion of hazardous household substances.

The PPPA authorizes CPSC to issue regulations requiring the use of special child-resistant (CR) packaging

on toxic substances used in or around the home. Aspirin was the first product covered by the new law; regulations requiring the use of child-resistant packaging for aspirin-containing products became effective on 14 August 1972. Testing protocol required that at least 80% of children under age 5 be unable to open the safety packages within a specified time...

After peaking at more than 7 deaths per million children under age 5 in the early 1960s, the aspirin-related child mortality rate declined substantially; by 1990, the

continued on page 6

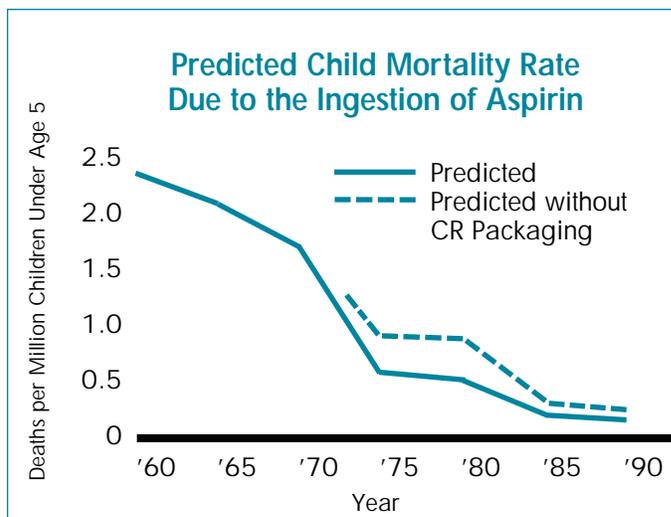


Figure 1

Drowning *cont. from p.3*

Spas and Hot Tubs

From 1996 through 1999, CPSC is aware of 55 children under 5 who died as a result of drowning or near-drowning in residential spas or hot tubs. Almost half of these children were between 12 months and 23 months old. Where information is known, the children reportedly accessed the spas and hot tubs through open gates, broken gates, and sliding glass doors.

Buckets and Other Products

During these years, CPSC has reports of 58 children under 5 who drowned or died of complications related to near-drowning after falling into 5-gallon buckets. All of the children were 18 months or younger when the incident occurred.

From 1996 through 1999, 16 children under 5 drowned in household toilets. All incidents involved children under 3, usually falling headfirst into the toilet.

During this period, 38 children under 5 drowned in other products around the home. These included buck-

ets other than 5-gallon buckets, sinks, water coolers, garbage cans, and other products.

CPSC Actions

CPSC staff has long believed that barriers and layers of protection can provide additional time for adults to intervene and prevent children's submersion incidents. In 1994, CPSC published *Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools*. In addition, CPSC staff has studied pool alarms and worked on voluntary standards for fencing, pool and spa safety covers, door alarms, and pool alarms. Every year, CPSC also disseminates information on child drowning prevention to the public.

In 1998, CPSC published *Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer*. These guidelines provide safety information to help identify and address potential suction entrapment hazards in swimming pools, wading pools, spas, and hot tubs. CPSC staff is working to update these *Guidelines*.

In addition, CPSC staff is working to develop or revise voluntary standards for suction fittings and safety

continued on page 5

ATVs

Deaths and injuries associated with all-terrain vehicles (ATVs) have shown an increasing trend in the last several years.

ATV-Related Deaths

At the end of 2002, CPSC had reports of 5,239 ATV-related deaths that had occurred since 1982. This was an increase of 698 deaths from 2001. These additional reported deaths occurred during the years 1999 to 2002. Of these reported fatalities, about one-third were children under 16 years old. Fourteen percent were under 12.

ATV-Related Injuries

In 2002, an estimated 113,900 people were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for ATV-related injuries. This was about a 3% increase over 2001 (*Figure 2*).

The 2002 estimate represents a statistically significant increase over the estimates from the years 1997 to 2000. This increase is not fully explained by an increase in the number of ATVs in use. Broken out by age groups, those 45 to 54 years old showed the greatest percentage increase in injuries between 2001 and 2002. Injuries in this group increased by 55% in that one year.

In the under-16 age group, injuries increased by 8% during that period. A slight increase was also seen in the 35 to 44 age group. The injuries in the 16 to 24 and the 55 and older age groups decreased by 3%. The 25 to 34 age group showed virtually no change.

— Robin Ingle, Directorate for Epidemiology

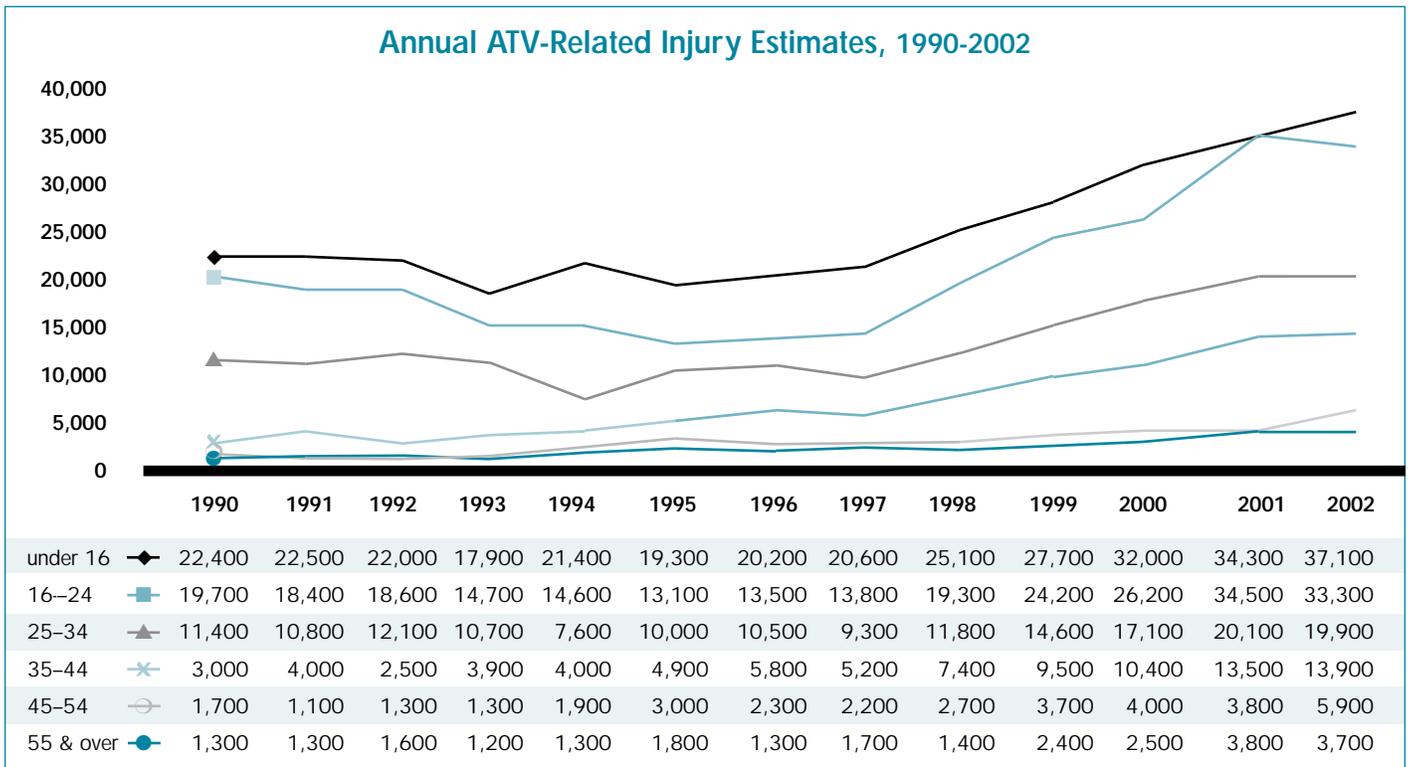


Figure 2

Drowning cont. from p.4

vacuum release systems (SVRS). CPSC also has provided the public with information about suction entrapments and how to prevent them.

Jacqueline Elder, Hazard Identification and Reduction, and Deborah Tinsworth, George W. Rutherford, Jr., Debra Sweet, and Natalie Marcy, Directorate for Epidemiology, CPSC, provided the information on drowning hazards for this article.

For More Information

For more on drowning prevention, including CPSC's publications *Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools* and *Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer*, please go to www.cpsc.gov.

Portable Electric Fans

Portable electric fans were involved in an estimated 4,500 residential fires attended by fire departments from 1990 through 1998. These fires resulted in about 270 civilian injuries, more than 20 deaths, and about \$55 million in property losses.

Portable fans are cord-connected appliances that can be easily moved from place to place. Examples include box fans, window fans, desk/table fans, pedestal/floor fans, and clip-on fans, among others.

In-depth Study

To gain a better understanding of these fires, CPSC staff reviewed 316 portable fan-related incidents that occurred between January 1990 and December 2003. Fire was the major hazard and accounted for over 80% of the total incidents. Over one-half of the fire incidents occurred in single-family homes, most often in bedrooms. Box fans, desk/table fans, and pedestal/floor fans were involved in about 65% of the total incidents.

Aspirin Packaging cont. from p.4

mortality rate was less than 0.1 deaths per million....The use of child-resistant packaging played a role in this reduction.... (Figure 1, page 4).

Comments

This study supports the conclusion that child-resistant packaging has played an important role in reducing the aspirin-related child death rate. After controlling for several extraneous and confounding variables that also affected the poisoning rate, child-resistant packaging was still estimated to have reduced the aspirin-related mortality rate by about 34%, relative to levels that would have been projected in the absence of child-resistant packaging. This 34% reduction equates to about 90 fewer child deaths during the 1973-1990 post-regulatory study period....

The results of this study are consistent with those of a recent analysis which found that the use of child-resistant packaging for oral prescription drugs reduced the mortality rate by about 45% from levels that would have been predicted in the absence of child-resistant packaging. The similarity of these findings supports those of the present study and provides additional evidence that child-resistant packaging is an effective countermeasure to unintentional child poisonings.

A common scenario was an overheated fan that ignited nearby combustibles, such as piles of paper or carpeting. This was especially true for fans with plastic components, which melted and dripped on the object.

The failures associated with portable fans were related to the fan motors, appliance power cords, and switches. Some motors failed when they overheated (because the fan blades jammed or the motors seized up). The fan power cords failed when cords had short circuits or insulation breakdowns; when the cords were crushed, damaged, exposed, or improperly repaired; or the oscillating motion caused a sharp edge on the fans to rub off the cord insulation. Some switches failed due to electrical faults in the switches.

Several hazards associated with portable electric fans were identified. These included: fire and potential fire (295 incidents), electrocution (15 incidents), electric shock (4 incidents), and other electrical hazards (2 incidents). In addition, CPSC staff looked at the following factors.

Fan Age: According to *Appliance*, a trade publication, the average life expectancy of an electric fan is 11 years. This is considered “first use,” after which the product may be replaced, given away, or discarded. Of the 316 portable fan-related incidents that were investigated, 150 of the involved fans were less than 10 years old. Just over half of the involved fans had been purchased new or could be considered as “first use.”

Fan Material: In general, the presence of plastic components was a contributing factor to the portable fan-related fires or potential fires. Nearly 3 out of every 4 fire or potential fire incidents involved fans with some plastic parts. When fans with plastic blades, motor housing, or enclosures overheated or caught fire, the plastic usually melted and dripped onto combustible materials such as carpeting, clothing, bedding, or paper.

Fan Placement: Location of the fans played a significant role in the fire incidents. Overheated fans on carpeted floors or on piles of papers or clothing resulted in ignition of these combustible objects. Overheating also occurred when fans were mounted in windows or on window sills with curtains or window blinds, and the curtains or blinds sometimes jammed the fan blades, causing the motor to stall. Placing unstable fans on tables or desks or clipping them to desks or foot boards of beds sometimes caused the fans to fall face down and stop the oscillating function of the fans — leading to possible overheating and fire.

— *Risana T. Chowdhury, Directorate for Epidemiology*

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

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

To report a case or ask for information about MECAP, please call our toll-free number, 1-800-638-8095, or our toll-free fax number, 1-800-809-0924, or send a message via Internet to 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, October and November of 2003, 1,083 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, 12 months, was placed into a crib for a nap before his first birthday party. A curtain and its tieback from a nearby window were inside the crib. A few minutes later, the mother found the child unresponsive with the tieback around his neck. The father was trained in CPR and began resuscitation immediately. Emergency personnel arrived and continued resuscitation efforts. They rushed the child to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was ligature strangulation.

(John Kraemer, P.A., for Dennis F. Klein, M.D., Deputy State Medical Examiner, Des Moines, IA)

*A male, 3 months, was placed in a playpen by his grandmother for his night's sleep. A cushion from a couch was used as his mattress. The grandmother checked the next morning to find the child unresponsive between the side of the playpen and the couch cushion. CPR was initiated and continued by rescue personnel, who rushed the child to the hospital. He was pronounced dead in the emergency room. The cause of death was positional asphyxia. (Anna Chang for Elizabeth K. Balraj, M.D., Coroner, Cuyahoga County, Cleveland, OH)

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

*A female, 44, and a male, 40, were found unresponsive in the basement bedroom of their home. Fire investigators found corrosion and holes in the vent pipes of a propane boiler that heated the home. Because of cold and windy weather, the boiler had been operating for an extended period. This produced high levels of carbon monoxide (CO) that the wind forced back into the basement. The home had no CO detectors, and the boiler had not been properly installed or adequately maintained. The cause of death was CO intoxication.

(Lorraine Siciliano for Stephen P. Adams, M.D., Deputy Chief Medical Examiner, Burlington, VT)

*A male, 13, was found unresponsive in his bed at home. Other family members were awakened and rescued by relatives who forcibly entered the home. Emergency personnel arrived soon after and took the other family members to the hospital. A modification to an air vent for the home's natural gas water heater had caused a negative airflow. This caused the water heater's CO to vent into the home. The home had no CO detectors, and family members had experienced flu-like symptoms for a week prior to the incident. The cause of death was CO exposure.

(Erik Krag Mitchell, District Coroner, Douglas County, Lawrence, KS)

DROWNINGS

*A female, 7 months, was placed in a bathtub by her mother for her evening bath. The telephone rang, and the mother went to answer it. The mother returned about five minutes later to find the child floating face down in the water. The mother pulled her child from the bathtub, and the child's father initiated resuscitation until paramedics arrived. The child was rushed to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

(Clair L. Hudspeth, RN, Medical Examiner, Cumberland County, Fayetteville, NC)

A female, 1, was being watched by her grandmother while several other children were in the house. The grandmother went upstairs to take a shower, and the toddler was not seen for about 15 minutes. One of the other children found the child at the bottom of the pool and removed her. A policeman responded to an emergency call and initiated resuscitation until emergency personnel arrived. The child never responded to resuscitation efforts. The cause of death was drowning.

(Staci Wilcox for Lisa DeNardo, Deputy Coroner, San Bernardino County, San Bernardino, CA)

*A female, 8 months, was placed in a bed for her nap by her 11-year-old aunt. The door of the bedroom was left open. The aunt later went to the bathroom. She found the child face down in the tub, with water in it from a previous bath. The child

was removed from the bathtub, and emergency personnel were called. The child's grandmother initiated resuscitation efforts with the guidance of the 911 operator. Emergency personnel took the child to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning. (Janice J. Hessling, M.D., Medical Examiner, Guilford County, Greensboro, NC)

A female, 2, and her family were visiting relatives for a family gathering. The child was found unresponsive on the bottom of a bubbling hot tub after she had not been seen for about 15 minutes. The family started chest compressions, and emergency personnel continued resuscitation. She was rushed to a hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning. (Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

*A male, 1, and his sister, 3, were playing with a 5-gallon paint bucket outside their home on a hot day. Their mother had put a few inches of water into the bucket to help the children cool off. The mother went into the house for a short time to prepare some food for the older child. When she went back outside, she found her son upside down inside the bucket. Emergency personnel were called, and the child was rushed to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The bucket's drowning hazard warning label was old, faded, and partially covered by white paint. The cause of death was freshwater drowning. (Gregory A. Schmunck, M.D., Coroner, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA)

*A female, 2, was playing in the backyard with her father. The family had moved into the house two days earlier. The backyard had a swimming pool that had not been maintained and contained dirty water with leaves and mud. The father went into the house to get sunglasses, and a short time later, the mother found the child lying face down in the pool. Resuscitative measures were initiated, and the child was taken to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead two days later. The cause of death was drowning. (Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

A female, 3, was put to bed for a nap by her mother. The mother secured the room with a child-security gate and went to take a nap with another younger daughter. The mother woke up a short time later to find that the security gate was knocked over, and her daughter was not in her room. The mother searched for her and found the daughter face down in the family's small inflatable swimming pool. The cause of death was asphyxiation by wet drowning. (Matthew A. Houghton, Jr., D.O., Medical Examiner, Leelanau County, Glen Arbor, MI)

ELECTROCUTIONS

A female, 11, went into the bathroom to take a shower. Thinking she had been in there a long time, her sister went to check on her. She found her sister unresponsive with an electric razor in her hand. CPR was initiated, then continued by paramedics who rushed the victim to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The razor's cord had been too short to reach the bathtub, and the child had used an extension cord to take the razor into the bathtub. The cause of death was electrocution. (Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

A male, 77, was found unresponsive in a small crawl space in his basement. He had emailed his daughter that he was going to work on recent flood damage to his home. He had been repairing a sump pump while lying on a water-covered gravel floor. The cause of death was electrocution. (Lisa J. Kohler, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Summit County, Akron, OH)

FIRES

*A male, 2, and his family were visiting with another family on the Fourth of July. The child fell asleep, so he was placed on a sofa for a nap while the parents and other children played with sparklers. Another child went into the back of the house, where he said he lit a sparkler in the laundry room. One of the parents found the child and brought him back outside. Soon afterwards, the lights in the home went out, and a fire was visible inside. Another adult inside the home was rescued, but efforts to save the 2-year-old failed. The

home was completely destroyed. The cause of death was thermal burns and smoke inhalation. (John Rosbury for Gregory V. Scott, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, District Two, Tallahassee, FL)

*A female, 48, was using gasoline to remove adhesive from a newly-laid tile floor. The vapors from the gasoline were ignited by the pilot light of the water heater or the furnace, and a fire erupted. The woman managed to crawl outside her home, where a neighbor found her on fire. The neighbor used a blanket to put out the fire on the woman. Emergency personnel responded and transported the woman to a hospital, where she died eight days later. The cause of death was thermal injury. (Yung A. Chung, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Wayne County, Detroit, MI)

MISCELLANEOUS

*A male, 15, was disassembling his new paintball gun after using it with his friends. His friends heard a hissing sound and then a "pop." The carbon dioxide container that powered the paintball gun had detached and struck the teenager above his eye, causing a frontal head injury. He fell to the ground. A public safety official was at the scene and administered first aid while emergency personnel were called. They transported the boy to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead five days later. The cause of death was skull fractures and cerebral contusions. (Nabila A. Haikal, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, King County, Seattle, WA)

A male, 12, was driving an ATV at a high rate of speed on a private one-lane gravel road. He lost control of the ATV, struck a roadside ditch, and the ATV turned over on top of him. The boy was discovered by a neighbor who called police. Emergency personnel transported the boy to a hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries. (Elizabeth Frank for Gregory P. Wanger, Assistant Chief Medical Examiner, Western district, Roanoke, VA)

— *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.

Children's Rings

Product: About 1 million children's rings by Brand Imports LLC. The metal rings are silver in color with shapes including hearts and stars, with slashes of colored paint. The rings were sold at vending machines in malls and discount department and grocery stores nationwide from December 2002 through August 2003 for about 25 cents. The rings were made in India.

Problem: The rings contain high levels of lead, posing a risk of lead poisoning to young children. No incidents or injuries were reported.

What to do: Throw the ring away or contact the company for more information. Consumers can contact Brand Imports LLC at (800) 967-3048 between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

Fitness Machines

Product: About 420,000 Bowflex fitness machines by Nautilus Direct (doing business as Bowflex). The recall addressed two safety issues. First, while being used in the incline position, the machine's backboard bench can unexpectedly collapse and break, posing a risk of injury to the user. Second, the "Lat Tower" can rotate forward and fall during use, posing a risk of injury to the user. The recalled fitness machines are the Bowflex Power Pro XL, XTL and XTLU systems with the "Lat Tower" attachment. The "Lat Tower" attaches to the back of the bench and has pull-down pulleys attached. The name "Bowflex" and the model name are printed on the front of the machine. The machine has 10 to 14 resistance rods that extend about 48-inches high and a backboard bench that is about 36-inches long. The recalled fitness machines were made in China, Taiwan and the U.S.A. Infomercials and specialized retail stores nationwide sold the fitness machines from January 1995 through December 2003 for between \$1,200 and \$1,600.

Problem: Nautilus Direct and CPSC have received at least 70 reports of the backboard benches breaking, resulting in at least 59 back, neck and shoulder injuries. Nautilus Direct has received at least 18 reports of the "Lat Tower" rotating forward and falling, resulting in at least 14 back, neck, shoulder, teeth, nose and head injuries, some of which required stitches.

What to do: Stop using the backboard bench in the incline position and "Lat Tower" on the fitness machines immediately and contact Nautilus Direct toll-free at (888) 424-3020 anytime to receive a free repair kit that will address both issues. Nautilus is contacting owners of affected machines by direct mail where the name is known to the firm. For more information, consumers can log on to the company's Web site at www.bowflex.com.

Bumble Bee Toys

Product: About 398,000 Bumble Bee Toys by Graco Children's Products, Inc. The recall involves Bumble Bee Toys with blue antennae sold with certain Graco high chairs and Graco mobile entertainers, and also sold separately as an accessory and replacement part. All Bumble Bee toys with blue antennae distributed by Graco are included in this recall. Specifically, Bumble Bee toys with blue antennae were distributed with Graco High Chair model numbers 3656CUB, 3658FKB, 3659KER, 3659NGS, 3660WNN and 35605 manufactured between July 22, 2002 and March 9, 2003, and Graco Tot Wheels Mobile Entertainer models 4522OTM, 4522TOTM, 4521ALP, 35628 and 4512FUN manufactured between November 8, 2001 and March 9, 2003. Bumble Bee toys with blue antennae were also distributed separately as an accessory and a replacement part with model number 548094S. Bumble Bee toys with yellow or black antennae are not affected. Discount, department and juvenile product stores sold the toys from November 2001 through March 2003 on high chairs and mobile entertainers for between \$39 and \$89, and individually, as accessories, for \$5. The toy was made in China.

Problem: The blue antennae on the Bumble Bee toy can break, posing a choking hazard to young children. Graco has received 26 reports of the antennae breaking off the Bumble Bee toys, including five reports of children who started to choke on the broken antennae. One child's throat was scratched when the child's mother removed the broken antenna from the child's mouth.

What to do: Discard immediately any Bumble Bee toys with blue antennae and contact Graco at (800) 258-3213 anytime to receive a free replacement toy.

Footballs

Product: About 294,000 NERF® Big Play Football™ by Hasbro Inc. The NERF® Big Play Football™ is a red and silver NERF football with a silver flip-open top that reveals an erasable writing pad to plan football plays in the center of the ball. The NERF name, an NFL logo and a large black "X" are on the silver region of the football. Mike Vick's signature in red also is written on the football, and his photo is on the packaging. Toys R Us, Wal-Mart, Target, KB Toys stores and other toy retailers sold the football nationwide from August 2003 to January 2004 for about \$10. The football was made in China.

Problem: The football contains a hard plastic interior frame that can pose a risk of facial cuts if a child is hit during play. There have been nine reports of facial injuries, including eight requiring stitches or medical attention.

What to do: Stop using this football immediately and return it to the company for a replacement NERF product of equal value. Hasbro will provide consumers with a postage-prepaid label to return the product. Consumers can contact Hasbro, Inc. at (866) 637-3244 anytime, or go to www.nerf.com.

Drill Charger Bases

Product: About 180,000 Wagner cordless drill charger bases by Wagner Spray Tech Corp. This recall includes 9.6-volt, 10.8-volt, 12-volt, 14.4-volt and 18-volt Wagner drill charger bases. The drills were sold in black and grey, and have the name "Wagner" printed on them. Model numbers involved in the recall are: W96DK, W108DK, W120DK, WB96, WB120, WB144, and WB180K. The model numbers are located on a label on the side of the drill. The drill charger bases were sold at department and hardware stores and through mail-order sales from January 1996 through December 2003 from between \$40 and \$100. The products were made in China.

Problem: A defective battery can cause the charger base to overheat, causing the base to melt and possibly burn nearby objects. Wagner Spray Tech has received 11 reports of the charger base melting, causing minor property damage. No injuries have been reported.

What to do: Stop using the charger base and contact Wagner Spray Tech for information on receiving a replacement charger base. Consumers can call Wagner Spray Tech toll-free at (800) 214-0585 anytime or visit the firm's Web site at www.wagnerspraytech.com.

Grills

Product: About 162,000 Bakers & Chefs®, Members Mark® and Kenmore models Gas Barbecue Grills by Grand Hall Enterprise. The recall includes Bakers & Chefs® grills with model numbers Y0655 and Y0656; Members Mark® grills with model number Y0660; and Kenmore grills with model numbers 15221 and 15223. The model number can be located on a silver ID tag on the back or side of the grill head. The recalled grills are stainless steel construction or painted steel and have the brand name on the front control panel or on the grill lid. The Bakers & Chefs® grills have two casters, two wheels and two side shelves. The Members Mark® grill has four casters, two side shelves and a side burner. The Kenmore grills have four casters. SAM'S CLUB® and Sears stores sold the grills nationwide from April 2001 through December 2002. The Members Mark® grills sold for about \$1,500. The other grills sold for between \$249 and \$299. The grills were made in China.

Problem: If moisture gets inside the temperature gauge, the glass cover on the gauge can break, posing a risk of injury to people nearby. Grand Hall Enterprise Co. Ltd. has received eight reports of temperature gauges breaking, two of which resulted in minor injuries.

What to do: Consumers should not use the grill until the Glass-Gard has been installed in accordance with the instructions. Owners of the recalled grills will receive a free repair kit or replacement temperature gauge directly from the company. The repair kit will consist of a "Glass-Gard" protective film and instructions on how to place the film on the glass covering of the gauge. Testing confirms that the glass does not explode when the Glass-Gard is in place. Consumers who have not received a repair kit or need assistance performing the repair should call Grand Hall at (888) 735-5709 between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or log on the Grand Hall Web site at www.grandhall.com.

Product: About 108,000 Char-Broil® Gas Grills to replace temperature gauges by Grand Hall Enterprise Co and distributed by Char-Broil. The

products involved in this recall are outdoor, gas barbecue grills. The recall includes three types of grills: the Commercial Series, Professional Series and Stainless Steel Series. The specific component involved in the recall is the temperature gauge mounted on the grill lid. The Commercial Series models are constructed from both painted metal and Stainless Steel. The Professional Series and Stainless Steel Series models are Stainless Steel construction. The Commercial Series gas grills have model numbers 4632210, 4632215, 463221503 and 463231503. These grills are sold with three main burners, with or without a side burner and either a metal front panel or a cabinet with doors. The Professional Series gas grills have model numbers 4632235, 4632236, 4632240 and 4632241. These grills are sold as LP or natural gas, three or four main burners, with or without a side burner, and a cabinet with doors. The Stainless Steel Series by Char-Broil gas grill has model number 4632220. This grill is sold with three main burners and an open Stainless Steel Cart. The grill model number is located on a label on the back panel of the storage cart. Char-Broil grills with model numbers other than those identified above are not included in this recall. Hardware, home improvement, and appliance stores and specialty dealers sold these grills nationwide. The Commercial Series grills sold from January 2002 through November 2003 for between \$450 and \$500; the Professional Series grills sold from February 2002 through November 2003 for between \$800 and \$1,000; and the Stainless Steel Series grills sold from January 2002 through May 2003 for \$700. The grills were made in China.

Problem: If moisture gets inside the temperature gauge, the glass cover on the gauge can break, posing a risk of injury to people nearby. Char-Broil is aware of at least 30 reports of the gauges breaking, including 12 incidents of consumers who reported minor injuries.

What to do: Contact Char-Broil to receive a free replacement temperature gauge. Consumers should not use the grill until the replacement gauge has been installed. Call the Char-Broil Grill Service Center toll-free at (866) 239-6769 anytime.

Batteries in Cell Phones

Product: About 140,000 batteries in Kyocera Cell Phones (Model 7135 Smartphones) by Kyocera Wireless. The recalled batteries are included in Kyocera model 7135 Smartphone cell phones. The black and silver flip-up phones say "Kyocera" at the top of the screen. The recalled batteries have the red and white Kyocera name printed on the front and a product code ending with -05 printed on the underside. Verizon Wireless, US Cellular and ALLTEL Corporation stores, in addition to Web site and telemarketing retailers nationwide, sold the cell phones with the -05 battery from September 2003 through December 2003 for about \$500. The batteries also were sold separately during this time for about \$21. The batteries were made in China.

Problem: The recalled batteries can short-circuit and erupt with force or emit excessive heat, posing a burn hazard to consumers. Kyocera Wireless Corp. has received four reports of battery failures, including one minor burn injury.

What to do: Stop using the battery in the cell phone. Kyocera Wireless will contact consumers to arrange for delivery of a free replacement battery. If consumers are not contacted by Kyocera by Feb. 6, they are asked to contact the firm to receive the free replacement battery. The batteries should be stored in an environment with non-flammable materials. Consumers can call Kyocera Wireless Corp. at (800) 349-4478 between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m. PT Monday through Friday, or visit its Web site at www.kyocera-wireless.com

Lawn Tractors

Product: About 93,500 Murray brand lawn tractors with remote-mounted fuel tanks by Murray, Inc. These 40- and 42-inch-cut lawn tractors come with a 1.4 gallon remote fuel tank. They come in red and black or all black. The model number can be found on a nameplate located under the seat. The following model numbers are included in the recall: 40507X8, 40536X4, 405618X81, 42504X71, 42504X99, 42510, 42512X99, 42542X6, 42543X6, 425610X99, 425612X99 and 42575X81. Various lawn equipment retailers, including Home Depot, Central Tractor and the U.S. Army Air Force Exchange Services (AAFES) sold the lawn tractors nationwide from January 1997 through October 2002 for between \$859 and \$1,259. The lawn tractors were made in the United States.

Problem: The fuel tank can develop cracks allowing fuel to leak, posing a fire hazard to consumers. Murray has received two reports of fire and no reports of injury.

What to do: Stop using the lawn tractor immediately and contact a Murray Service Center with the model number to have a free replacement

fuel tank installed on its mower. For more information, consumers should call Murray toll free at (800) 316-1073 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or visit its Web site at www.murray.com

Spas

Product: About 13,000 Infinity and Lifestyle Spas by MAAX Spas. The recall involves Infinity and Lifestyle model spas manufactured by MAAX Spas. Only MAAX Spas equipped with a Motor Capacitor Inc. capacitor are included in this recall. Units that contain the capacitor have a label on the motor that reads, "Tiny Might." Various models of the spas are included in the recall. MAAX spa dealers sold these spas in the U.S. and Canada from January 1998 through December 2001 for between \$4,000 and \$8,000. A.O. Smith Electrical Products Co. manufactured the circulating pump motor. Motor Capacitors Inc. manufactured and distributed the motor capacitor. The capacitors were manufactured in Taiwan. The motors and pump assemblies were manufactured in the United States. The spas were manufactured in Canada.

Problem: The motor capacitor, which is a component of the circulating pump, can overheat. This poses a fire hazard. CPSC and MAAX Spas have received more than 100 reports of incidents of overheating of the motor capacitor. Twelve reports of overheating resulted in fires. No injuries or property damage, other than to the spa itself, have been reported.

What to do: Contact the MAAX Spa Fulfillment Center to determine if your model is included in the recall. Also, contact the MAAX Spa Fulfillment Center to arrange for installation of a free replacement pump motor capacitor. Consumers can contact the MAAX Spa Fulfillment Center at (877) 259-0289 between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Cribs

Product: About 3,500 Legacy brand cribs by Child Craft Industries. The recalled Legacy cribs include model numbers 16741, 21021, 23111 and 28721. The model numbers are printed on the bottom rail of the head or foot board. The full-size cribs were made from ash and maple woods, and sold in a variety of colors. All carry the Legacy Brand label. Juvenile furniture stores sold these cribs nationwide from March 2002 through January 2004 for between \$399 and \$549. The cribs were made in China between March 2002 and March 2003.

Problem: The slats on the drop side rail can loosen and detach. When this happens, the space created by the gaps can allow a baby to become entangled, strangle or fall. There have been 12 reports of the slats on the drop side rail completely detaching. No injuries have been reported.

What to do: Stop using the cribs and contact Child Craft to receive a replacement drop side rail. Consumers can call Child Craft toll-free at (888) 844-2674 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET or visit the firm's Web site at www.childcraftindustries.com.

Votive Candles

Product: About 733,000 "Real Essence" votive candles by Bath & Body Works and The White Barn Candle Company. The votive candles were sold individually and in sets. A label on the bottom of the votive candle reads: Real Essence 1 _" x 2 _". The specific recalled votive candles are: Rosewood Tea; Lilac Blossom; Vintage Leather; Brushed Suede; Warm Vanilla Sugar; Sweet Cinnamon Pumpkin; Spiced Cider; and Amber Myrrh. These votive candles were also sold in a six-pack set: Lilac Blossom, Spiced Cider, and Sweet Cinnamon Pumpkin. In addition, Sweet Cinnamon Pumpkin was sold in "the scented home quartet" set. This recall does not apply to any other Real Essence votive candles. Bath & Body Works and The White Barn Candle Company stores nationwide sold these votive candles and sets from March 2003 to February 2004 for \$1.25 to \$18.00. The candles were made in the USA.

Problem: The votive candles can burn with a high flame or irregular flame posing a fire hazard to consumers. The company has received nine complaints of votive candles burning with high flame, two of which involved minor injuries.

What to do: Stop using these recalled votive candles immediately and return them to any Bath & Body Works or The White Barn Candle Company store for a merchandise credit, merchandise exchange, or a full cash refund. For more information, call Bath & Body Works and The White Barn Candle Company at (800) 395-1001 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. (ET) Monday through Friday. Visit the company's Web site at www.bathandbodyworks.com.

—Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

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