



## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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# CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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## Safety Reporting

*The CPSC staff recently announced a new approach for collecting information about safety problems involving consumer products. The head of CPSC's Office of Compliance, Gib Mullan, discussed this program.*

### ***Where does CPSC get information about potential safety hazards involving consumer products?***

We make use of many sources to alert us to possible safety problems. Under the current law -- Section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act -- companies are required to report immediately to CPSC if they have information that raises safety concerns about the products they make or sell. We also receive consumer complaints via our toll-free hotline and Web site, reports from the media, and other sources.

### ***What is CPSC's new reporting program for retailers?***

We recently described a new optional model for when and how retailers could report product hazards to CPSC. The goal is for companies to tell CPSC more quickly about a wider range of safety issues.

### ***How does the new reporting system work?***

Under this approach, retailers relay to us complaints from consumers and other information concerning the safety of their products. In addition, the retailer flags incidents that trigger certain hazard or injury patterns. For example, we want to focus more quickly on any products associated with incidents where consumers needed medical treatment, missed more than a full day of work or school, or died. If a product is associated with electrocution or shock, or could present strangulation, choking, or drowning hazards to children, we definitely want to hear about it quickly. In addition, if a product is repeatedly associated with lesser hazards or injuries, the retailer will flag it for our attention.

### ***Why was the new system developed?***

About two years ago, we settled a case against Wal-Mart, which included a \$750,000 penalty for not reporting to CPSC injuries of people hurt on exercise equipment in its stores. As you can imagine, Wal-Mart gets a huge volume of information from consumers -- about 4,000 to 6,000 calls per day. Wal-Mart's first challenge was to identify the safety information already coming into its possession. Then the company faced a second challenge: how to be sure that it was telling us everything we might want to know under Section 15. It decided that the best course was to tell us everything. The new system grew out of our desire to keep getting that volume of information, but to focus Compliance resources on the most telling incidents.

*Continued on page 6*

# Injuries to Older Adults

In 2002, an estimated 1,451,140 people 65 and older were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms (ERs) for injuries associated with consumer products, according to a recent study by CPSC staff. Of these adults, 955,540 (66%) were 75 and older.

From 1991 to 2002, the number of people 75 and older treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for product-related injuries increased 73%, while this age group's population increased 27% during these years.

During this time frame, hospital emergency room visits for those 65 to 74 increased 23%, while this age group did not expand during these years.

These figures resulted in a rate of emergency room-treated injuries for those 75 and older approximately twice that of those 65 to 74 (*Figure 1*).

## Falls

Among those 75 and older, about three-quarters (77%) of emergency room visits associated with consumer products involved falls. Adults 65 to 74 had a lower proportion of falls (59%). Typical scenarios for falls included:

- Falls down stairs (while descending or ascending).
- Transitioning from standing to sitting (and vice versa) on furniture, toilets, beds, and bathtubs.
- Falls from tripping over loose carpets, cords, and other obstacles on the floor.
- Falling off ladders and step stools.

Ordinary consumer products were involved in numerous injury scenarios. Notable among these were: yard and garden equipment, ladders and step stools, and personal use items like clothing.

## Hospitalizations

Of adults 65 to 74 treated in hospital emergency rooms for consumer product-related injuries, 15% were hurt seriously enough to be hospitalized. Those 75 and older had a hospitalization percentage of 27%. For the population as a whole, 4.7% of emergency room visits resulted in hospitalization.

## Deaths

For 2000 (the most recent year of complete death data at the time CPSC staff prepared this analysis), CPSC received reports of more than 3,300 product-related deaths of those 65 and older.<sup>1</sup>

## Costs

According to CPSC data, in 2002, the single-year overall injury costs associated with persons 65 years and older were \$89.5 billion. In 2000, death costs for the over 3,300 consumer product-related deaths among persons in this age group were approximately \$16.5 billion.<sup>2</sup> Combining these two figures into a single index results in an estimate of over \$100 billion in injury and death costs associated with this population.

## Comparison with Younger Adults

From 1997 through 2002, the total number of consumer product hospital emergency room-treated injuries for persons 65 and older increased by 21%. The increase among younger-aged adults (20 to 64) was 15%.

In each of these years (1997 through 2002), the rate of consumer product-related emergency room-treated injuries per 1,000 population for those 65 and older was higher than for adults 20 to 64.

<sup>1</sup>This is a substantial undercount of deaths in this population, especially in the area of falls, since CPSC does not purchase all fall-related death certificates. In addition, CPSC buys and reports only deaths that have a product identified.

<sup>2</sup>This estimate is low since CPSC does not have reports of all product-related deaths for this population.

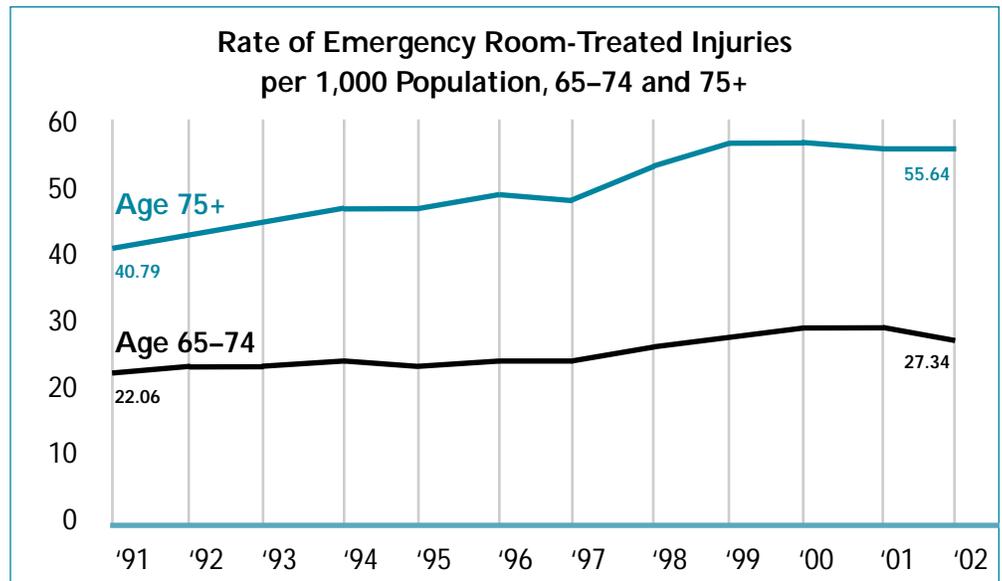


Figure 1

## Discussion

Adults 65 and older are one of the fastest-growing segments of the U.S. population. This represents not just a greater number of people, but a larger proportion of the population. Virtually all of this growth has taken place among those 75 and older.

### For More Information

To read more about injuries and older adults, please visit CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

Over the past decade, the percentage increase of adults 75 and older treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with consumer products is almost three times the group's increase in the U.S. population. This likely reflects this age group's spe-

*Continued on page 6*

## Highlights of Consumer Product-Related Injuries and Deaths, Ages 65 and Older

While many emergency room injuries for older adults are associated with stairs and floors, this chart highlights other noteworthy consumer product categories for adults 65 and older. Some of the injuries associated with these products result from consumer behavior rather than a defect in the product.

Injury estimates are based on 2002 data from CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS). Deaths include those reported to CPSC in 2000.

### Home workshop tools and equipment

From 1997 to 2002, the 65 and older population accounted for between 9% and 10% of the workshop tool-related injuries each year.

### Yard and garden equipment

There was a higher population-based rate of injury among persons 65 and older than among persons 20-64. Riding mower tipover or rollover was an important hazard in this age group. Tripping over garden hoses resulted in injuries and deaths.

### Housewares

Candle fires resulted in most deaths in this category.

### Ladders and step stools

There was a higher population-based rate of injury among persons 65 and older than among persons 20-64. Persons 65 and older accounted for half of all ladder deaths reported to CPSC. In 2002, this population accounted for 16% of emergency room-treated injuries involving ladders, but were 39% of those hospitalized for ladder-related injuries.

### Sports

Among those 65 and older, CPSC has reports of 100 drownings in swimming pools or spas in one year. This is disproportionate to the group's share of the population.

### General household appliances

Tripping over vacuum cleaner cords resulted in injuries. Older adults also were injured when struck by automatic doors.

### Personal use items

There was a higher population-based rate of injury among persons 65 and older than among persons 20-64. Most noteworthy were the 159 clothing ignition-related deaths to persons 65 and older reported to CPSC in a single year.

### Household chemical products

The most noteworthy injury pattern for older adults was mistaken use of a product, because the consumer did not recognize the container of the product or mistook it for another product.

### Kitchen appliances

Cooking fires and clothing ignition while cooking were the major hazards for older adults. Tripping over open dishwasher doors was another unforeseen injury pattern.

### Packaging and containers for household products

In 2002, almost one-third of the 35,000 ER-treated injuries to older adults were cuts from cans. Almost all of these occurred while the cans were being opened, usually involving cans that did not require a can opener.

### Children's products

This category includes bicycles. There were 106 deaths to persons 65 and older reported in this category in one year. Of these, 104 involved bicycles; 46 of these were head injuries.

### Bathrooms

Among those 65 and older, there were 51 deaths associated with tap water scalds reported to CPSC in one year.

### Home communication

In 2002, 21% of the older adult injuries in this category were to people reaching for telephones. Another 12% tripped over telephone cords.

### Miscellaneous products

In 2002, injuries were fairly frequent from older adults tripping over dog leashes.

## At-Home Child Drownings

For 2002, CPSC has reports of 96 incidents in which children under 5 years old died from complications of submersion in products found in and around the home. (Figure 2).

### Bathtubs

The most frequently reported cause of drowning deaths of children in the home is submersion in bathtubs. CPSC has reports of 69 children who died this way in 2002.

Children under one year old were most frequently involved in fatal bathtub drownings. Thirty-three children under one died after submersion in a bathtub. The children in four of these incidents were placed in bath seats at the start of the bath; they ranged in age from 6 to 10 months old. Twenty-three children were between 12 and 23 months old, and 13 children were two years or older.

In 58 incidents, the victim was not supervised when the drowning occurred. In nine of the remaining 11 incidents, it was unknown if the child was being supervised.

While all of the children drowned in the bathtub, not all of them were placed in the tub with the intention of receiving a bath. Eleven children either climbed into the bathtub, fell into the bathtub, were placed in a tub by the caregiver without water, or were placed in the bathtub by another child.

In six of the 69 bathtub submersion incidents, parents or caregivers first placed the children in the bathtub and left the drain open, with the water running in the tub. When they returned to the bathroom, they found the drain closed or clogged, the bathtub filled with water, and the child submerged.

### Spas and Hot Tubs

CPSC has reports of nine children under 5 years old who died as a result of submersion in a residential spa or hot tub in 2002. Six children were between 12 and 23 months old, two were 2 years old, and one child was 4 years old.

Six of the nine incidents occurred in outdoor hot tubs or spas. The location of the remaining three hot tubs or spas was unknown. Two of the incidents occurred in the apartment complex where the children lived.

### Wading Pools

CPSC has reports of four children who drowned in wading pools in residential areas in 2002. Three of the children were left unattended while in the wading pool; the fourth child was left unattended elsewhere and later found in the wading pool.

### Other Products

CPSC is aware of an additional 14 incidents in 2002 involving drownings in other products in and around the home. Three children under 5 years old drowned in incidents associated with 5-gallon buckets, and three children died in buckets of a size and shape other than 5-gallons. Two children drowned in toilets. Two children died in outdoor fish or landscape ponds. Two children drowned in fountains. One child drowned in a plastic trash can used to disinfect soiled diapers; another child drowned in a 16-inch tall water barrel.

-- Debra Ascone, Directorate for Epidemiology

#### At-Home Drowning Deaths of Children Under 5, 2002

Bathtubs	69
Spas and Hot Tubs	9
Wading Pools	4
Other Products	14
<b>Total Drowning Deaths</b>	<b>96</b>

Figure 2

### Swimming Pool Initiative

From 2000 through 2002, an average of 244 children younger than 5 years old drowned in swimming pools annually. In 2004, approximately 2,300 children in this age group were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms following submersion incidents in swimming pools. The majority, 70%, were treated at the emergency room and transferred to another facility, treated and held at the hospital for observation, or admitted for hospitalization.

To address swimming pool drownings of children, CPSC staff will continue to examine such issues as the effectiveness of pool barriers and other safety devices, potential hazards with inflatable pools, circumstances involved in pool/spa entrapment, and drowning hazards posed by non-pool home products.

CPSC staff also will explore additional sources of drowning data and continue exploring the application of sensor technology to address child drowning. Along with this, CPSC staff will remain involved in monitoring or participating in developing or strengthening voluntary safety standards, such as those for suction valve relief systems, pool alarms, and pools and spas.

-- Deborah Tinsworth, Directorate for Epidemiology

## Paper Shredders

Young children are those most at risk for injuries involving paper shredders, according to a recent CPSC staff report. Finger amputations are among the most serious of these injuries.

From 2000 through 2003, CPSC received reports of 31 injuries associated with paper shredders, including contusions, lacerations, and amputations. Twelve of the 31 incidents involved children 2 years old and younger. Ten of the 31 incidents involved children 3 to 12 years old. The remaining incidents involved adults or children over 12.

### Finger Amputations

Four children and one adult suffered finger amputations associated with paper shredders. An incident involving a 33-year-old resulted in partial amputation of the thumb. One incident involving a 4-year-old resulted in amputation of the fingertips. Three incidents, involving a 23-month-old child and two 6-year-old children, resulted in amputations of three fingers in each incident.

The injuries involving children occurred when a child fed paper into a shredder and did not release the paper before his or her fingers entered the shredder opening. While the shredder continued to pull the paper into the shredder opening, the shredder also pulled in the child's fingers.

In the incident involving the youngest child, a mother was handing junk mail to her two young boys, who were taking turns putting the paper in the shredder. She momentarily turned away. The mother then heard her oldest son scream that his 23-month-old brother's fingers were caught in the shredder. While an older daughter telephoned for help, the mother tried unsuccessfully to release her son's fingers from the shredder. She ended up taking her son, with his fingers still in the shredder, to the hospital.

### Widespread Use

Document shredder machines, commonly referred to as paper shredders, have been used in offices for many years. More consumers are purchasing these products for home offices and for the prevention of identity theft.

Approximately 22 million households have at least one paper shredder. In 2002, an estimated 10 to 20 million paper shredders were sold for home and office use. These sales are expected to increase approximately 20% per year. Paper shredders for the home typically cost between \$20 and \$200.

### CPSC Staff Testing

CPSC staff conducted tests on paper shredders to better

determine how finger injuries occur, particularly to children. The staff calculated the amount of force required to insert finger-sized probes into shredder openings, as well as the pull force of the paper shredders.

The staff determined that the magnitude of the hazard is dependent on the design of the shredder opening. Contributing factors to the hazard included: width of the paper shredder opening, stiffness of the opening, distance to the shredder mechanism, compressibility of fingers, and the shredding mechanism pull force.

In addition, since most paper shredders have autostart features, a child can be at risk even when an adult is not present. The height of the paper feed opening is another factor that contributes to the risk, since most 15-month-olds are tall enough to reach the paper shredder opening.

### Voluntary Standards

While conducting this study, CPSC staff found that current voluntary safety standards and test procedures may not adequately address the hazards associated with paper shredders and young children. CPSC staff is working with standard-setting organizations to improve the safety of these products.

– Arthur Lee, Directorate for Engineering Sciences

#### For More Information

For a copy of the complete report, *An Evaluation of Finger Injuries Associated with Home Document (Paper) Shredder Machines*, please go to CPSC's Web site at [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov).

#### Shredder Safety

When using paper shredders, you may want to follow these safety tips.

- Never allow children to operate paper shredders, even under adult supervision. Paper shredders can pull children's fingers into the shredder mechanism.
- Place the paper shredder in an area less accessible to children.
- Unplug the paper shredder power cord when not in use.
- Do not place hands or fingers in the shredder.
- Do not operate a paper shredder while wearing loose-fitting clothing that may enter the shredder opening.
- If wearing a tie or long necklace, use caution to keep these items away from the shredder opening.

## Injuries to Older Adults from page 3

cial vulnerability. If the trend continues as the population ages, an ever increasing number of older adults may be seeking treatment for their injuries in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.

— *Natalie Marcy, George W. Rutherford, and Alberta Mills, Directorate for Epidemiology*

### Older Consumers Safety Checklist

Falls and fires are two leading causes of unintentional injuries and deaths among adults 65 and older. About two-thirds of all hospital emergency room visits by older people involve falls. Older adults have a higher death rate from fires than the general population. To help make your home safer, follow these tips.

#### To help prevent falls:

- When using stairs, always grip the handrails. Keep stairs well lighted.
- Keep floors cleared and slip resistant. Remove loose carpets, cords, and other items you could trip over. Be sure all rugs, mats, and other surfaces are non-skid.
- Install grab bars and slip-resistant surfaces in your bathroom.
- Use only stable step stools with a top handrail. Don't climb alone – have someone nearby to help you.

- Stand up slowly from a sitting or lying down position.
- Be sure your telephones and emergency numbers are easily accessible – so you can get help if you fall.

#### To help prevent fire deaths and injuries:

- Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of your home.
- Install a carbon monoxide (CO) alarm outside every sleeping area.
- Don't smoke in bed.
- Keep space heaters away from flammable materials. Hire a professional to check all fuel-burning appliances, including fireplaces, every year.
- Don't wear loose-fitting clothing with long sleeves near ranges or ovens. Store combustibles away from these and all heat-producing appliances.
- Practice an emergency fire escape plan.

## Safety Reporting from page 1

### *How is the reporting system working so far?*

From October 2004 through January 2005, Wal-Mart submitted information on over 1,200 incidents, triggering about 370. The CPSC Compliance office has initiated safety investigations for more than a hundred of those incidents involving 20 different firms. This is far more than the number of investigations generated by retailers reporting to us in previous years.

### *How does this new reporting system benefit consumers?*

We think this will be a really good source of data about product hazards. We expect this to help us identify emerging hazards associated with consumer products more quickly. This, in turn, will better enable us to prevent injuries and save lives.

### *Where can one go for more information?*

I recommend checking first on our Web site at [www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/Retailreport3805.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/BUSINFO/Retailreport3805.pdf). For further information, contact Marc Schoem at [mschoem@cpsc.gov](mailto:mschoem@cpsc.gov).

# 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 Web site 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

# 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 [tschroeder@cpsc.gov](mailto:tschroeder@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 2004, 1,352 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, 6, was playing in his room after dinner while his parents watched a movie. After the movie, the father checked on his son and found him hanging from his bunk bed by a karate belt. The cause of death was asphyxia due to hanging.

(Kent Dill, Deputy Coroner for B. Parks Evans, Jr., D-ABMDI, Coroner, Greenville County, Greenville, SC)

\*A female, 53, was cutting the grass in her yard with a garden tractor. As she was backing up the tractor, it went over an embankment into the river. The tractor tipped over and pinned her underneath it. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia.

(Dan Winkels, Deputy Medical Examiner for David Frederickson, M.D., Medical Examiner, Stearns County, St. Cloud, MN)

A male, 72, was cutting his grass with a riding lawn mower. When his wife noticed that the mower had stopped, she went to check on her husband. She found the tractor over a three-foot embankment and on top of her husband. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

(Henry C. Rowe, M.D., Medical Examiner, Central District, Gloucester County, Gloucester, VA)

A male, 14 months, was in the den of his home with his father and 5-year-old brother. The father and older brother left the child in the den while they went to get the older child dressed. They returned about five minutes later to find the younger child with his neck entangled in the reins of a toy hobby horse. The cause of death was asphyxia by hanging.

(Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

A male, 5 months, was dropped off at his babysitter's house in a baby carrier. The carrier was placed in a playpen. The sitter later found the carrier tipped over and the child's face lying against the playpen floor. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

(Thomas H. Gill, M.D., Deputy Medical Examiner, Jackson County, Kansas City, MO)

### CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

\*A female, 33, was painting her new home. She used a gas-powered generator to power temporary lighting and left the generator in the foyer closet. The next day, she was found unresponsive in her home. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

(Dennis D. Gremel, M.D., Medical Examiner, Blue Earth County, Mankato, MN)

\*A female, 60, and her husband, 61, were living in a small shelter attached to the garage of the house they were building. They were found unresponsive with a kerosene space heater in their air-tight quarters. The cause of death for both was carbon monoxide intoxication.

(David Bowerman, M.D., Coroner, El Paso County, Colorado Springs, CO)

### DROWNINGS

A female, 2, was at home with her family. Family members assumed that someone else was watching the child, and a neighbor found the child in an in-ground swimming pool. A fence was scheduled to be built around the pool in three days. The cause of death was drowning.

(Steven F. Dunton, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Gwinnett County, Lawrenceville, GA)

\*A female, 10, was driving a 4-wheeled all-terrain vehicle (ATV) behind her older brother, who was on another ATV. When the brother looked behind him and didn't see his sister, he turned back. He found her under her ATV in a creek. She had driven up the creek's bank, and the ATV tipped over, pinning her underneath it. She died one week later. The cause of death was hypoxic encephalopathy due to near-drowning.

(Sally S. Aiken, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Spokane County, Spokane, WA)

A male, 2, was found facedown in a plastic children's swimming pool in his back yard. An older sibling had left a door open allowing his younger brother to leave the home. The cause of death was drowning.

(Jo Ann Farmer, Deputy Coroner for Dr. Ronald M. Holmes, Coroner, Jefferson County, Louisville, KY)

A male, 13 months, was being bathed, along with his 2-year-old sister, by their mother. The telephone rang, and the children were left unattended in the bathtub. The children's grandmother walked by the bathroom and found the boy unresponsive. The cause of death was asphyxia due to drowning.

(Mack Wimbish, Sheriff-Coroner, Kern County, Bakersfield, CA)

## FIRES

A female, 36, was asleep in her apartment along with three other people. An early morning fire broke out from unattended candles on the patio of the apartment below. The other occupants were able to escape, but the woman was found unresponsive in a bedroom closet. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning secondary to a fire.

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

A male, 18, was home alone when a fire broke out. He was found unresponsive in bed. The fire was caused by clothing piled on top of a surge protector. The cause of death was carbon monoxide intoxication due to smoke inhalation.

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

## MISCELLANEOUS

\*A female, 5, was alone in the master bedroom of her family's home. Her brother heard a loud crashing noise from the master bedroom and entered to find his sister under a 35-inch television set. The television had been on top of a wobbly television stand. The cause of death was blunt head injury.

(Mack Wimbish, Sheriff-Coroner, Kern County, Bakersfield, CA)

## MECAP COMMENDATION

Mary E. Case, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner of St. Louis, St. Charles, Jefferson, and Franklin Counties in Missouri, has been selected to receive CPSC's MECAP Commendation.

Dr. Case has been instrumental in fostering a close working relationship with CPSC. Under her leadership and with the assistance of Chief Investigator Terrance Ledbetter, her office submitted more MECAP reports to CPSC in 2004 than in 2002 and 2003 combined.

Dr. Case supervises five forensic pathologists, as well as clerical, morgue, toxicology, and investigative staff. She also performs some 300 au-

topsies per year. In addition, she is a tenured full-time professor of pathology at St. Louis University Health Sciences Center.

Her interests include head injury in children and adults, as well as child abuse. She serves on the Child Death Review Team of St. Louis County.

Dr. Case has practiced forensic pathology and worked in the medical examiner field since 1975. She is board certified in anatomy, forensics, and neuropathology. She graduated with a B.A. from the University of Missouri and an M.D. from St. Louis University.

-- Robert Hull, CPSC Investigator, St. Louis, MO

A female, 2, was watching television at a family friend's home. The friend went to the kitchen to fix the child a bottle and heard a loud noise in the living room. She returned to find the television on top of the child. The cause of death was craniocerebral blunt force injuries.

(Lakshmanan Sathyavagiswaran, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner-Coroner, Los Angeles County, Los Angeles, CA)

\*A male, 12, and his friends were riding ATVs on a dry dirt trail. The boy tried to jump a small mound and was about two feet in the air before the ATV nose-dived into the ground. He was thrown from the ATV, which then landed on him. He was wearing a helmet. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head and neck.

(Frederic A. Phillips, M.D., Medical Examiner, Central District, Fredericksburg, VA)

A male, 7, was playing with several other boys in the weight room of an apartment complex. Two boys pulled out the handle of an exercise machine attached to weights. They released the handle, and it snapped back, hitting the 7-year-old male in the neck. The cause of death was traumatic subarachnoid hemorrhage.

(Steven F. Dunton, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Gwinnett County, Lawrenceville, GA)

\*A female, 52, was riding on the back of an ATV driven by her husband in an ATV park. They drove the ATV up a long steep incline. The ATV lost traction and power and flipped over backwards, landing on top of the woman. She was wearing a helmet that cracked in the incident. A law enforcement officer earlier had warned the couple that riding double on an ATV was illegal in the park. The cause of death was blunt force injuries of the head.

(John C. Kraemer, PA, F-ABMDI, for Jerri L. McLemore, M.D., Associate State Medical Examiner, Des Moines, IA)

-- Denny Wierdak, Directorate for Epidemiology

MECAP incidents can be reported directly to the CPSC Web site. Please go to [www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov) and click on *Report an Unsafe Product*. Then scroll down and click on *File MECAP Reports*.



## 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).

### Suede Sandals

**Product:** About 1.2 million Mossimo Beaded Sandals by Target Corporation. The Mossimo thong sandals have beads and shells sewn onto the straps. The sandals were sold in beige or brown suede in sizes ranging from 5 to 10, whole sizes only. "Mossimo" is engraved on the inner sole, and the size of the sandal is printed on a clear label affixed to the side. The sandals were sold at Target Stores nationwide from January 2004 through August 2004 for about \$10.00. The sandals were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The sole of the sandal can become slippery, causing the consumer to fall and receive bodily injury. Target has received 15 reports of incidents involving falls. There have been nine injuries reported including injuries to the back, head and wrist, and reports of broken bones and bruising.

**What to do:** Consumers should return their sandals to their nearest Target store for a gift card from Target in the amount of a full refund of the purchase price plus applicable state taxes. For more information, consumers can contact Target at (800) 821-8684 between 8:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. ET, Monday through Friday and 9:00 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. ET Saturday, or at the firm's Web site at [www.target.com](http://www.target.com).

### Trampolines and Enclosures

**Product:** About 1 million trampolines and 296,000 "FunRing" enclosures by Jumpking Inc.®. The recall includes 14-foot and 15-foot Jumpking trampolines sold separately and with FunRing enclosures. The brand name "Jumpking, Inc." is written on a warning label wrapped around a leg of the trampoline. The eight legs of these trampolines fit into perpendicular sockets welded to the top rails. Trampolines with weldless sockets that fit over the connecting top rail pieces are not included in this recall. The FunRing enclosures have an arched design where the vertical poles are connected by arches at the top. The enclosures were sold separately and with Jumpking trampolines. The trampolines and enclosures were manufactured in the U.S. and China. Later units, that include the rubber sleeves that fit around the mounting brackets, are not included in the recall. The trampolines with enclosures were sold at discount, department and toy stores nationwide and in Canada from July 1999 through December 2003 for between \$350 and \$450. Trampolines without FunRing enclosures were sold from July 1999 through February 2004 for between \$180 and \$220. FunRing enclosures were sold separately for between \$150 and \$250.

**Problem:** Welds on the frame of these trampolines can break during use, resulting in falls and possible injuries. Additionally, the mounting brackets of the FunRing enclosures have sharp edges, which can cause lacerations. Jumpking has received 47 reports of one or more welds breaking on these trampolines. This resulted in 21 reports of a variety of injuries, including a concussion; head, neck and back injuries; a broken arm; sprains; lacerations; and bruises. The firm also received 12 reports of other incidents, including nine reports of serious lacerations, when children came into contact with the sharp edges of the enclosure brackets.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the trampolines and/or the enclosures, and contact Jumpking to receive free repair kits. To order the repair kits or for more information, contact Jumpking Inc. toll-free at (866) 302-8669 between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday, or go to the company's Web site at [www.jumpking.com](http://www.jumpking.com).

### Dive Sticks

**Product:** About 180,000 dive stick packages by The Dollar General Corp. The dive sticks are hard plastic in the shape of worms, fish, and seahorses. The worm dive sticks are sticks with ridges that are green with an orange weighted ball or pink with a yellow weighted ball on the bottom. The fish dive sticks are pink and yellow or green and orange. The seahorse dive sticks are yellow with a blue tail or pink with a yellow tail. All of the dive sticks are about 7 inches long. "Made in China" is written on the fish and seahorses. "Sun and Shade" is written on each package. There are two worms per package and three fish or seahorses per package. The dive sticks were sold at Dollar General Stores nationwide from April 2004 through September 2004 for about \$1. The dive sticks were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** Children can fall or land on these upright dive sticks in shallow water and suffer impalement injuries. CPSC banned pre-weighted dive sticks in 2001. No incidents or injuries were reported.

**What to do:** Consumers should take these dive sticks away from children immediately and return them to Dollar General Stores for a refund, or discard them. Consumers can also contact Dollar General at (800) 678-9258 between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit its Web site at [www.dollargeneral.com](http://www.dollargeneral.com).

### Children's Necklaces

**Product:** About 155,000 metallic necklaces by Raymond Geddes Co. Inc. The recalled necklaces have medallions that come in four different designs depicting frogs, dolphins with a small bead on the tail, a sunshine smiley face, and an alien face on a starburst. The medallion is on a black rope chain surrounded by a metallic bead with a coil section. The necklaces were sold through mail order catalogs nationwide and on the Internet from August 1998 through November 2004 for about \$1. The necklaces were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The necklaces contain high levels of lead. CPSC regulations ban children's products from containing high levels of lead due to the risk of lead poisoning resulting from contact with these products. The necklaces also contain a sharp point, posing a laceration hazard to young children. The company has not received any reports of incidents. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

**What to do:** Consumers should immediately take these necklaces away from young children and contact the company to receive a refund. Consumers can also call Raymond Geddes toll-free at (888) 431-1722 between 7 a.m. and 10 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or contact the company via e-mail at: [consumeraffairs@raymondgeddes.com](mailto:consumeraffairs@raymondgeddes.com).

### Pacifiers

**Product:** About 102,000 Flashing Pacifiers with Whistle Necklace and Flashing Pacifier Shock Baby Necklaces by Todo Dollar Wholesale. The recalled pacifier necklace consists of a 28-inch multi-colored cord with a 3-inch plastic pacifier that comes in assorted colors. On the Whistle Necklace pacifier, the nipple is the whistle, which contains a hole at the tip to be used as a blow hole. The pacifier handle operates as the on-off button for the flashing light on both pacifiers. "Flashing Pacifier Shock Baby Necklace" or "2-in-1 Flashing Pacifier with Whistle Necklace" is printed on the packaging of the pacifiers. The pacifiers were sold through Internet sales, distributors and small retail stores from January 2004 through November 2004 for about \$1. The pacifiers were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The nipple can detach from the pacifier, posing a choking hazard to young children. No incidents or injuries were reported.

**What to do:** Return the pacifiers to the store where purchased to receive a refund. For additional information, consumers can call Todo Dollar Wholesale toll-free at (866) 325-4732 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

### Carpet Cleaners

**Product:** About 750,000 BISSELL upright carpet deep cleaners by BISSELL Homecare Inc. The recalled upright carpet deep cleaners have an open handgrip, and a partially metal handle and come in a variety of colors. The word "BISSELL" is printed on the front of the unit. The recalled carpet cleaners have date codes beginning with 01, 02, 03 or 04 and include the following models: PowerLifter® Plus (model number 1620); PowerSteamer® ClearView® (model numbers 1692, 1692-1, 1692-R); Power Steamer® (model numbers 1685, 1693, 1693-R, 1693-W, 1694, 1694-1, 1694-R); Power Lifter® (model number 1694-3); and Rubbermaid X-tra-Lift™ (model 9E00). The date codes and model numbers are printed on a label on the bottom of the unit. Cleaners with the model number and date codes listed above that are marked "Inspected" on or near the label are not included in the recall. The carpet cleaners were sold at major discount, appliance and department stores nationwide from January 2001 through December 2004 for between \$100 and \$145. The carpet cleaners were manufactured in United States and Mexico.

**Problem:** The carpet cleaner's metal upper handle can pose an electric shock hazard to consumers. BISSELL has received six reports of consumers receiving shocks from the unit.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the carpet cleaners immediately and contact BISSELL for the location of the nearest service center to receive a free inspection and, if necessary, repair. Consumers can also call BISSELL toll-free at (866) 860-2392 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the BISSELL Web site at [www.BISSELL.com](http://www.BISSELL.com).

### Slow Cookers

**Product:** About 600,000 GE Oval and Double Dish Slow Cookers imported by Hamilton Beach/Proctor-Silex Inc. and distributed by Wal-Mart Stores Inc. The recalled slow cookers include the 4.5-Quart Oval and 6-Quart Double Dish models sold under the General Electric (GE) brand name. The model name is printed on the front of the units. The 4.5-quart unit has model number 106661 and the 6-quart unit has model number 106851. Both models have series codes A through D, which are printed on the bottom along with the model number. The base of the slow cookers is white with an olive or honeysuckle graphic. The slow cookers were sold exclusively at Wal-Mart stores nationwide from August 2000 through December 2002 for about \$25 (4.5-quart model) and \$35 (6-quart model).

**Problem:** The handles on the base of the slow cookers can break, posing a risk of burns from hot food spilling onto consumers. Hamilton Beach and Wal-Mart have received 531 reports of handles breaking, including four reports of consumers who were burned by hot food.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the product immediately and contact Wal-Mart to receive a replacement slow cooker base. Consumers can also call the Wal-Mart Slow Cooker Recall Hotline toll-free at (888) 293-3343 anytime or go to [www.walmart.com](http://www.walmart.com).

### Gas Control Valve

**Product:** About 425,000 gas control valves by Robertshaw Controls Company. The 7000 Series Gas Valves recalled are installed in gas appliances including residential space heaters, wall heaters, boilers, fireplaces, pool heaters, infrared heaters and furnaces, and commercial heating applications such as commercial cooking appliances, fryers, commercial water heaters, and poultry brooders. The recalled valves were manufactured between February 2003 and September 2004 and have production dates beginning with code 0306 and ending with 0436. However, not all 7000 Series valves manufactured during the indicated time frame are being recalled. Of particular note are model numbers containing the letters "MV." Recalled gas valves include "MV" models that also include the letters "LP" and model numbers 7000AMV; 7000BMV; 7000BMV-S7CL; 7000MVLC; and 7000MVRCLC. All "MV" valves with the indicated date codes that have been converted to liquid propane (LP) gas use are also included in the recall. NOT included in the recall are model numbers 7010 and above; model numbers containing the letters "D" or "BV;" and model numbers containing the letters "MV" except for the ones listed above. A full list of recalled model numbers is available at [www.robertshaw.com](http://www.robertshaw.com) or can be obtained by calling (800) 232-9389. The valves were sold through gas appliance retailers and distributors; food service equipment manufacturers and dealers; specialty retailers, such as fireplace, pool and spa dealers; and poultry equipment manufacturers. The gas control valves and components were also sold separately through gas appliance service providers. The gas valves were assembled in Mexico.

**Problem:** Fire hazard. If the pilot light goes out, the gas valve could stick in an open position, permitting gas to continue to flow. This can result in a gas explosion and fire, which could result in severe personal injury or property damage. The firm has received three reports of flash fires, involving three reports of injuries. The injuries involved first and second degree burns.

**What to do:** Call Robertshaw toll-free at (800) 232-9389 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. CT, Monday through Friday for free repair or replacement if necessary. Have the date-code of your 7000 gas valve ready when you contact Robertshaw or visit [www.robertshaw.com](http://www.robertshaw.com) to review a list of affected appliances and register for the recall. If you smell gas near the appliance or in the building, immediately leave the area and call your gas company or a certified gas technician to investigate the cause. If you do not smell gas, check the pilot lights on your gas appliances. If any pilot lights are out, do not attempt to relight. Have the appliance examined by a qualified technician.

### Smoke Detector Systems

**Product:** About 246,800 smoke detectors by GE Security Inc. The recalled smoke detection systems involve hard-wired S10A ESL smoke detectors that are incompatible with certain ITI control panels as well as certain S09A/S10A listed ESL smoke detectors that may be incompatible with control panels from other manufacturers. Model numbers are printed on the back of the smoke detectors. Inside the ITI control panel is a label that lists the name and model number of the unit. The following model names and model numbers of ITI control panels are incompatible when installed with the following model numbers of ESL smoke detectors.

Smoke Detector Model Numbers: 429C, 429CT, 511C, 521B (when SW1

is OFF), 521BXT (when SW1 is OFF), 521NB\*, 521NBXT\*, 521NCSXT, 711U, 711UT, 721U, 721UT. \*In addition, the models 521NB and 521NBXT detectors, if installed in the S09A configuration, may self-adjust to an S10A configuration. Thus, these two model detectors may not be compatible with other manufacturers' control panels that are only S09A compatible.

ITI Control Panel Model Names and Model Numbers: Concord - 60-734-01, 60-801, 60-801-01, 60-792-01-95R-16Z, 60-792-01-95R-32Z and 60-792-95R-32Z. Advent - 60-562 (-01 through -06). Concord Express - 60-806-95R-16Z and 60-806-95R.

The smoke detectors were sold by distributors, dealers and installers of security systems nationwide from June 2002 through October 2004. The smoke detectors and the control panels were sold separately as individual components, and were also sold together as part of a security system for between \$180 and \$1,150. The smoke detectors were manufactured in the United States.

**Problem:** The smoke alarms can fail to activate during a fire or emergency, if installed in combination with certain control panels. No incidents or injuries were reported.

**What to do:** Consumers should contact their system installer or service provider to arrange for a free repair or replacement to make the smoke detectors and control panel systems compatible. Consumers can also call GE Security at (800) 648-7422 between 6 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at [www.gesecurity.com/S10AN-OTICE](http://www.gesecurity.com/S10AN-OTICE).

### Fluorescent Light Bulbs

**Product:** About 158,000 3-way compact fluorescent light bulbs by Technical Consumer Products Inc. The recalled 32-watt, 3-way (40-75-150 watt output) compact fluorescent bulbs were sold under the brand names Commercial Electric (Home Depot) and DuraBright (Orchard Supply Hardware). The bulbs are about seven inches high and have a white, spiral fluorescent tube attached to a white plastic base. The following item numbers, which can be found on the back of the packaging and the base of the bulb, are included in the recall: 283-924, 575-717, and 69032. The bulbs were sold at Home Depot and Orchard Supply Hardware nationwide from April 2004 through November 2004 for about \$10 (single pack) or \$19 (double pack). The bulbs were manufactured in China.

**Problem:** The bulbs can overheat and spark, posing a burn hazard to consumers. Technical Consumer Products has received 16 reports of overheating bulbs. No injuries have been reported.

**What to do:** Consumers should stop using the bulbs immediately and contact Technical Consumer Products at (800) 397-2647 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday for a free replacement or gift card.

### Table Saws

**Product:** About 120,000 Skil® Table Saw Model 3400 by Robert Bosch Tool Corporation. Only Skil® table saws with model number 3400 printed on the front side of the table base with the date codes listed below are included in the recall. Date codes are printed on the upper right corner of the table base and include 2002 date codes 28501-28831, 2003 codes 38101-39231 and 2004 codes 48101-48811. The table saw holds a 10-inch blade and is made of metal tabletop with a red plastic base. The saws were sold at Home Depot, Lowe's and Menards as well as independent hardware retailers nationwide from July 2002 through October 2004 for between \$149 and \$199. The saws were manufactured in Taiwan.

**Problem:** The blade drive mechanism may loosen or the motor can separate from the tool. Loosening of the blade drive mechanism can result in kickback of the item being sawed, resulting in possible laceration. Motor unit separation can cause the coasting saw blade to damage the saw wiring resulting in possible electric shock, or the separated motor could strike the user and cause injury. Robert Bosch Tool Corporation has received eleven reports of loose or broken motors. No injury or property damage has been reported.

**What to do:** Consumers should contact Robert Bosch Tool Corporation to receive a repair kit. The kit includes hardware and instructions for installation. Consumer can also contact Robert Bosch Tool Corporation at (800) 351-5788 between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday or visit the Skil Web site at [www.skil.com](http://www.skil.com).

- Carolyn T. Manley, Office of Compliance

