

Emerging Product Safety Issues and the Importance of International Coordination

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OUR MISSION STATEMENT

To work for a fair, just, and safe marketplace for all consumers and to empower consumers to protect themselves.

Test --- Inform --- Protect --- Connect

**Consumer
Reports®**

OUR SAFETY MISSION

To reduce the number of unsafe products in the marketplace and help educate consumers to protect themselves

SAFETY CONTENT

Consumer Reports and Shop Smart Recalls & Safety Alerts Pages

ConsumerReports.org Safety News

Safe Marketplace Video Program

School Safety Alert Program

Click Check Protect
clickcheckandprotect.org

CR Guide to Childproofing and Safety

CR Best Baby Product



Consumer Reports

Identifying Emerging Hazards

- Laboratory testing at CR
- Reader letters
- CPSC's National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) data analysis
- SaferProducts.gov
- News reports
- Standards development committee meetings

Exposing hazards: Laboratory testing

- Gas grills that can melt
- Strollers with strangulation hazards
- Lawn mowers with laceration risks
- Exercise equipment that can collapse



Exposing hazards: Reader letters

- Detergent bottles that look like beverages
- “Exploding” glass bakeware
- Grills catching fire / melting



Exposing hazards: NEISS data

- Furniture tipover
- Glass table lacerations
- Safety gate injuries



Exposing hazards: SaferProducts.gov

- Toning shoe injuries
- Appliance fires



Exposing hazards: News reports

- Magnets in toys
- Allergic reactions to DMF in leather furniture
- Soccer goal tipovers



Exposing hazards: Standards committee meetings

- Baby sling suffocations
- Strangulations from baby monitor cords
- Inflatable pool drownings



The Information Equation

MORE INFORMATION
+ SHARED INFORMATION

= SAVED LIVES +
PREVENTED INJURIES

International Coordination Strategies

- Expand NEISS system internationally
- Develop North American database for product safety complaints, i.e. www.SaferProducts.gov
- Coordinate on product recalls
- Coordinate on safety standards development
- Exchange information on developing regulations pertaining to safety