UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

Memorandum

Date: October 5, 2006

TO : The File

THROUGH : Russell Roegner, Ph.D., Associate Executive Director RR
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FROM : Joyce McDonald, EPHA RC for JM.

SUBJECT : Toy-Related Deaths and Injuries, Calendar Year 2005

This memorandum provides information on toy-related deaths and injuries reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) that occurred during the January 1, 2005 through December 31, 2005 time period.[1]

TOY-RELATED DEATHS

CPSC has reports of 20 toy-related deaths involving children under age 15 that occurred in 2005.[2] The toys involved in these fatal incidents were as follows:

Reported Toy-Related Deaths to Children 0-14 Calendar Year 2005[3]

Type of Toy	Deaths
TOTAL	**20**
Balls (choking)	6
Tricycles (1 drowning, 2 motor vehicle involvement)	3
Balloon (aspiration)	1
Plastic dart (aspiration)	1
Toy chest (asphyxia)	1
Toy all terrain vehicle (drowning)	1
Bead from toy horse figurine (aspiration)	1
Non-motorized scooter (motor vehicle involvement)	1
Fish-shaped flotation ring (drowning)	1
Kite (electrocution)	1
Slinky and ribbon (strangulation)	1
Costume with a cape (hanging)	1
Magnets from a building set (intestinal blockage)	1

[1] This analysis was prepared by CPSC staff and has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of the Commission.

[2] The 20 fatal toy-related incidents do not represent a sample of known probability of selection, and they may not include all the toy-related deaths occurring during the 2005 time period, in part because reporting is not complete for some data sources. Data was extracted on 05/24/2006.

[3] These data are based on reports from the In-depth Investigation file, the Injury and Potential Injury Incident file, the Death Certificate file and the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System for 1/1/2005 to 12/31/2005.

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Victims of the 20 fatal incidents ranged in age from 15 months to 13 years old. Fifteen of the victims were males.

Choking or Aspiration

Nine deaths occurred where the child choked or aspirated[4] a toy. The toys involved in these fatal incidents were 6 toy balls, a balloon, a bead from a toy horse figurine, and a toy dart. These children ranged in age from 15 months to 8 years old.

Drowning

Three children drowned in incidents involving toys. A 16 month old male drowned when he apparently drove a child-size toy 4-wheeled ATV (all terrain vehicle) into a pond. A 3 year old male had a fish-shaped flotation ring around his waist while in an above-ground pool and could not swim. A family member supervising him was distracted and the child was found face down in the pool out of the flotation ring. A 3 year old male rode his tricycle into an in-ground swimming pool and died of complications due to submersion[5] 7 days later.

Motor Vehicle Involvement

Three children died in incidents involving motor vehicles while on riding toys. All three incidents occurred when the child was struck by the motor vehicle. The children were 4, 3 and 2 years old. The riding toys involved were 2 tricycles and a non-motorized scooter.

Strangulation and Hanging

Two children died in incidents involving strangulation or hanging. A 5 year old became entangled in a slinky and ribbon and strangled. A 9 year old jumped off a bunk bed and the cape of his costume caught on the bedpost where he hung.

Asphyxia

A 19 month old male asphyxiated when he either fell or climbed into a toy chest. The lid closed, preventing the child from escaping.

Electrocution

The oldest child involved in the toy-related deaths was a 13 year old who was electrocuted flying a kite.

Other

A 20 month old child ingested several magnets that detached from parts of a building set. Once in the child's system, the magnets attached to each other through the walls of the child's small intestine, creating a twisting blockage. Death resulted in several days.

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[4] Aspiration is defined as taking foreign matter into the lungs.

[5] The official cause of death, as stated by the coroner, was anoxia encephalopathy due to near drowning.

ESTIMATED TOY-RELATED INJURIES (NEISS)[6]

In 2005 there were an estimated 202,300 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms. The injury estimate for 2001[7] was significantly different from each of the estimates for the years 2002-2005. None of the other comparisons of yearly estimates differed significantly.

Estimated Toy-Related Injuries 2001 to 2005

Calendar Year	Estimated Injuries
2001	255,100
2002	212,400
2003	206,500
2004	210,300
2005	202,300

Seventy-five percent (152,400) of the injuries for 2005 were to children under 15 years of age and 36 percent (72,800) were to children under 5. Overall, males were involved in 58 percent of the toy-related injury incidents. Most of the victims (97 percent) were treated and released from the hospital.

Forty-six percent of the total injuries (94,000) occurred to the head and face area, which includes head, face, eyeball, mouth and ear. Arms, from shoulder to finger, accounted for 24 percent of the injuries (47,600), while the leg and foot area accounted for 17 percent (35,100). The individual body parts having the most injuries overall were faces (41,800), heads (22,100), fingers (13,600) and mouths (13,300). Lacerations, contusions and abrasions were involved in almost half of the total injuries (48 percent) followed by fractures, sprains and strains with 24 percent of the total injuries.

In 2005, riding toys (including unpowered scooters) continued to be associated with more injuries (58,400 or 29 percent) than any other category of toy. 38,900 of the riding toy-related injuries were associated with unpowered scooters. The toy category with the next highest number of injuries (9,100) was flying toys.

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[6] The source of these data is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), which is based on a statistical sample of hospital emergency room treated injuries.

[7] In 2001, there was a large number of riding toy-related injuries (including unpowered scooters) that affected the overall toy-related injury estimate of 255,100.