United States
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207

MEMORANDUM

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No Mfrs/Prvtlbrs or Products Identified
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Firms Notified
Comments Processed

DATE: 24 Dec 1996

TO : Jacqueline Elder, Deputy AED
Office of Hazard Identification & Reduction (EXHR)

Through: Mary Ann Danello, Ph.D., AED
Directorate for Epidemiology and Health Sciences (EH)

Robert E. Frye, Director
Division of Hazard Analysis (EHHA)

FROM : Harpreet Singh, EHHA

Subject: Automatic Garage Door Opener Entrapment Incidents, January 1, 1991 Through November 1996.

This memorandum provides information on automatic garage door opener entrapment incidents reported to CPSC from 1991 through November 1996.

From 1991 through 1992, there were 10 entrapment incidents reported with children under 15 years old. Four involved a death and four involved injuries. The remaining two incidents involved a potential hazard where a person could have been injured or killed. From 1993 through November 1996, there were 25 entrapment incidents reported. Eight incidents involved a death where four victims were under 15 years old. Fourteen involved injury where 11 victims were under 15 years old. The remaining three incidents involved potential hazards.

None of the cases reported had information on whether the openers were manufactured after January 1, 1993.

A summary of the incidents reported is attached. The incidents are classified into three categories: deaths, injuries, and potential hazards, for 1991 through 1992 and 1993 through November 1996. They are listed in chronological order by date of incident.

Attachments:

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Attachments:

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Attachment 1

Automatic Garage Door Opener Entrapment Incidents 1991-1996

CASE NO	DATE OF INCIDENT	YEAR INSTALLED	YEAR MANUFACT.	TYPE OF INCIDENT
1991-92 CASES				
Deaths				
910131HCC1124	01/01/1991	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
910307HNE5104	02/09/1991	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
920602HCN1991	04/01/1992	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
C9275038A	05/31/1992	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
Injuries				
910409HCN0971	03/20/1991	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	INJURY
920515HNE5140	05/11/1992	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	INJURY
920528HWE5036	05/12/1992	BEFORE 1990	UNKNOWN	INJURY
920915HCC2245	06/01/1992	BEFORE 1989	UNKNOWN	INJURY
Potential Hazards				
921116HCN0338	09/18/1992	12/1991	UNKNOWN	POTENTIAL HAZARD
930210HWE4013	12/19/1992	BET.1990-1992	UNKNOWN	POTENTIAL HAZARD
1993-96 CASES				
Deaths				
C9345023A	04/08/1993	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
930728HCC3276	07/02/1993	1989	UNKNOWN	DEATH
940819CCC1698	08/10/1993	UNKNOWN	15 YRS OLD	DEATH
941201HCC3022	04/15/1994	UNKNOWN, BUT REPAIRED 1/94	UNKNOWN	DEATH
950802HCC4100	04/07/1995	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
950519CCC2673	04/15/1995	UNKNOWN	1989-1990	DEATH
950818CAA1927	08/16/1996	BEFORE 1983	UNKNOWN	DEATH

CASE NO	DATE OF INCIDENT	YEAR INSTALLED	YEAR MANUFACT.	TYPE OF INCIDENT
960729CCC7326	09/02/1995	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	DEATH
Injuries				
930824CCC2515	05/20/1993	UNKNOWN	1970s	INJURY
930624CWE5011	05/27/1993	UNKNOWN	1980	INJURY
930915CCN2469	06/17/1993	1979	1977	INJURY
930812HCN2154	06/28/1993	BEFORE 1982	UNKNOWN	INJURY
931008HCC3004	07/22/1993	1980	UNKNOWN	INJURY
940608HCC1791	07/29/1993	UNKNOWN	1980	INJURY
930922CWE5018	08/30/1993	BEFORE 1989	UNKNOWN	INJURY
9301025HEP9002	10/09/1993	1988	UNKNOWN	INJURY
G9410357A	12/01/1993	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	INJURY
950301CWE5003	03/20/1994	UNKNOWN	1980s	INJURY
940523HCN1497	04/26/1994	UNKNOWN	5 YRS OLD	INJURY
C9530009A	01/01/1995	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	INJURY
950404HEP9005	03/09/1995	UNKNOWN	15 YRS OLD	INJURY
950925CCC3027	08/10/1995	20 YRS OLD	UNKNOWN	INJURY
Potential Hazards				
H93C0111A	12/13/1993	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	POTENTIAL HAZARD
N9420009A	01/18/1994	UNKNOWN	UNKNOWN	POTENTIAL HAZARD
H9670242A	05/31/1996	1993	UNKNOWN	POTENTIAL HAZARD

1991-1992

	Deaths	Injuries	Potential Hazards	
Under 15 years	4	4		
Over 15 years	0	0		
Total	4	4	2	10

1993-1996

Under 15 years	4	11		
Over 15 years	4	2		
Family Pet		1		
Total	8	14	3	25

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1991-1992 Case Summaries

Deaths

91/01/01 - SOUTHHOLD, NEW YORK
A 5 year old male died when he became trapped under an electrically operated garage door.
Sources: IDI Task #: 910131HCC1124, Doc.#X9112417A,
Brand/Mfr. : Unknown, Model: # Unknown

91/02/09 - SPRINGFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
A 7-year old male was pinned down by a garage door and died of asphyxia due to mechanical compression. His younger brother (age 3) pushed the button for the door. The victim attempted to duck under the door. His jacket got caught on a metal fastener, knocking him to the floor with the door trapping him across the head and shoulders
Sources: IDI # 910307HNE5104, Doc.# N130079,Mecap # X132673
Brand/Mfr. : Unknown, Model: # Unknown

92/04/01 - AVILLA, INDIANA
A 3 year old male was killed after being pinned under an automatic garage door.
Sources: IDI Task #: 920602HCN1991, Doc.# G9250186A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]

92/05/31 - LANCASTER, CALIFORNIA
An 8 year old male was crushed to death by an automatic garage door opener that failed to reverse.
Sources: Doc.# C9275038A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]
2967A01359, Serial # 1045-6

Injuries

91/03/20 - WATERTOWN, SOUTH DAKOTA
A 10-year old boy was coming out of a neighbor's garage after retrieving a ball. The garage owner activated the door to close with her remote control., The door struck the boy on back of his legs. He was pinned under it at his upper thigh, facing downward, with his body outside the garage. Paramedics lifted the door to free him.
Sources: IDI Task #: 910409HCN0971
Brand/Mfr. : Unknown, Model: # Unknown

92/05/11 - LOWER MAKEFIELD
A 5 year old boy was injured while running under an over head garage door which was electronically operated. The child became trapped with the door resting on his neck. The child was found by his mother in this pinned position.
Sources: IDI Task #: 920515HNE5140, Doc# N9250167A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: [redacted]

92/05/12 - ALOHA, OREGON
A 9 year old male was entrapped by a garage door when he attempted to retrieve his basketball as the door was being closed by an electrically powered door operator. The operator failed to stop and reverse when the door contacted the victim. The door pinned the victim's head against the garage floor. The victim stopped breathing but survived when the door was removed from his head.
Sources: IDI Task #: 920528HWE5036
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: [redacted] Serial #: [redacted]

92/06/01 - EVANSVILLE, ARKANSAS
a 2-1/2 year old male was found face down at the entrance to a double attached garage, with the automatic door resting across his back. After the victim was removed, breathing was restored, however he suffered severe brain damage and currently resides in a nursing facility.
Sources: IDI Task #: 920915Hcc2245
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: [redacted]
Serial [redacted]

Potential Hazards

92/09/18 - DANIELSVILLE, GEORGIA
The occupant of the home pressed the wall mount switch for the garage door opener to close the garage. He had not examined the area under the garage door, consequently a metal folding chair which was under the door, was damaged when the door opener failed to reverse.
Sources: IDI Task # 921116HCN0338, Doc.#G92B0012A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]
Model: [redacted]

92/12/19 - HIGLEY, ARIZONA
The garage door came down and struck the toy bin which was in the way and knocked it aside. The garage door did not stop or reverse direction. It continued coming down and slammed into the concrete floor. The respondent feels that the

defective garage door opener could have caused serious injury to one of her children if they had been under the door when it came down.
Sources: TASK #930210HWE4013, DOC #F324010A0
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: #
[redacted]

1993-1996 Case Summaries

Deaths

93/04/08 - SALEM, WISCONSIN
A 3-year-old girl died when she was crushed by an automatic garage door.
Sources: DOC.#C9345023A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: [redacted]

93/07/02 - CHANDLER, ARIZONA
According to the police, sometime during the morning an 8-year-old boy went into the garage and at some point the automatic garage door opener was operated. The victim may have tripped and fell to the floor near the entrance to the garage. A neighbor saw what appeared to be the head and a hand of a small boy sticking out from under the garage door. The victim was pronounced dead at the scene.
Sources: IDI TASK #930728HCC3276, DOC. #F380016
Brand/Mfr. [redacted]
Model: [redacted]

93/08/10 - HAMPTON BAYS, NEW YORK
An 83-year-old woman was found unconscious on the ground, trapped under the automatic garage door. The bottom of the door was laying across the victim's shoulders and the garage door opener motor was running. The victim had expired before police elevated the door and turned the motor off.
Sources: IDI TASK #940819CCC1698, DOC. #336057664
Brand/Mfr. : UNKNOWN , Model: # UNKNOWN

94/04/15 - PASADENA, CALIFORNIA
A 37-year-old woman parked her car in the garage and activated the automatic garage door opener to close the door. While the victim was attempting to get outside before the door closed, she was struck on the head and was pinned down on the left side of her shoulder and neck by the door. The victim died on 94/04/19.
Sources: IDI TASK #941201HCC3022, DOC. #X4B0634A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model [redacted]

95/04/07 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
A 34-year-old female died of subdural hematoma after being struck on the head by a garage door. No further information was available. Source: IDI Task # 950802HCC4100, Doc.#X572056A1
Brand/Mfr. : UNKNOWN, Model# UNKNOWN

95/04/15 - OAKBROOKE TERRACE, ILLINOIS
A 4-year-old boy returned home with his parent from shopping. The parents went inside with packages. They soon noticed that the boy was missing and upon searching, they found him pinned under the garage door. He died from hypoxia and secondary compression.
Sources:IDI TASK # 950519CCC2673,DOC.#X541000A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model# [redacted]

95/08/16 - COLUMBIA, MARYLAND
An 8 year old male, who resides with his parents in a single family home in Columbia, Maryland, died from asphyxiation. The victim pushed the switch for the electric garage door to close, waited a few seconds before existing the garage, the garage door struck the victim on the head knocking him to the ground and then held the victim pinned to the ground.
Source: Task # 950818CAA1927,
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model# [redacted] Serial [redacted]

95/09/02 - LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA
A 45-year-old female dies after pinned under a garage door.
Source: Task # 960729CCC7326, Doc. # 9506175157
Brand/Mfr. : UNKNOWN, Model: # UNKNOWN

Injuries

93/05/20 - COLUMBIA, MISSOURI
A 2-year-old boy suffered injury after he was pinned against a concrete floor by the automatic garage door at his home. The door had a working reversal mechanism but not sensitive enough to be activated by the victim's body. The garage door opener was about 20 years old.
Sources: IDI TASK #930824CCC2515, DOC.#C375012A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: = [redacted]

93/05/27 - HOMER, ALASKA
A 3-year-old boy was found pinned under the automatic garage door with his upper body inside the garage. He was rescued by his mother and

recovered fully. The child may have gained access to the control button by standing on his bicycle. Field testing revealed the door did not retract when a 2 inch block of wood was placed under the sectional door.
Sources: IDI TASK #930624CWE5011, DOC. #F365010A0
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: #

93/06/17 - LACROSSE, WISCONSIN
A 4-year-old girl apparently activated the automatic garage door opener, then tried to run under the closing door. The child was pinned to the ground by the overhead door. She was found 5-15 minutes later and was revived, but reportedly suffered brain damage. The door opener reverse feature did not activate.
Sources: IDI TASK #930915CCN2469, DOC.#G390100A, and DOC. #327025447
Brand/Mfr. [redacted]odel: # UNKNOWN

93/06/28 - FOND DU LAC, WISCONSIN
A 3-year-old boy, who apparently tried to "beat the door" to get out of the garage was pinned on his chest and neck by the door. He was pulseless and not breathing when he was discovered by his father. A breathing tube was placed down the boy's throat at the scene, cardiopulmonary resuscitation was initiated and intravenous fluids were placed directly into the bone marrow. By the time he arrived at the hospital, his feet were moving and he starting breathing on his own.
Sources: IDI TASK #930812HCN2154, DOC. #G380060
Brand/Mfr. [redacted] Model [redacted]
Serial [redacted]

93/07/22 - MISSION VIEJO, CALIFORNIA
A 3-year-old boy was trapped under a residential garage door. He had opened the door using the control button inside the garage, removed his bicycle, and reentered the garage to close the door. He pushed the control button and attempted to exit the garage before the door closed. He was knocked down by the door as it landed on his chest.
Sources: IDI TASK #931008HCC3004, DOC.#X3A0039A1
Brand/Mfr. [redacted] Model: [redacted]
Serial [redacted]

93/07/29 - HAMDEN, CONNECTICUT
A 33-year-old man sustained crushing injuries to both forearms after he tripped and fell onto a concrete garage floor, and the garage door landed on his lower arms. The victim was running after his cat, and had just pushed the remote control

button to prevent the cat from escaping. The victim was hospitalized for a number of weeks after undergoing at least 2 surgeries.
Sources: IDI TASK #940608HCC1791, DOC.#C455052A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: # 5010,
Serial [redacted]

93/08/30 - SALEM, OREGON
A 2-year-old girl was trapped under an automatic garage door. The door closed on the child's neck and did not stop or reverse. The child was found unconscious and not breathing. Emergency resuscitation efforts revived the victim who recovered without complication.
Sources: IDI TASK #930922CWE5018, DOC.#F395018A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: # [redacted] Serial [redacted]

93/10/09 - RIVERDALE, GEORGIA
A 2-year old male sustained a fractured left jaw which resulted when the victim's head was caught/pinned under a garage door that was accidently closed by his three(3) year old cousin. The victim was transported to the reporting ER/hospital where he was treated and was subsequently released with a referral to see a specialist. Per respondent (mother) the victim has fully recovered.
Sources: IDI Task #: 931025HEP9002
Brand/Mfr. [redacted] Model: [redacted]
1[redacted]

93/12/01 - EAGAN, MINNESOTA
A family pet was injured when caught under the automatic garage door.
Source: G9410357A
Brand/Mfr. : UNKNOWN, Model: # UNKNOWN

94/03/20 - MORRISON, COLORADO
A 11-year-old boy was injured when he was trapped under the automatic garage door after he had been hit by the door and the door opener failed to reverse.
Sources: IDI TASKS #950301CWE5003, 950419CCC3607, and DOC. #C525043A1
Sources: IDI Task #: 950301CWE5003
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model: # [redacted]
Serial [redacted]

94/04/26 - ROCKFORD, ILLINOIS
A 2-year-old girl was fatally injured when she was pinned beneath the automatic garage door at the family's residence. The police determined that the victim apparently pushed a wall mounted switch, causing the overhead door

to lower down on top of her.
Sources: IDI TASK #940523HCN1497,DOC.#G450125A1
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model#
[redacted]

95/01/01 - Unknown, CALIFORNIA
A 7-year-old boy sustained a broken leg from being trapped by an automatic garage door.
Source: DOC. #C9530009A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] odel#
UNKNOWN.

95/03/09 - PITTSFIELD, MASSACHUSETTS
A 39-year old male victim sustained a fractured rib when he was crushed under a garage door. The safety mechanism failed to work when he walked under the door. He was taken to the hospital by ambulance, treated and released.
Sources: IDI Task #: 950404HEP9005
Brand/Mfr. [redacted]

95/08/10 - EDMOND, OKLAHOMA
A 9-year-old male was apparently entering of exiting a garage at his residence when he was trapped by the garage door. He was treated and released at a local hospital.
Source: Task # 950925CCC3027, Doc. # F9590023B
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]
M[redacted]

Potential Hazards

93/12/13 - HAUPPAUGE, NEW YORK
An automatic garage door failed to reverse when it hit the car bumper.
Source: H93C0111A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]

94/01/18 - RIVERSIDE, CONNECTICUT
Complainant stated that, the opener in her pocket must have been activated while she was backing out of the garage. The garage door came down on her car, smashed the door and damaged the car.
Source: N9420009A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted] Model [redacted]

96/05/31 - HUNTINGTON, INDIANA
A 19-year-old female automatically closed garage door as instructed when the door kept closing after it hit cement floor, bending the top of the metal garage door. Opener's auto-reverse feature also failed during incident.
Source: Doc.# H9670242A
Brand/Mfr. : [redacted]
[redacted]

Sources:
Newspaper Clippings and Consumer Complaints (IPII)
In-Depth Investigations (INDP)
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

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