



UNITED STATES  
 CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20207

CPSC/OFFICE OF  
 THE SECRETARY

1999 JUL -7 A 11:00

**Memorandum**

Date: July 7, 1999

TO : Commissioners

THROUGH: Sadye E. Dunn, Secretary *[Signature]*  
 Jeffrey S. Bromme *[Signature]*

FROM : Pamela Gilbert *[Signature]*  
 Executive Director

SUBJECT : Fiscal Year 2001 Budget Recommendation

This memorandum transmits the staff recommendation for CPSC's FY 2001 budget request. The staff recommends an increase of \$7.3 million over the FY 2000 budget currently pending before Congress. This FY 2001 funding level will allow the agency to maintain and enhance its mission of saving lives and preventing injuries. Despite a funding history that has left the agency with less purchasing power in FY 1999 than in FY 1994, CPSC has maintained its valuable, cost-effective service to the American public, preventing thousands of family tragedies and saving society hundreds of millions of dollars. However, without additional investments in technology, research, and expertise to address continuing deaths and injuries, the agency faces erosion of its effectiveness in the future. With additional funding, the agency can further reduce the high death and injury toll from hazardous consumer products.

**Recommendation Summary**

The FY 2001 request is \$57.8 million, an increase of \$7.3 million over our pending FY 2000 budget of \$50.5 million. (Based on Office of Management and Budget (OMB) guidance, we developed the 2001 budget based on the President's FY 2000 request of \$50.5 million.) FTEs remain level at 480. The following points explain the basis for the largest items in the proposed budget.

1. Maintenance of our current program activity (or purchasing power) requires additional funding of \$3.1 million, or almost half (42%) of the total increase.
2. As an agency that depends on science and engineering to evaluate and solve product hazards, CPSC needs a strong applied research capability. In the early years, CPSC's budget included funding for "hazards contracts." The agency used these contracts to conduct applied research which, for example, helped the agency address the problems of carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning from gas space heaters and toxic formaldehyde emissions in consumer homes. The budget reductions of the 1980's forced the agency to drastically reduce, and then eliminate, this research program. If we are to maintain our

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product safety leadership as we move into the 21<sup>st</sup> century, we need to reestablish a research capability.

The FY2000 budget now pending before Congress includes a modest research budget of \$1 million. For FY 2001, we are proposing a second increment of \$1 million to fund two additional research projects. The cumulative total amount of the proposed research budget (\$2 million) is modest in comparison to other federal agencies with similar technical responsibilities. The staff is continuing to develop research topics from a group of candidates that support our Results Act goals. The Commission will choose the actual research projects at the start of the FY 2000 and 2001 operating plans to reflect the most current information and priorities.

3. The FY 2001 request includes \$1 million to begin implementing a redevelopment plan for our Engineering and Chemistry laboratories. CPSC's laboratories provide critical support to our compliance investigations and safety standards activities. In fact, involvement of the laboratories in agency work has been increasing in recent years. Although the Commission and the General Services Administration (GSA) have made modest investments in the physical facilities and equipment at the labs over the past 25 years, these investments have made only slight modifications to the existing structures, which were originally designed for military use. We believe, and GSA agrees, that we can make significant productivity and efficiency gains by redeveloping the site. For example, we can make much better use of the limited available space by relocating and consolidating specialized laboratory and office sites. In FY 1999, we took the first step by funding the development of a long-range laboratory site plan. We expect the final plan to require a multi-year investment of at least several million dollars. The proposed funding for 2001 would pay for the first increment of the plan.

3. Staff proposes \$1.1 million for new initiatives to strengthen our hazard identification and reduction, compliance, and consumer information activities. We describe these initiatives in greater detail later under the Activity Changes section. Many proposals will be familiar, since we proposed them last year but were unable to fund them within the final budget.

4. As a data-driven agency, we must continually invest in the tools we use to identify and analyze hazards if we are to continue making sound risk-based decisions in a timely fashion. The FY 2000 request included funds (\$500,000) to begin integration of our hazard databases, a step that will improve enormously our ability to quickly identify and address product hazards. The proposed FY 2001 request includes an increase of \$1 million for information technology that will further improve agency efficiency and productivity. This funding will: establish a three to four year replacement cycle of agency computers and software; automate the agency's human resources and travel management activities; and provide staff greater access to critical databases.

## **FY 2001 Budget Base to Maintain Current Services**

The staff used OMB guidelines to develop the costs of maintaining current agency services, which we estimate will require an additional \$3.1 million in FY 2001. Statutorily-mandated staff compensation increases alone will cost \$2.62 million in 2001. This amount reflects Federal pay increases proposed by the President as well as increases in salary costs due to the agency's recent hiring and promotion actions. In addition, the staff estimates that \$196,000 will be necessary to meet increased costs (due to annual inflation) of non-compensation items such as travel, supplies, and services. There are also estimated space rent increases proposed by the GSA of \$307,000. GSA must confirm the space rent estimate - staff will insert the actual GSA amount for space rent increases when available.

## **Activity Changes**

There are two types of programmatic changes reflected in the FY 2001 request: new efforts funded within the \$50.5 million base; and, new initiatives that require funding above the FY 2000 level. While the attached budget document is organized into two major programs (Reducing Product Hazards to Children and Families and Identifying and Researching Product Hazards), the major changes are summarized below by activities we pursue to achieve program results.

*Hazard Identification and Analysis* - Because our decisions are data-driven, it is imperative that we sustain and enhance our data-collection and analysis capabilities. The FY 2001 recommendation includes \$225,000 to update the Product Population Model used to develop estimates of numbers of products in use and the life-span of products. These estimates help determine the risk presented by hazardous products. This economic model has not been thoroughly updated in 15 years. Staff proposed this item in the original FY 2000 budget but it was not funded.

We also propose two additional data enhancements. We recommend that the Commission establish an ongoing program of special studies for \$100,000 to seek ways to enhance the collection and the analysis of our data. For example, one proposed project would explore the cost-effectiveness of automating our present manual method of eliminating duplicate data sets. The Commission would choose the actual projects at the start of the FY 2001 operating plan. Staff has also proposed \$50,000 to computerize the collection of injury incidents from the nation's newspapers. This would reduce our monthly costs for clipping services and significantly speed up the delivery of the data to staff.

*Hazard Assessment and Reduction (HAR)* - As expected, many FY 2000 activities in HAR will be concluded by FY 2001. We recommend several new initiatives *within* the \$50.5 million base. The new efforts include:

- Work on multi-use juvenile products
- Revise Cigarette Lighter standard (if needed)
- Demonstrate fail-safe designs for products presenting a fire and electrocution hazard

- Safety for older consumers (data review)
- Test camp heaters to the new requirements of the voluntary standard which limit CO emissions

We request new funding *above* the \$50.5 million base for the following HAR initiatives to strengthen our hazard reduction tools:

1. We propose laboratory equipment funding of \$140,000 to improve our ability to replace aging equipment in our testing laboratories.
2. We propose staff travel (\$20,000) and contract support (\$50,000) to provide for increased agency participation in safety standards activities.

*Compliance* – Staff proposes \$170,000 to support increased compliance investigation activities: \$100,000 to purchase additional outside testing and expert analysis of potentially hazardous products; \$20,000 to purchase and test more product samples; and \$50,000 for the field to meet increased transportation costs and to provide faster access to databases and other telecommunications services.

*Consumer Information* - In addition to continuing the base program, we propose several initiatives to strengthen our delivery of product safety information to the American public:

1. Improvements to the agency's consumer Hotline to include an increase in the number of hours consumers can talk to Hotline representatives, initiation of routine consumer publication ordering through the Hotline, and replacement of aging software and equipment (\$258,000). We included some of this funding in the pending FY 2000 budget request, but growth in the public's use of the Hotline now requires the FY 2000 increment to pay for basic operation of the Hotline.
2. Funding four additional video news releases (\$40,000) which would bring the total number funded to 17. This compares to 13 VNRs that we expect to produce in FY 1999. The 12 VNRs produced in 1998 reached over 204 million TV viewers with our safety messages. We plan to use this cost-effective device even more in the future.
3. Growth in the public's demand for our printed safety materials and increased costs in our storage and distribution contract requires the addition of \$90,000.

*Agency Management* - There are no substantive changes proposed in this activity.

### **Results Act and the Budget**

The long-range goals contained in the agency's Results Act strategic plan guided the development of this budget proposal. These goals include reductions in the rate of death and injury in these areas: children's head injuries and poisonings, fire, carbon monoxide poisoning, and electrocutions. In addition, the plan includes industry and customer service satisfaction goals.

The proposed budget will help the agency make significant progress toward these multi-year goals. The funding that is requested above the current services level enhances our ability to meet the Results Act goals in future years and fulfill our mission to reduce deaths and injuries from consumer products.

Based on the Commission's FY 2001 budget decision, the staff will prepare a draft performance plan for FY 2001 as required by the Results Act. While we will submit the draft to OMB in the fall, the final plan will not be completed until CPSC receives the President's FY 2001 decision.

### **Next Steps**

The staff is available to answer any questions you may have before the briefing on July 20. If needed, a decision meeting is scheduled on July 27.

After the Commission decision, the staff will prepare a revised budget document to reflect Commission budget decisions and additional information required by the Office of Management and Budget. We will provide this revised document to the Commission before submission of the FY 2001 request to OMB in early September.

Please contact me if you have any questions about this budget submission. Thank you.

Attachment



**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**

# **2001 Preliminary Budget Request**

**Saving Lives  
and Keeping Families Safe**

**July 1999**

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**TABLE 1**  
**2001 BUDGET BY PROGRAM**  
(dollars in thousands)

|   | 1999              |                 | 2000              |                 | 2001              |                 | 2001 Change     |                |
|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
|   | FTEs              | Amount          | FTEs              | Amount          | FTEs              | Amount          | FTEs            | Amount         |
| <b>REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES:</b>               |                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                 |                 |                |
| Reducing Children's Hazards.....  | 138               | 12,980          | 142               | 14,275          | 140               | 15,544          | -2              | \$1,269        |
| Reducing Fire and Electrocutation Hazards.....                          | 136               | 13,645          | 132               | 13,536          | 136               | 15,895          | 4               | 2,359          |
| Reducing Household and Recreation Hazards.....                          | 70                | 6,446           | 69                | 6,804           | 68                | 7,546           | -1              | 742            |
| Reducing Child Poisonings and Other Chemical Hazards.....               | <u>60</u>         | 5,895           | <u>60</u>         | 6,269           | <u>59</u>         | 7,027           | <u>-1</u>       | 758            |
| <b>SUBTOTAL, REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES.....</b> | <b>404</b>        | <b>\$38,966</b> | <b>403</b>        | <b>\$40,884</b> | <b>403</b>        | <b>\$46,012</b> | <b>0</b>        | <b>\$5,128</b> |
| <b>IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:</b>                     |                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                 |                 |                |
| Hazard Identification and Analysis..                                    | 76                | \$8,034         | 77                | \$8,616         | 77                | 9,764           | 0               | 1,148          |
| Applied Product Hazard Research.  | <u>0</u>          | 0               | <u>0</u>          | 1,000           | <u>0</u> *        | 2,000           | <u>0</u> *      | 1,000          |
| <b>SUBTOTAL, IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS.....</b>       | <b>76</b>         | <b>8,034</b>    | <b>77</b>         | <b>9,616</b>    | <b>77</b>         | <b>11,764</b>   | <b>0</b>        | <b>2,148</b>   |
| <b>TOTAL COMMISSION.....</b>  | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>47,000</b>   | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>50,500</b>   | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>57,776</b>   | <b><u>0</u></b> | <b>\$7,276</b> |

\* Based on the selection of research projects at the start of the 2000 and 2001 operating plans, the agency may allocate limited staff time to this effort.

NOTE: The following Total Commission information is presented by function:

|  |                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                 |                 |                |
|--|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| Hazard Assessment and                    |                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                 |                 |                |
| Reduction.....                           | 85                | \$9,060         | 83                | \$8,955         | 84                | \$10,750        | 1               | \$1,795        |
| Compliance.....                          | 192               | 17,152          | 192               | 18,275          | 191               | 20,507          | -1              | \$2,232        |
| Consumer Information.....                | 53                | 5,382           | 54                | 5,810           | 54                | 6,643           | 0               | \$833          |
| Hazard Identification and                |                   |                 |                   |                 |                   |                 |                 |                |
| Analysis**.....                          | 62                | 6,649           | 63                | 7,114           | 63                | 8,211           | 0               | \$1,097        |
| Research.....                            | 0                 | 0               | 0                 | 1,000           | 0                 | 2,000           | 0               | \$1,000        |
| Agency Management.....                   | 88                | 8,757           | 88                | 9,346           | 88                | 9,665           | 0               | \$319          |
| <b>Total Commission by Function.....</b> | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>\$47,000</b> | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>\$50,500</b> | <b><u>480</u></b> | <b>\$57,776</b> | <b><u>0</u></b> | <b>\$7,276</b> |

\*\* This function is the same as the "Hazard Identification and Analysis" activity above without resources from the "Agency Management" function.

**TABLE 2**  
**SUMMARY OF CHANGES, 2000 to 2001**  
**(dollars in thousands)**

|  | <u>Amount</u>          | <u>FTEs</u>       |
|--|------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>2000 APPROPRIATION PENDING</b> .....  | \$50,500               | 480               |
| <b>ADJUSTMENTS TO 2000 APPROPRIATION BASE:</b>   |                        |                   |
| <b>Cost Increases to maintain current services in 2001:</b>  |                        |                   |
| Statutory pay and benefit increases.....   | \$2,620                |                   |
| Non-compensation related inflation increase.....   | 196                    |                   |
| GSA space rent increases for office space.....   | <u>307</u>             |                   |
| <b>Subtotal, Adjustments to base</b> .....   | <b><u>\$3,123</u></b>  |                   |
| <b>2001 CURRENT SERVICES LEVEL (for all programs)</b> .....  | <b>\$53,623</b>        | <b>480</b>        |
| <b>CRITICAL INVESTMENTS:</b>   |                        |                   |
| <b>Reducing Product Hazards to Children and Families:</b>  |                        |                   |
| Laboratory Development – Implement plan for more efficient testing operation ....  | \$1,000                |                   |
| Laboratory equipment - supports all product hazard testing efforts .....   | 140                    |                   |
| Product safety standards development support in all hazard areas - travel<br>(\$20); contract support to standards development (\$50) .....  | 70                     |                   |
| Compliance investigation and litigation support in all hazard areas – contract<br>support of investigations (\$100); product safety assessment samples/testing<br>supplies (\$20); field telecommuting support (\$50)..... | 170                    |                   |
| Hotline - expanded operating hours and improved public access to<br>publications - supports all product hazard reduction efforts.....  | 258                    |                   |
| Additional safety video news releases (4) - supports all product hazard<br>reduction efforts .....   | 40                     |                   |
| Mailings of recall notices to public - supports all product hazard reduction efforts..   | 50                     |                   |
| Distribution of publications to public - supports all product hazard reduction efforts   | 40                     |                   |
| <b>Identifying and Researching Product Hazards:</b>  |                        |                   |
| Applied research to solve complex safety problems.....   | 1,000                  |                   |
| Update product population model.....   | 225                    |                   |
| Data methodology studies.....  | 100                    |                   |
| Electronic collection of newspaper injury incident reports .....   | 50                     |                   |
| <b>Information Technology (supports all programs):</b>   |                        |                   |
| Establish information technology maintenance program.....  | 750                    |                   |
| New applications – Human resources management system (\$100); automated travel<br>management system (\$20); remote data access (\$140).....  | <u>260</u>             |                   |
| <b>Subtotal, Critical Investments</b> .....  | <b><u>\$4,153</u></b>  |                   |
| <b>2001 REQUEST</b> .....  | <b><u>\$57,776</u></b> | <b><u>480</u></b> |

## **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY INITIATIVE FOR 2001**

CPSC is a data-driven agency. Protecting the public by making risk-based decisions on the basis of timely and accurate data is critical to the agency's mission. The agency's information technology capability needs sustained investment in order to maintain and expand support to our hazard reduction efforts. Budget constraints have left recent requests for adequate resources unfunded. For 2001, we request an increase of \$1,010,000 to establish a technology replacement program and to enhance technology capability. This addition will preserve and build on the Commission's highly effective and productive use of information technology.

### **BACKGROUND**

#### **Agency Development of Information Technology Capability**

Since 1993, the Commission has made a significant investment in upgrading its information technology capabilities by:

- Establishing an agency-wide computer network with computer access for all employees, including all our field staff who telecommute;
- Installing and modernizing computerized databases for key, mission-critical programs, such as the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS);
- Initiating document-imaging for electronic filing and retrieval of hazard information; and,
- Establishing a World Wide Web site.

#### **Savings from Information Technology**

Information technology has significantly improved the distribution of safety information to the public and has greatly streamlined communications among agency staff nationwide, permitting the rapid sharing of hazard data and product-related information. This has saved thousands of hours of staff time directly benefiting consumers and industry by allowing this time to be used to reduce product hazards. In fact, information technology advances have enabled the agency to maintain its effectiveness despite loss of purchasing power and 10 percent of its staff since 1992. Information technology has also allowed us to make more productive use of Commission resources, such as introducing telecommuting for our field staff, which permitted significant office space rent savings.

### **FUTURE DEVELOPMENT**

The Commission's 2000 budget now pending before Congress requests \$500,000 to begin the integration of hazard databases. The goal of the Commission's information technology effort is to have all of the Commission's injury data linked in electronic format, enabling staff to more quickly identify hazards. This full integration of agency data will, for example, enable a compliance officer, whether at headquarters or in the field to quickly obtain all of the Commission's data on a particular product from the agency's National Electronic Injury

Surveillance System, medical examiner and coroner data, death certificate data, poison control center data, the consumer Hotline, and other incident reports. Today, an employee must access each database independently, which can take hours or even days. The 2001 budget continues funding for database integration and assumes its completion in 2001.

The development of the integrated database illustrates how critical information technology is to Commission performance. However, the Commission has reached a crossroads in information technology development. It has an infrastructure in place that properly supports hazard injury reduction activities. The Commission's current resources, however, do not provide for either long-term maintenance of the existing system or for the acquisition of the new information technology to further enhance Commission productivity.

## **Funding for 2001**

For 2001, we request \$1,010,000 to keep the agency's information technology modern. The request consists of two elements:

1. *Establish Technology Maintenance Program* - The agency needs an additional \$750,000 to, for the first time, establish a replacement cycle for agency computer systems and other information technology applications. The agency has invested in computer equipment and software over the past five years, but as this equipment and software ages, a portion must be replaced periodically. Previous investment funds were available either by special funding or through unplanned circumstances not likely to occur again. By 2001, portions of the agency's information technology equipment inventory will be at the end of its useful life in terms of meeting the demands placed on it by staff use and software requirements. The level of funding requested would establish a recurring, planned replacement cycle for equipment and software. For example, one-third of our staff computers would be replaced every three years.
2. *Purchase New Capabilities* - The agency requests \$260,000 to purchase new software, services, and equipment to further enhance agency staff productivity, for example, by providing employees with access to Commission databases while away from their workstation. The funding also would purchase an off-the-shelf automated travel management system designed to speed up travel expenditure documentation and eliminate paperwork. Finally, the Commission would cross-service with another Federal agency for a new human resource system that would automate most personnel actions and eliminate inefficient manual conversion of personnel actions into payroll actions.

## **CONCLUSION**

CPSC has successfully used information technology to increase agency productivity and cope with staff and other resource reductions. The agency now depends on information technology to sustain the current level of agency productivity and success in reducing deaths and injuries. Information technology capability requires continual investment if it is to operate efficiently and increase agency productivity. The Commission's request to establish a reliable maintenance program and acquire new capabilities preserves and builds upon the existing critical information technology in support of the agency's safety mission.

## REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS TO CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

| 1999<br>Appropriation |          | 2000<br>Request |          | 2001<br>Recommendation |          |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| FTEs                  | Amount   | FTEs            | Amount   | FTEs                   | Amount   |
| 404                   | \$38,966 | 403             | \$40,884 | 403                    | \$46,012 |

### HAZARD REDUCTION AREAS

This program seeks to reduce hazards in four broad areas:

- Children's hazards
- Fire and electrocution hazards
- Household and recreation hazards
- Child poisonings and other chemical hazards

### HAZARD REDUCTION FUNCTIONS

The Commission conducts three activities to reduce product hazards:

1. Hazard Assessment and Reduction -- Develops voluntary and mandatory safety standards for product performance and labeling, bans products where appropriate, and develops consumer information and education materials. Whenever possible, these activities are carried out cooperatively with affected industries and State and local organizations.
2. Compliance -- Obtains compliance with product safety regulations issued by the Commission, identifies and remedies unregulated products that present substantial safety hazards, and seeks conformance with selected voluntary safety standards. Remedies may include corrective actions, such as product recalls, as well as civil or criminal penalties. CPSC obtains corrective actions by working cooperatively with industry and, as a last resort, through litigation.

The agency seeks a recall when a product is defective and corrective action is warranted. Many of its major recalls involve products for which there are significant injuries or deaths. In other cases, recalls are initiated because of the great potential for injury even though no, or only a few, incidents have occurred. In 1998, there were 213 recalls to remove hazardous products for which there were no mandatory safety standards and 60 recalls of products that failed to meet mandatory safety standards. In total, there were over 36 million products recalled.

In recent years, the Commission has placed additional emphasis on working more cooperatively with industry and standards-setting organizations to develop voluntary standards and reduce reliance on government-imposed mandatory standards. Each year we monitor selected existing

voluntary standards likely to reduce deaths or injuries and determine industry compliance with these standards. Commission monitoring helps industry by making sure that some competitors do not evade a standard to cut costs, thereby underselling competitors who are taking the steps necessary to meet an industry safety standard.

3. Consumer Information – Issues alerts to the public on recalled hazardous products and other safety information designed to reduce product injuries. Collects product safety complaints from the public through the agency's consumer Hotline and website. Consumer information is a critical function in the Commission's hazard reduction strategies. While always providing an important adjunct to hazard reduction and compliance work, sometimes it represents the only viable means available to reduce a product hazard.

### **CHANGES FOR 2001**

The activities for 2001 in this program remain essentially the same as in 2000. Dollars increase by \$5.1 million, with no change in FTEs. Most of the dollar increase (\$3.3 million) is the prorated share of salary, space, and other inflation price increases requested to maintain current service levels and the prorated share of the agency's information technology request. The rest, \$1.8 million, reflects these changes:

- \$1 million to modernize and improve the operation of the agency's testing laboratory. Our testing laboratory plays a critical role in providing the data needed in our hazard reduction and compliance activities. The laboratory facility has been housed for over 20 years in the existing buildings of a former military site. We are now working with GSA to develop a plan to modernize the facility and its equipment, and make more efficient use of the facility. The \$1 million is a preliminary estimate of a potential multi-year upgrade.
- \$140,000 for annual replacement of laboratory testing equipment;
- \$70,000 for support of increased voluntary standards development travel (\$20,000) and contract funds (\$50,000);
- \$170,000 for compliance work to include increased investigation contract support (\$100,000), increased product safety assessment sample testing (\$20,000), and improvements to support telecommuting of compliance field investigators (\$50,000); and,
- \$388,000 for consumer information to include expansion of the consumer Hotline operation (\$258,000) to provide additional hours of operation and improved consumer publication ordering, 4 additional video news releases on safety issues that arise in 2001 (\$40,000), increased number of recall notice mailings to the public (\$50,000) and, increased costs of publication distribution (\$40,000).

While total FTEs remains the same, there are minor changes in FTEs between hazard areas reflecting adjustments of staff time required to work on projects scheduled in 2001.

| Hazard Area Detail                           | 1999<br>Appropriation |                 | 2000<br>Request |                 | 2001<br>Recommendation |                 |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|  | FTEs                  | Amount          | FTEs            | Amount          | FTEs                   | Amount          |
| Children's Hazards                           | 138                   | \$12,980        | 142             | \$14,275        | 140                    | \$15,544        |
| Fire & Electrocution Hazards                 | 136                   | 13,645          | 132             | 13,536          | 136                    | 15,895          |
| Household/Recreation Hazards                 | 70                    | 6,446           | 69              | 6,804           | 68                     | 7,546           |
| Child Poisonings & Other<br>Chemical Hazards | 60                    | 5,895           | 60              | 6,269           | 59                     | 7,027           |
| <b>Total Hazard Areas</b>                    | <b>404</b>            | <b>\$38,966</b> | <b>403</b>      | <b>\$40,884</b> | <b>403</b>             | <b>\$46,012</b> |

## REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS: CHILDREN'S HAZARDS

| 1999<br>Appropriation |          | 2000<br>Request |          | 2001<br>Recommendation |          |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| FTEs                  | Amount   | FTEs            | Amount   | FTEs                   | Amount   |
| 138                   | \$12,980 | 142             | \$14,275 | 140                    | \$15,544 |

### GOALS and STRATEGIES

*The Commission's Results Act strategic plan sets a goal of reducing by 15 percent the rate of head injury to children under 15 years old from 1996 to 2006.*

Head injury is a leading cause of death and disability to children in the United States. In 1997 alone, there were an estimated 650,000 product-related head injuries to children under 15 years old that were treated in hospital emergency rooms. Of these, over half were to children under 5 years old. Over 80 percent of the head injuries to children under 15 were diagnosed as concussions, fractures, and internal head injuries.

Consumer products addressed by the agency in 2001 are associated with about 230 child deaths and 509,500 child injuries each year (excluding child poisonings). The estimated annual societal cost of these injuries and deaths is about \$19 billion.

CPSC work on safety standards and compliance activities has reduced hazards to children associated with baby walkers, bunk beds, cribs, infant carriers, playground equipment, and bicycles. In 1998, the agency obtained 100 recalls involving nearly 7 million children's products. CPSC addressed child strangulation hazards from window blinds and clothing drawstrings. CPSC also informed consumers of the hazards to infants from soft bedding and promoted placing infants on their backs to sleep. To help reduce the risk of head injury, CPSC advocated the use of helmets for bicycling, in-line skating, skiing and snowboarding.

### CHANGES for 2001

The 2001 request includes 140 FTEs and \$15.5 million to reduce hazards to children. The dollars increase by \$1.3 million and the FTEs decrease by 2. The dollar change reflects the prorated share of agency increases requested to maintain current service levels, maintain information technology, improve program efforts (such as an improved laboratory facility and greater support for hazard reduction, compliance, and consumer information activities), less dollar decreases related to the decrease in FTEs. The FTE decrease reflects only a minor staffing adjustment based on projected workload needs for 2001.

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
*Children's Hazards - continuing*

**ACTIVITIES for 2001**

**Hazard Assessment and Reduction:**

**Prepare and send to voluntary standards organizations recommendations to strengthen or develop voluntary standards:**

- *Sports Headgear* – Develop a voluntary standard proposal for a helmet that could be used for one recreational activity (such as skating, skateboarding, horseback riding, skiing or snowboarding).

**Complete hazard assessments:**

- *Child Restraint Systems* – Complete testing and evaluation of passive restraint systems for effectiveness, ease of use, proper sizing and child-proofing to prevent falls from a variety of products such as high chairs, infant carriers, infant swings, strollers, changing tables, bicycle carriers, and baby jumpers. In recent years, an estimated 28,000 emergency room injuries were attributed to falls associated with these products. This completes a two-year activity begun in 2000.
- *Multi-Use Juvenile Products* - Complete evaluation of multi-use juvenile products to determine the need for new standards, or revisions to existing standards, to address potential hazards associated with these products. Examples of these products include car seats that convert to infant carriers or baby swings, soft carriers that convert to infant seats, and infant high chairs that convert to youth seats.

**Other activities:**

- *Voluntary Standards Development* - In 2001, continue to assist industry in the development or revision of voluntary standards for playground surfacing, baby swings, bassinets, cradles, changing tables, infant bedding and related accessories, home playground equipment, playground equipment for children under two years, public playground equipment, bicycles and toy safety.
- *Toy Guide Update* - Continue an effort which will begin in 2000 to update CPSC's *Guidelines for Relating Children's Ages to Toy Characteristics*. This document was created in 1985 and serves as a critical reference for the Commission and toy manufacturers in developing appropriate age grading for toys. The document needs to be revised to take into account new types of toys and evaluate traditional toys to identify changes in design or use that may affect age appropriateness. The revised guidelines will address changes in marketing, product purchase trends, and play behaviors. This activity is expected to be completed in 2002.

**Compliance - Identify and act on products that present a risk of injury through:**

- *Recalls and Corrective Actions* - Initiate recalls or other corrective actions on hazardous products that present a substantial risk of head or other injury to children, such as CPSC's recent recall of over one million infant carriers and/or carrier swings with latches that could fail and cause the

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Children's Hazards* - continuing**

child to fall out. In 1998, there were 65 corrective actions involving about 5.5 million products that presented hazards to children.

- *Violations and Recalls* - Identify and correct products that pose a risk of head or other injury to children and that fail to meet mandatory safety standards. In 1998, there were 35 recalls involving about 900,000 products. Import surveillance in cooperation with U.S. Customs Service continues to be the most effective approach in this enforcement activity.
- *Monitoring Voluntary Standards* - Select voluntary standard monitoring activities during the development of the agency's 2001 operating plan. Voluntary standards the Commission has monitored in the past include those on drawstrings in children's outerwear and window blind cords.
- *Monitoring All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)* - For 2001, continue monitoring distributor and retail activities involving sales of ATVs with the \$50,000 State and local assistance funding requested in the 2000 budget. The ATV monitoring effort, previously designed to monitor distributor and dealer compliance with the requirements specified in the final 1988 consent decree between the ATV distributors and CPSC, will continue in a different format in 2000. The consent decree expired in 1998 and the Commission, in partnership with the ATV industry, has developed a new safety program to address ATV hazards.

### **Consumer Information:**

#### **Issue safety alerts, warnings, and messages to the public on:**

- *Bicycles* - Promote the use of bicycle helmets and safe bicycle-riding practices that prevent head or other injuries to children.
- *All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)* - Warn teenagers, parents and other caregivers of ATV hazards and promote the use of helmets and safe riding practices that prevent head or other injuries to children.
- *Infant Products* - Warn parents about the hazards of older style baby walkers and infant carriers and encourage the use of safer baby walkers and infant carriers.
- *Recreational Activities* - Warn about the need for child head protection in recreational activities such as in-line skating, skiing, and snowboarding.
- *Other child products and hazards* - Issued on an as-needed basis.
- *Recall Roundup* - Reach over 100 million consumers with safety messages on recalled products hazardous to children. This is achieved by CPSC working in partnerships with all 50 States and national and grassroots organizations.
- *Press Releases* - Warn the public about recalled products presenting a substantial risk of head injury or other injury.

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
***Children's Hazards - continuing***

- *Video News Release (VNR)* - Work with the manufacturers of recalled products to produce VNRs for recalled products. In 1998, CPSC and manufacturers in cooperation with CPSC produced VNRs that reached over 178 million viewers with child safety messages.
- *Publications* - Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 150,000 or more checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about child head injury hazards and other hazards presented to children by consumer products.

## REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS: REDUCING FIRE and ELECTROCUTION HAZARDS

| 1999<br>Appropriation |          | 2000<br>Request |          | 2001<br>Recommendation |          |
|-----------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|------------------------|----------|
| FTEs                  | Amount   | FTEs            | Amount   | FTEs                   | Amount   |
| 136                   | \$13,645 | 132             | \$13,536 | 136                    | \$15,895 |

### GOALS and STRATEGIES

**Fire Hazards** -- *The Commission's Results Act strategic plan sets a goal of reducing the rate of death from fires by 10 percent from 1995 to 2005.* In 1996, there were about 428,000 residential fires resulting in 4,000 deaths, 19,300 injuries, and property damage of \$5 billion. The total annual cost to the nation of residential fires is about \$26 billion.

While efforts by the agency and the nation's fire prevention community have resulted in a steady decline in residential fires, this nation's fire death rate remains one of the highest among industrialized nations. CPSC activities, which include cigarette-resistant mattresses, child resistant lighters, upholstered furniture, heating and cooking equipment, electrical products, general wearing apparel, children's sleepwear, and smoke detectors, have contributed to the general decline in fires and fire deaths and show that the agency can be effective in reducing fire hazards.

In 1998, over 18 million non-complying or hazardous products that presented fire hazards were subject to 75 recalls or corrective action plans. Also in 1998, the Commission negotiated fire hazard related civil penalties totaling more than \$600,000 from firms that failed to report hazardous products or sold products that violated specific regulations.

**Electrocution Hazards** -- *The Commission Results Act strategic plan sets a goal of reducing the rate of death from electrocutions by 20 percent from 1994 to 2004.* There are almost 200 deaths from electrocutions associated with consumer products each year in the United States. The Commission receives reports of electrocution deaths from products such as house wiring, lamps and light fixtures, antennas, power tools, and small and large appliances.

Deaths from electrocutions have decreased by over 40 percent over the past 12 years -- from 340 deaths in 1984 to 190 deaths in 1996. This is due in large part to CPSC efforts. CPSC worked with industry to develop safety standards that reduced or nearly eliminated the risk of electrocutions for such products as hair dryers, power tools, CB antennas, and electric toys. In 1998, CPSC had 35 recalls and corrective actions for products presenting electrocution hazards, including extension cords, surge protectors, power strips, fans, lamps, portable heaters and toaster ovens. CPSC also conducted its annual consumer information campaign to warn the public about the hazards of electrical products.

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocution Hazards - continued***

## **CHANGES for 2001**

The 2001 request includes 136 FTEs and \$16 million to reduce fire and electrocution hazards. The dollars increase by \$2.4 million and the FTEs increase by 4. The dollar change reflects the prorated share of agency increases to maintain current service levels, maintain information technology, improve program efforts (such as an improved laboratory facility and greater support for hazard reduction, compliance, and consumer information activities), plus dollar increases related to the increase in FTEs. The FTE increase reflects only a minor staffing adjustment based on projected workload needs for 2001.

## **ACTIVITIES for 2001**

### **REDUCING FIRE HAZARDS - Hazard Assessment and Reduction:**

#### **Prepare candidates for rulemaking or other alternatives for Commission consideration:**

- *Upholstered Furniture* - To address the risk of small open flame-ignited fires involving upholstered furniture, in 2001 the Commission may take one of three approaches: (a) continue the rulemaking process by issuing a final rule; (b) work with standards-setting groups to complete a voluntary safety standard; or (c) consider other alternatives.

In 1996, upholstered furniture fires caused an estimated 650 deaths, 1,640 injuries, and over \$250 million in property damage resulting from 13,100 fires due to ignition of upholstered furniture. Total societal costs were estimated at about \$3.7 billion. From 1992-1996, small open flame-ignited furniture fires caused an annual average of 90 deaths, 420 injuries, and \$40 million in property damage--about 80% of all open flame losses. The estimated average societal costs were about \$560 million.

The upholstered furniture effort continues work begun in 1994. In 1994, the Commission granted, in part, a petition from the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) to initiate a proceeding to regulate upholstered furniture flammability. The Commission published an advance notice of proposed rulemaking on small open flame ignition risks and deferred action on the portion of the petition dealing with cigarette ignition risks.

In 1997 through 1999, CPSC staff developed a draft small open flame standard; elements of this effort included flammability testing, test method development, flame retardant (FR) chemical evaluation, and economic analysis. In 1998, the Commission held a public hearing on FR chemical toxicity and related issues. In 1999, CPSC sponsored an independent study by the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) of FR chemicals that might be used to meet a flammability standard.

In 2000, CPSC expects to receive a final report from NAS and continue its work on a small open flame test method. The staff may also recommend that the Commission issue a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPR) or take other appropriate action. The Commission may also

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocuttion Hazards - continued***

consider whether to take action with respect to cigarette-ignited fires, and whether to propose a labeling requirement for polyurethane foam filling materials, as requested in a 1999 petition from the NASFM.

- *Cigarette Lighters* – The CPSC staff may recommend amending the cigarette lighter standard. This standard became effective in 1994 and requires cigarette lighters to be child resistant to prevent child play fires. In 1999, staff will complete an evaluation of the effectiveness of the standard and, if needed, recommend amendments to the standard to improve its effectiveness.
- *Mattresses* - In 1996, there were 130 deaths from ignition of mattresses and bedding by small open flame sources such as lighters, matches and candles. In 2000, CPSC staff will evaluate an industry-sponsored study to assess the effectiveness of alternative fire control strategies. In 2001, based on an analysis of the study, the Commission may (a) consider amending the mattress standard to address small open flame-ignition, (b) work with standards setting groups to complete a voluntary safety standard or (c) consider other alternatives.

### **Prepare and send recommendations to strengthen or develop voluntary standards to voluntary standards organizations:**

- *Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters* - Continue support for expanded arc fault circuit interrupter (AFCI) coverage in new home construction and provide technical substantiation for new AFCI technology (e.g., digital enhancements). AFCIs are new electrical safety devices that provide protection against certain faults that occur in house wiring that may lead to fires. The 1999 National Electrical Code will require AFCIs in bedroom circuits of all new home construction, effective in 2002.
- *Electrical Reinspection* - To further address electrical wiring fires in older homes, the CPSC staff will develop additional safety improvements to the Residential Electrical Maintenance Code to (a) require smart arc fault circuit interruptors, (b) use outlet testers, and (c) to expand the scope to include multi-family dwellings. Fires result from deterioration of the wiring in older homes leading to short circuits, arcing, and other fire hazard conditions. Homes over 40 years old are three times more likely to have a fire than homes 11 to 20 years old.
- *Portable Electric Fans* - Complete an assessment of voluntary safety standard requirements for portable electric fans. Based on this assessment, CPSC staff will develop and submit proposals to revise the voluntary standard.
- *Fixed Electric Air Heaters* – Complete an assessment of the voluntary standard for fixed room heaters. Based on this assessment, CPSC staff will develop and submit proposals to revise the voluntary standard.

### **Complete hazard assessments:**

- *Sprinklers* – Continue to test and evaluate sprinklers to support code and voluntary standards recommendations on performance, design, installation and maintenance.

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocution Hazards - continued***

- *Electrical Components* – Complete evaluation of the role of various electrical components that contribute to the fire hazard associated with appliances. Staff will complete a technical review of applicable safety standards and conduct laboratory testing and evaluation as needed.
- *Fail-Safe Design* – Demonstrate concepts for redesign of a consumer product that presents a serious fire hazard when it fails. The concepts will demonstrate the use of “fail-safe” principles to reduce the fire hazard.
- *Operating Controls* – Complete evaluation of the effects that power interruption may have on proper operation of controls for gas-fired appliances.
- *Residential Circuit Breakers* - Complete a technical review of current and old production circuit breaker connections to determine the need for, or scope of, more extensive testing and analysis.
- *Table Top Cooking Appliances* – Complete a review of the incident data, market data and safety standards and conduct laboratory testing as needed to determine approaches for addressing fires associated with these products.
- *Flexible Venting Material* – Complete analysis of the role of flexible venting material in house fires and determine the scope of its use. Complete review of current standards for adequacy to prevent separation or material failure and complete laboratory testing.
- *Gas-Fired Water Heaters* – Monitor the development of new products that reduce the risk of flammable vapor ignition from spilled gasoline or solvents. These fires have resulted in deaths and serious burn injuries.

## **REDUCING FIRE HAZARDS - Compliance:**

### **Identify and act on products that present a risk of fire-related injury through:**

- *Recalls and Corrective Actions* - Seek recall or other corrective actions for unregulated products that present a substantial risk of fire-related death and injury. In 1998, there were 56 corrective actions taken to reduce fire hazards involving over 16 million products.

A recent example of this work occurred when CPSC joined with a manufacturer to recall 8.4 million fire sprinklers that fail to activate properly in the presence of fire. The agency crafted a settlement that allowed the firm to remain in business and offer continued protection for consumers. In another example, the Commission settled litigation that resulted in a corrective action plan to remove approximately 230,000 defective toasters from consumer use. The Commission also actively monitored imported electrical extension cords, surge suppressors and power strips to detect those with undersized wire that created a risk of fire and removed them from the marketplace.

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocutition Hazards - continued***

CPSC will continue to address design and material deficiencies in extension cords, surge suppressors and multi-electrical outlets through cooperative efforts with the U.S. Customs Service at selected ports of entry. The Commission will focus on small electrical appliances at both the domestic manufacturing level and importer level. CPSC efforts will target lower quality products.

- *Violations and Recalls* - Identify and correct products that fail to meet mandatory fire safety standards. In 1998, there were 18 recalls of products that failed to meet safety standards involving about 1.5 million products. Major activities include:

- Monitoring compliance of cigarette lighters. The agency issued a child-resistant requirement for disposable cigarette lighters in late 1993, with an effective date in late 1994. CPSC will concentrate its efforts on identifying imported and domestic lighters that fail to comply with the child-resistant requirements. In 1998, CPSC and the U.S. Customs Service prevented over 400,000 unsafe lighters from entering the country.

- Monitoring compliance with existing fireworks regulations. Import surveillance in conjunction with U.S. Customs continues to be the most effective approach in this enforcement activity. In 1998, CPSC and the U.S. Customs Service prevented over 19 million units of violative fireworks from entering the country.

- Monitoring compliance with the flammability standards issued under the Flammable Fabrics Act compliance activity. The Commission will continue this activity because of observed non-compliance of garments such as fleece garments and children's sleepwear. In 1998, there were 13 recalls for failure to meet flammability standards involving over 500,000 products.

- *Monitoring Voluntary Standards* - Select voluntary standard monitoring activities during the development of the agency's 2001 operating plan. Products related to fire hazards which the Commission has monitored in the past included Christmas lights.

## **REDUCING FIRE HAZARDS - Consumer Information:**

### **Issue public alerts and warnings on fire hazards:**

- *Fireworks* - CPSC will conduct a fireworks safety campaign prior to the Fourth of July and again before New Year's eve, the millennium celebration. This campaign will be aimed at increasing public awareness of the need for safety and it will alert consumers to the common hazards associated with legal and illegal fireworks.

- *Home Heating* - Issue safety information designed to give consumers information related to home electrical system inspections; fuel-fired heating equipment; coal and woodstoves; and smoke detectors.

- *Halloween Hazards* - Warn about the dangers of costumes catching on fire from children carrying candles, and using matches and cigarette lighters.

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocutation Hazards - continued***

- *Holiday Hazards* - Warn about the risk of fire from defective decorative light strings and natural trees, as well as the safe use of candles and fireplaces.
- *Cigarette Lighters* - Warn about the risk of fire from children under 5 years playing with cigarette lighters.

### **Alert the public to fire-related hazards through:**

- *Press Releases* - Initiate about 35 press releases for recalled products presenting a substantial risk of fire-related deaths.
- *Video News Releases (VNRs)* - Complete VNRs: (1) for at least one recalled product, work with the manufacturer to produce a VNR; and (2) produce a VNR for the fireworks safety campaign. In 1998, CPSC and manufacturers in cooperation with CPSC produced VNRs that reached over 214 million viewers with fire safety messages.
- *Publications* - Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 150,000 checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about fire-related hazards.

## **REDUCING ELECTROCUTION HAZARDS - Hazard Assessment and Reduction:**

### **Prepare and send recommendations to strengthen or develop voluntary standards to voluntary standards organizations and national code groups:**

- *Protective Devices* - To address the hazard of electrocution, develop recommendations for voluntary standards that would require built-in shock protection, improved grounding, or improved insulation systems for products such as large appliances, including air conditioners and pumps. These products accounted for approximately 15% of consumer product-related electrocutions in 1996.
- *National Electrical Code* - Develop and support code proposals to require fail-safe ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) in specific circuits (e.g., outdoor outlets) that present the highest risk of serious shock or electrocutions.
- *Electrical Reinspection* - To further address the problem of electrocution hazards in older homes, develop and send recommendations to the Residential Electrical Maintenance Code.

### **Complete hazard assessments:**

- *Lamps* - Complete analysis of clamp lamps, hand-held lamps and other work lights to determine applicability of shock preventive designs.

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Fire and Electrocution Hazards - continued***

- *Fail-Safe Design* – Complete analysis and demonstrate concepts for redesign of a product that presents an electrocution hazard when it fails. The concepts will demonstrate the use of “fail-safe” principles to reduce the electrocution hazard.
- *GFCIs* – Complete laboratory testing of enhanced GFCIs. One type of enhancement incorporates indicators so consumers know whether or not the device is working properly to protect against electrocution.

## **REDUCING ELECTROCUTION HAZARDS - Compliance Activity - Identify and act on products that present a risk of injury through:**

- *Recalls and Corrective Actions* - Seek recalls or other corrective actions for products that present a substantial risk of electrocution. In 1998, there were 35 recalls or corrective actions taken to reduce electrical hazards, involving over 2 million products.
- *Monitoring Voluntary Standards* - Select voluntary standard monitoring activities during the development of the agency's 2001 operating plan. Voluntary standards related to electrical products that the Commission has monitored in the past include extension cords, power strips, and surge protectors.

## **REDUCING ELECTROCUTION HAZARDS - Consumer Information - Alert the public to electrical hazards through:**

- *Recall Roundup* - As part of the annual Recall Roundup campaign, develop and implement a program to encourage consumers to dispose of older power tools that have poor insulation and a high risk of electrocution.
- *Video News Release* - For at least one recalled product, work with the manufacturer to produce a VNR.
- *Press Releases* - Initiate an estimated eight press releases to advise the public of recalled products with a substantial risk of electrocution.
- *Publications* - Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 40,000 safety alerts, checklists and booklets.

## REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS: HOUSEHOLD AND RECREATION HAZARDS

| 1999<br>Appropriation |         | 2000<br>Request |         | 2001<br>Recommendation |         |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| FTEs                  | Amount  | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount  |
| 70                    | \$6,446 | 69              | \$6,804 | 68                     | \$7,546 |

### GOALS and STRATEGIES

In the area of household and recreational hazards, CPSC activities in 2001 will address an estimated annual 600 deaths and over 80,000 injuries. The annual societal cost to the nation of these hazards is estimated at \$8 billion.

Past CPSC activities have made significant contributions to household and recreation safety. For example, we improved lawn mowers by establishing a safety standard. We estimate that the lawn mower standard saves about \$1 billion in societal costs annually. The agency has recently negotiated 17 recalls involving about 100,000 bicycles to correct various problems that could lead to loss of control and injury to riders. CPSC and two go-kart manufacturers recalled for repair about 10,000 hazardous go-karts. In 1998, as a result of 50 recalls and corrective actions, over 9 million non-complying or hazardous products that presented household or recreational hazards were subject to recalls or corrective action plans. The agency also has been a leader in providing consumers with information on safe use of in-line skates and other household and recreational hazards.

### CHANGES for 2001

The 2001 request includes \$7.5 million and 68 FTEs to reduce household and recreation hazards. The dollars increase by \$742,000 with a one FTE decrease. The dollar change reflects the prorated share of the agency increases requested to maintain current service levels, maintain information technology, improve program activities (such as an improved laboratory facility and expanded Hotline operations), less dollar decreases related to the FTE decrease. The FTE decrease reflects only a minor staffing adjustment based on projected workload needs for 2001.

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
*Household and Recreation Products - continued*

**ACTIVITIES for 2001**

***Hazard Assessment and Reduction:***

**Prepare and send recommendations to strengthen or develop voluntary standards to voluntary standards organizations:**

- Continue to improve model building codes and safety standards for household and recreational products. In 2001, work on swimming pool alarms, nail guns, and door operators, chain saws, table saws, and exercise equipment will continue.

**Other Work** - CPSC staff plans an activity on status indicators for safety devices. Status indicators are needed so consumers can determine whether a safety device is functioning properly. In 2001, staff will review various safety devices that are presently on the market to determine the range of methods employed to indicate the status of the device. Staff will conduct research to develop specifications for effective status indicators and make recommendations on revisions to voluntary standards, as appropriate, to include status indicators.

In 2001, staff also will work on addressing product hazards to older consumers. Staff will review death and injury data to identify specific consumer products or product classes that are particularly hazardous to seniors and, as appropriate, make recommendations to voluntary standards or for information and educational materials to address these product hazards.

***Compliance - Identify and act on products that present a risk of injury through:***

- *Recalls and Corrective Actions* – Seek recall or other corrective action for unregulated products that present substantial hazards. In 1998, there were about 50 corrective actions taken involving unregulated hazardous household or recreation products involving over 9 million products. A recent example of this work occurred when CPSC obtained the recall of about 70,000 lawn and garden tractors for potential injuries to users and/or bystanders. Also, over 44,000 bicycles or bicycle accessories were recalled due to component failures such as frame breakage, fork separations or failures of fastening systems.
- *Violations and Recalls* - Identify and correct products that fail to meet mandatory safety standards.
- *Monitoring Voluntary Standards* - Select voluntary standard monitoring activities during the development of the agency's 2001 operating plan. Past product standards monitored included recliner chairs, and pool, spa and hot tub covers.

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
**Household and Recreation Products - continued**

**Consumer Information - Alert the public to household and recreation product hazards through:**

- *Safety Campaign* - Develop and implement a campaign to encourage consumers to use recreational products safely, especially by wearing protective equipment.
- *Video News Release (VNR)* - For at least one recalled product, work with manufacturer to produce a VNR.
- *Press Releases* - Initiate press releases to advise the public of recalled household or recreational products with a substantial risk of injury.
- *Publications* - Respond to consumer requests for safety alerts, checklists and booklets.

## REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS: REDUCING CHILD POISONINGS AND OTHER CHEMICAL HAZARDS

| 1999<br>Appropriation |         | 2000<br>Request |         | 2001<br>Recommendation |         |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| FTEs                  | Amount  | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount  |
| 60                    | \$5,895 | 60              | \$6,269 | 59                     | \$7,027 |

### GOALS and STRATEGIES

*The Commission's Results Act strategic plan sets a goal that the rate of death from unintentional poisonings to children under 5 years old will not increase beyond 2.5 deaths per million children from 1994 to 2004. The Commission has also established a goal of reducing the rate of death from carbon monoxide poisonings by 20 percent from 1994 to 2004.*

The Chemical Hazards activity seeks to reduce or prevent deaths or injuries due to ingestion, inhalation, or dermal exposure from use of consumer products. The costs of injuries and deaths associated with products in the chemical hazards area are estimated to be in the billions of dollars, based on respiratory diseases alone. The Commission estimates annual societal costs of \$4 billion resulting from injuries and deaths associated with products in the poison prevention hazard area.

Drugs and other hazardous household chemical substances that are not in child-resistant packaging can be easily opened by children. In 1998, an estimated 107,000 children under the age of five were treated in hospital emergency rooms following ingestion of household products, medicines or household chemicals. Commission efforts through promulgation and enforcement of regulations issued under the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) have played a key role in reducing from 216 in 1972 to 47 in 1996 medicine and household chemical poisoning deaths of children.

This activity also addresses carbon monoxide (CO) hazards which result in over 200 deaths and over 7,000 injuries annually with \$2 billion in societal costs. CO is a poisonous gas that has no smell, color or taste -- truly a "senseless" killer. This gas is produced by burning any fuel, such as gas, oil, wood, or coal, so that any fuel burning appliance is a potential CO source.

The CPSC has also played a prominent role in protecting children from the risk of lead and other chemical poisonings. For example, Commission action has resulted in manufacturers eliminating the use of lead as a stabilizer in vinyl miniblinds, reducing the production of children's jewelry containing lead, developing and distributing guidance about lead on public playground equipment, recalling crayons that contained hazardous levels of lead, recalling toys with lead

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

***Child Poisonings and Other Chemical Hazards* - continued**

paint and issuing a policy to manufacturers, retailers, distributors and importers urging them to eliminate the use of lead and other hazardous chemicals in children's products. In 1998, over one million noncomplying or hazardously defective products that presented chemical hazards were subject to 25 recalls or corrective action plans.

**CHANGES for 2001**

The 2001 request includes \$7 million and 59 FTEs to reduce child poisonings and other chemical hazards. The dollars increase by \$758,000 and the FTEs decrease by one. The dollar change reflects the prorated share of the agency increases requested to maintain current service levels, maintain information technology, improve program efforts (such as an improved laboratory facility and expanded Hotline operations), less dollar decreases related to the FTE decrease. The FTE decrease reflects only a minor staffing adjustment based on projected workload needs for 2001.

**ACTIVITIES FOR 2001**

***Hazard Assessment and Reduction:***

● Continuing *Poison Prevention* work to address injuries and deaths associated with children's ingestion of medicines and household chemicals. In 2001, staff will:

- Prepare a notice of proposed rulemaking or a final rule on at least one hazardous substance for child-resistant packaging for Commission consideration.
- Review chemicals identified as potentially hazardous and propose rulemaking under the PPPA, as appropriate.

● Continuing *Carbon Monoxide Poisoning* work that focuses on data collection, voluntary standards, building codes, State and local legislation, and hazard awareness programs. In 2001, staff will continue to develop, and recommend as necessary, changes to the appropriate voluntary standards for camping equipment, unvented room heaters, and gas log sets to reduce deaths and injuries from CO poisoning.

● Continuing *Toxicity Assessment* work to address a broad spectrum of consumer products and their health effects, such as eye and skin irritation, burns, neurotoxic and reproductive effects, respiratory diseases, cardiovascular diseases, and cancer. Each year, staff addresses specific issues that have been identified as emerging hazards and that are amenable to direct and clear Commission action. Participation in interagency committees and partnerships ensures coordination of scientific activities of mutual interest. In 2001 staff will:

## **REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Child Poisonings and Other Chemical Hazards - continued***

- Continue assessing product-related *lead poisoning* hazards and initiate reduction activities as needed.
- Continue screening of children's products for chemicals and elements that may pose a health risk.
- Assess other product-related hazards on an as-needed basis.

### **Compliance - Identify and act on products that present a risk of poisoning through:**

- *Recalls and Corrective Actions* - Seek recall or other corrective action for unregulated products that present a substantial risk of poisoning. In 1998, there were 13 recalls or corrective actions involving about 600,000 products presenting poisoning hazards.

A recent example of this work occurred when CPSC used a mediator to negotiate an industry-wide corrective action plan with approximately 30 manufacturers of appliances and venting materials to replace high temperature plastic vent pipes for gas and oil-fired appliances in approximately 250,000 homes. These vent pipes may crack or separate, causing a potential risk of carbon monoxide poisoning to families. The innovative use of a mediator earned the agency an award from the Institute for Dispute Resolution for "excellence and innovation in alternative dispute resolution."

- *Violations and Recalls* - Identify and correct products that fail to meet mandatory child poisoning safety standards. In 1998, there were 11 recalls of 35 products involving about 500,000 units that failed to meet safety standards. A recent example of this work occurred with the recall of 8,000 pieces of 17 styles of children's furniture with high levels of lead in paint.
  - The Commission will continue surveillance of child-resistant packaging requirements under PPPA. This includes packaging of prescription drugs by pharmacies, over-the-counter drugs and all household chemicals requiring child-resistant closures. CPSC will continue to encourage state boards of pharmacy to handle compliance with the agency's requirements for packaging prescription drugs, as part of their enforcement responsibilities.
  - CPSC will continue port-of-entry surveillance for products for which chemical safety standards are in effect. Efforts under the Federal Hazardous Substances Act will continue the enforcement of labeling requirements for art materials and hazardous household substances. CPSC will continue, in conjunction with the U.S. Customs Service, special dockside surveillance at selected ports to look for children's products containing lead and other chemicals that present hazards.

**REDUCING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

***Child Poisonings and Other Chemical Hazards - continued***

● *Monitoring Voluntary Standards* - Select voluntary standard monitoring activities during the development of the agency's 2001 operating plan. Products related to poisoning hazards that the Commission has monitored include automotive antifreeze and sulfuric acid drain cleaners..

**Consumer Information - Alert the public to poisoning and other chemical hazards through:**

- *National Poison Prevention Week* - Coordinate a health and safety campaign by partnering with the Poison Prevention Council and related organizations to promote child-resistant packaging and other poison prevention measures.
- *Video News Releases (VNR)* – Produce a video news release on the hazards of unintentional poisonings to children. In 1998, CPSC and manufacturers in cooperation with CPSC produced VNRs that reached over 46 million viewers.
- *Nationwide CO Safety Outreach* --Through the agency's State Partners Program, develop and implement a public health campaign with all 50 states to inform consumers, health and medical professionals about the hazards of CO poisoning. Hold press conferences and media events.
- *Press Releases* -- For recalled products presenting a substantial risk of death and injury from CO poisoning, issue an estimated three press releases to inform consumers. Press releases also will be issued for products recalled for other chemical hazards.
- *Publications* -- Respond to consumer requests for an estimated 50,000 checklists, booklets, and safety alerts warning about CO poisoning hazards. Consumer requests for materials addressing other chemical hazards will also be filled.

## IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS

| 1999<br>Appropriation |         | 2000<br>Request |         | 2001<br>Recommendation |          |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|----------|
| FTEs                  | Amount  | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount   |
| 76                    | \$8,034 | 77              | \$9,616 | 77                     | \$11,764 |

The work in this program provides the information needed to assess product hazards and apply hazard reduction strategies. Identifying and Researching Product Hazards has two activities:

- Hazard Identification and Analysis
- Applied Product Hazard Research

### HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

This activity is the agency's early warning system. It identifies hazardous products, injury patterns and causes of deaths and injuries. Early identification of product hazards allows the CPSC to take prompt action to reduce deaths and injuries and avoid costs to consumers and businesses. This activity is the basis for the agency's risk-based hazard reduction efforts, such as voluntary standard-setting, compliance, consumer information, and rulemaking.

### APPLIED PRODUCT HAZARD RESEARCH

The 2000 budget request included \$1 million to reestablish an applied product safety research program at CPSC. This initiative provides the agency with the capability to contract out for research into significant consumer product safety problems that require substantial technical effort to adequately understand and to evaluate effective ways to address those problems. Other health and safety agencies in the Federal government have research budgets that are a vital part of their programs.

In 1998, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) conducted a study of injury in America. In that report, it recommended that "additional resources for research are needed to enhance the CPSC's capacity to study safety problems and estimate product innovation; examine the feasibility and efficacy of safer product design and proposed safety standards; and develop and test methodologies for setting performance standards and for monitoring compliance with such standards."

With this applied research capability, the agency can provide stronger technical leadership in evaluating and solving complex product safety problems. Two initial research project candidates are being developed during 1999 and will be selected at the start of the operating plan for 2000.

## CHANGES for 2001

Dollars increase by \$2.1 million and FTEs remain the same at 77. The largest portion of the dollar increase, \$1 million, is for contract funding for two new Applied Research activity initiatives. The two projects will be selected by the Commission at the time of the operating plan. Staff is currently considering a number of possible research projects, including initiatives to conduct long-term reliability testing of products and investigating promising technologies that could be used to address major product hazards.

We are also requesting \$375,000 under Hazard Identification and Analysis to enhance the collection and analysis of consumer product hazard databases. These funds will establish an ongoing program of special studies on data methodology, the electronic collection of news reports of product incidents, and update the agency's product population economic model.

The balance of the dollar change reflects the prorated share of the agency increases requested to maintain current service levels and maintain information technology.

|                                    | 1999<br>Appropriation |                | 2000<br>Request |                | 2001<br>Recommendation |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|-----------------|
|                                    | FTEs                  | Amount         | FTEs            | Amount         | FTEs                   | Amount          |
| Identification and Research        |                       |                |                 |                |                        |                 |
| Hazard Identification and Analysis | 76                    | \$8,034        | 77              | \$8,616        | 77                     | \$9,764         |
| Applied Product Hazard Research    | --                    | --             | --              | 1,000          | --                     | 2,000           |
| <b>Total</b>                       | <b>76</b>             | <b>\$8,034</b> | <b>77</b>       | <b>\$9,616</b> | <b>77</b>              | <b>\$11,764</b> |

## IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS: HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND ANALYSIS

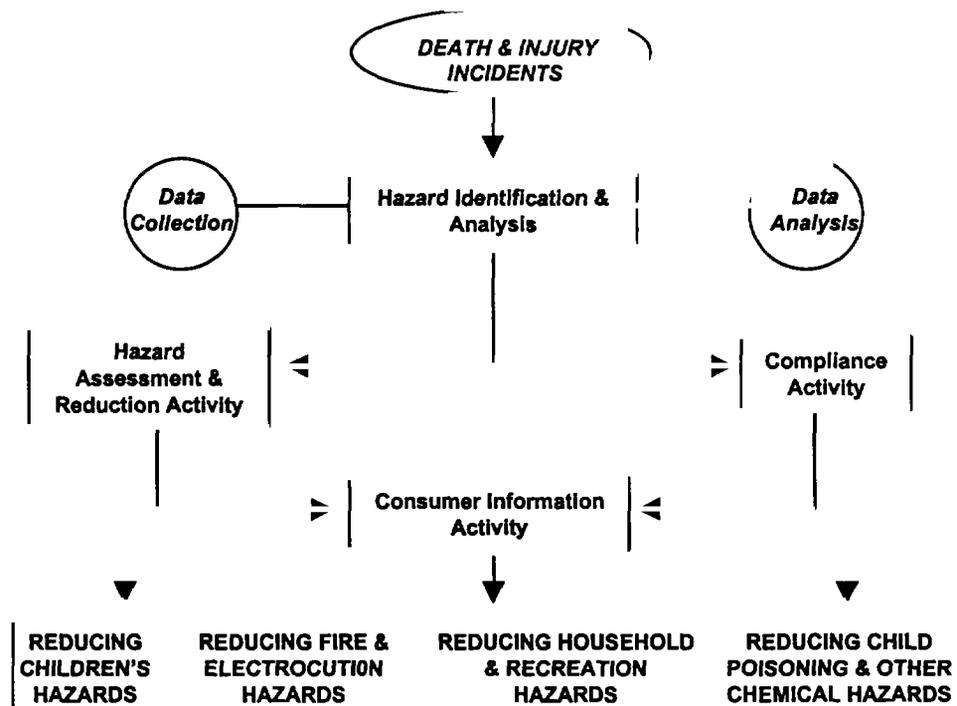
| 1999<br>Appropriation |         | 2000<br>Request |         | 2001<br>Recommendation |         |
|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| FTEs                  | Amount  | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount  |
| 76                    | \$8,034 | 77              | \$8,616 | 77                     | \$9,764 |

### GOALS and STRATEGIES

Hazard Identification and Analysis (HIA) provides the information needed to assess product hazards and develop injury reduction strategies -- it is the agency's early warning system.

The Commission collects data on consumer product-related injuries and deaths. It also collects economic and hazard exposure information on products under the agency's jurisdiction. Investigation of specific injury cases provides additional knowledge about injuries or hazards and how the reported product was involved. The HIA work provides underlying support to all the Commission's Results Act activities.

### RELATIONSHIP OF HIA ACTIVITY TO OTHER COMMISSION WORK:



**IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
*Hazard Identification and Analysis - continued*

The HIA work analyzes causal and cost information under the investigations, emerging hazards, and economic studies efforts. These activities reflect the Commission's commitment to making regulatory and enforcement decisions based on appropriate data analysis.

The agency continues to strengthen its data collection and analysis process. The agency's budget now includes funding to purchase annual data on poisonings to children. An update of the agency's critical Injury Cost Model was completed in 1998. A study of the long-term costs of head injuries is expected to be completed in 2000.

**CHANGES for 2001**

The HIA 2001 request consists of \$9.8 million and 77 FTEs, an increase of \$2.1 million and no change in FTEs. The 2001 request includes \$225,000 to update the agency's aging product population economic model. This model provides estimates of numbers of products in use for risk analysis and cost/benefit purposes. The request also includes \$100,000 to conduct special studies on data methodology. Data collection is vital to the agency's work and these funds provide the capacity to enhance data collection on an ongoing basis, as well as address special inquiries on a timely basis. The 2001 request also includes \$50,000 to automate the collection of injury incident data from news clips and provide electronic access by agency staff to this injury data.

The balance of the dollar change reflects the prorated share of the agency increases requested to maintain current service levels and maintain information technology.

**ACTIVITIES for 2001**

**Data Collection** - For 2001, the data collection effort includes these activities:

- The collection of product-related injuries treated in hospital emergency rooms via the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) is the foundation for many Commission activities. NEISS provides estimates of the frequency and severity of product-related injuries. NEISS will supply about 330,000 cases from a sample of 101 hospitals in 2001. CPSC's data collection system is unique because it is timely (in some cases data are available within 24 hours after an incident) and produces statistically valid data on which injury reduction strategies are based. Federal agencies involved in health and safety issues, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, rely on Commission injury data. Several foreign governments have modeled their national injury data collection systems after the Commission's system. In 1997, CPSC's hospital sample was updated to maintain the statistical validity of the system.

## **IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

### ***Hazard Identification and Analysis - continued***

The 2000 President's budget includes an expansion of NEISS to provide data on all trauma injuries for Federal researchers. This expanded data will provide other Federal agencies, researchers, and the public with more comprehensive information on injuries from all sources, not just consumer products. This effort is being funded by reimbursable funds of \$1.8 million from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The reimbursable funds will allow the agency to hire staff and contractors necessary to collect non-consumer product injury data.

- The collection of mortality data with the purchase, review and processing of about 8,700 death certificates covering unintentional product-related deaths from all 50 states. Also, the Medical Examiner and Coroner Alert Project (MECAP) collects and reviews approximately 3,000 reports from participating medical examiners and coroners throughout the country.
- The collection and review of approximately 6,000 news clips and 10,000 other reports of product-related injuries and deaths from consumers, lawyers, physicians, fire departments and others. The 2001 request includes \$50,000 to computerize the collection of news reports of injury incidents so that CPSC staff can learn about them within 24 hours. Currently, it can take up to 30 days to receive this information.
- The provision of statistical support for all agency data systems and the design, conduct and evaluation of required special injury studies. In 2001, an additional \$100,000 is requested to provide an ongoing data methodology study program. The project activities will be determined at the start of the 2001 operating plan to take advantage of the latest information and current data collection priorities.

## **Data Analysis**

● *Investigations* is an ongoing activity that gathers detailed causal information on selected incidents identified under Data Collection. An investigation begins with careful review of all incoming reports to identify those most important for follow-up. This is followed with a telephone interview and continues with an on-site investigation of those cases where information is needed on how specific types of injuries occurred. The resulting information shows the interaction among the victim, the product, and the environment and forms the basis for development of appropriate remedial strategies.

● *Emerging Hazards* provides for the proactive, systematic identification and evaluation of a variety of product-related hazards. Information developed from this project will be used to establish the need for safety standards development or other remedial activities, such as compliance efforts and/or consumer information campaigns.

-- Screening of data is ongoing and uses the extensive information available from the Commission's data systems to identify new hazards, previously undetected hazards, or re-emerging hazards. The Commission expects to receive 330,000 NEISS consumer product

**IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**

***Hazard Identification and Analysis - continued***

injury reports, 16,000 newspaper clippings and other incident reports, 3,000 medical examiners reports, 8,700 death certificates, and 2,200 agency investigation reports in 2001. Staff reviews incoming data daily to ensure timely identification of product issues and problems.

- Emerging hazard analysis defines and provides preliminary assessments of specific products, populations, or hazard areas identified through hazard screening and other related identification activities. The analysis capability ensures that the most appropriate injury reduction strategies are implemented under the Reducing Hazards to Children and Families program. The staff's recommendations for future Commission projects or other remedial activities are often based on reports and memoranda prepared under this activity.
- Agency responses to petitions from the public are developed under this activity. Petitions are requests from private parties seeking agency action on a perceived hazard. Work on petitions serves as an information source for agency hazard analysis work.
- *Economic Studies* provides specialized economic information to the staff, Commissioners, Congress, other agencies, and the public. Injury cost projections will be developed to estimate potential benefits associated with Commission or other actions. Products-in-use estimates will be generated to determine potential recall effectiveness, consumer exposure to product hazards, and to support agency hazard analysis work.

The 2001 request also includes \$225,000 to update the agency's aging product population economic model. This computer database model provides estimates of number of products in use for risk analysis and cost/benefit purposes. It estimates how many products of a specified type (e.g., gas furnaces) are available for use each year. The model has not been thoroughly updated in more than 15 years.

**IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:  
Applied Product Hazard Research - continued**

**IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:  
APPLIED PRODUCT HAZARD RESEARCH**

| 1999<br>Appropriation |        | 2000<br>Request |         | 2001<br>Recommendation |         |
|-----------------------|--------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
| FTEs                  | Amount | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount  |
| --                    | --     | --              | \$1,000 | --                     | \$2,000 |

In the 2000 budget, CPSC requested \$1 million to establish a modest program of applied research to enhance the agency's ability to investigate and find solutions for complex safety problems involving consumer products. For 2001, CPSC is requesting another increment of \$1 million to expand research projects from two to four. This is approximately 4 percent of the agency's budget. CPSC proposes to contract out most of the research.

CPSC is the only Federal health and safety agency without a dedicated research budget. When CPSC was first established, the agency's budget included funds for "hazard contracts" which was used to conduct applied product research. The agency used these contracts to conduct applied research which, for example, helped the agency address the problems of CO poisoning from gas space heaters and toxic formaldehyde emissions in consumer homes. This program was cut due to budget cuts in the 1980's. Since then, whenever we conduct research projects, we take funds from other project areas. Furthermore, because of our limited resources, we have had to carry out the research in increments, drawing it out over many years. This is inefficient and delays the public of safety benefits for more years than necessary.

CPSC is also the only Federal agency with the knowledge, expertise and mandate to carry out consumer product safety research. If CPSC is not given the funds to conduct the research initiatives we propose, the research will not be done. A dedicated research budget will enable CPSC to undertake these important safety initiatives in the most cost-effective and efficient way.

In 1998, the Institute of Medicine (IOM) conducted a study of injury in America. In that report, it recommended that "additional resources for research are needed to enhance the CPSC's capacity to study safety problems and estimate product innovation; examine the feasibility and efficacy of safer product design and proposed safety standards; and develop and test methodologies for setting performance standards and for monitoring compliance with such standards." With an applied research capability, the agency can provide stronger technical leadership in solving complex product safety problems.

**IDENTIFYING AND RESEARCHING PRODUCT HAZARDS:**  
*Applied Product Hazard Research - continued*

CPSC's proposed research initiatives will be closely aligned with the agency's 10-year goals established under the Government Performance and Results Act. The first two research projects will be chosen from an inventory of competing research topics at the start of the agency's 2000 operating plan in order to take advantage of the latest hazard information. Similarly, the two additional projects proposed for 2001 will be chosen at the start of the agency's 2001 operating plan.

## **RESEARCH TOPICS**

The Commission's research initiatives will most likely involve these hazard areas: residential fires; children's head injuries; childhood poisonings, drownings and choking hazards; and carbon monoxide poisoning. Reducing children's head injuries is also a goal of the multi-agency initiative that will carry out the President's Executive Order on Children's Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks. The CPSC serves as a co-chair of the Unintentional Injuries Working Group charged with implementing this Executive Order.

In developing its research proposals, staff has and will continue to consult with other Federal agencies and constituent groups, such as the U.S. Fire Administration, National Institute for Standards and Technology, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Institutes of Health, and the National Fire Protection Association. Possible research proposals for 2000 and 2001 cover a variety of hazards and approaches falling into six basic categories: research into new safety technologies; research to improve product safety standards; research into emerging product hazards; surveillance exposure studies; economic studies; and instrumentation to support limited research in our laboratory.

The Commission is currently considering a number of research initiatives for 2000 and 2001. They include:

**Fire Hazards:** Research on fire sprinklers, smoke detector technologies, circuit breakers and fail-safe product designs. Each of these initiatives has the potential to significantly reduce the 4000 deaths that result from residential fires in the United States each year. The United States has one of the worst fire problems among industrialized countries.

**Children's Hazards:** Research into the societal costs of childhood poisonings and brain injury; developing a three-dimensional computer model to better understand and evaluate choking hazards to children.

**Laboratory Testing Facilities:** Construct test modules at our laboratory to allow the agency to install and evaluate the safety of products in a setting that represents an actual living environment. This would enable CPSC to evaluate a wide range of electrical, gas and mechanical products. These test modules could also be used for conducting focus groups and child observation studies when needed.

## FTEs BY ORGANIZATION

| Organization  | 1999 On<br>Board 1/ | 1999<br><u>Approp.</u> | 2000<br>Request | 2001<br>Recomm. | 2001<br>vs 2000<br><u>Change</u> |
|---|---------------------|------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------------|
| Commissioners.....                                    | 13.0                | 13.0                   | 13.0            | 13.0            | --                               |
| Office of the Secretary.....                          | 15.5                | 14.5                   | 14.5            | 14.5            | --                               |
| Office of Congressional Relations...                  | 2.0                 | 2.0                    | 2.0             | 2.0             | --                               |
| Office of the General Counsel.....                    | 12.7                | 14.0                   | 14.0            | 14.0            | --                               |
| Office of EEOME.....                                  | 2.0                 | 2.0                    | 2.0             | 2.0             | --                               |
| Office of the Inspector General.....                  | 2.0                 | 3.0                    | 3.0             | 3.0             | --                               |
| Office of the Executive Director.....                 | 3.0                 | 4.0                    | 4.0             | 4.0             | --                               |
| Office of Human Resource Mgmt....                     | 12.0                | 9.0                    | 9.0             | 9.0             | --                               |
| Office of Information Services.....                   | 34.4                | 31.5                   | 31.5            | 31.5            | --                               |
| Office of the Budget.....                             | 4.0                 | 4.0                    | 4.0             | 4.0             | --                               |
| Office of Planning and Evaluation...                  | 6.0                 | 6.0                    | 6.0             | 6.0             | --                               |
| Office of Information and Public<br>Affairs.....      | 11.0                | 12.0                   | 12.0            | 12.0            | --                               |
| Office of Compliance.....                             | 47.0                | 45.0                   | 45.0            | 45.0            | --                               |
| Office of Hazard Identification<br>and Reduction..... | 154.9               | 155.5                  | 155.5           | 155.5           | --                               |
| Directorate for Administration.....                   | 29.2                | 29.0                   | 29.0            | 29.0            | --                               |
| Directorate for Field Operations.....                 | 131.6               | 135.5                  | 135.5           | 135.5           | --                               |
| <b>Total.....</b>                                     | <b>480.3</b>        | <b>480.0</b>           | <b>480.0</b>    | <b>480.0</b>    | <b>--</b>                        |

1/ As of June 12, 1999. (Includes pending hires, separations and six summer hires.)

## VOLUNTARY AND MANDATORY STANDARDS SUMMARY

|   | 1999<br>Appropriation | 2000<br>Request | 2001<br>Recommendation |
|---|-----------------------|-----------------|------------------------|
| <b>VOLUNTARY STANDARDS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:</b> |                       |                 |                        |
| Children's Hazards                            | 20                    | 18              | 11                     |
| Fire/Electrocution Hazards                    | 18                    | 20              | 16                     |
| Household/Recreation Hazards                  | 11                    | 10              | 5                      |
| Child Poisoning/Chemical Hazards              | <u>6</u>              | <u>8</u>        | <u>8</u>               |
| Total Voluntary Standards                     | 55                    | 56*             | 40*                    |

\*It is anticipated that these numbers will increase to reflect voluntary standards activities added during the operating plan period.

### MANDATORY STANDARDS UNDER DEVELOPMENT:

|                                  |          |          |          |
|----------------------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| Children's Hazards               | 4        | 4        | 0        |
| Fire/Electrocutions              | 5        | 5        | 3        |
| Household/Recreation Hazards     | 0        | 0        | 0        |
| Child Poisoning/Chemical Hazards | <u>3</u> | <u>3</u> | <u>2</u> |
| Total Mandatory Standards        | 12       | 12       | 5        |

## MANDATORY STANDARDS (RULEMAKING), 1999-2001

| 1999 APPROPRIATION                  | 2000 REQUEST  | 2001 RECOMMENDATION  |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
| <b>Fire/Electrocutions</b>          | <b>Fire/Electrocutions</b>  | <b>Fire/Electrocutions</b>   |
| Upholstered Furniture <sup>1</sup>  | Upholstered Furniture <sup>1</sup>  | Upholstered Furniture <sup>1</sup>                                       |
| General Wearing Apparel             | General Wearing Apparel   |  |
| Flammability Standards <sup>3</sup> | Flammability Standards <sup>3</sup>                                       |  |
|                                     | Mattresses <sup>2</sup>   | Mattresses <sup>2</sup>  |
|                                     |   | Cigarette Lighters <sup>2</sup>  |
| Multi-purpose Lighters              | Multi-purpose Lighters  |  |
| Sleepwear                           |   |  |
| <b>Child</b>                        | <b>Child</b>  | <b>Child</b>   |
| Bunk Beds                           | Bunk Beds   |  |
| Baby Walkers                        | Baby Walkers  |  |
| Cribs                               | Cribs   |  |
| Dive Sticks                         | Dive Sticks   |  |
| <b>Chemical</b>                     | <b>Chemical</b>   | <b>Chemical</b>  |
|                                     | CR Packaging Standards - 2<br>Substances (Substances to be<br>determined) | CR Packaging Standards<br>-2 Substances (Substances to<br>be determined) |
| Sucraid                             |   |  |
| Methacrylic Acid                    |   |  |
| Petroleum Distillates               | Petroleum Distillates   |  |

<sup>1</sup> Rulemaking may be terminated if adequate voluntary standard is developed.

<sup>2</sup> Rulemaking may be recommended.

<sup>3</sup> Amend laundering procedures.

## VOLUNTARY STANDARDS 1999-2001

| 1999 Appropriation                               | 2000 Request                                     | 2001 Recommendation                              |
|--|--|--|
| <b>Children's Products (Head)</b>                | <b>Children's Products (Head)</b>                | <b>Children's Products (Head)</b>                |
| 1. Activity Centers, Stationary                  | 1. Activity Centers, Stationary                  | 1. Bicycles                                      |
| 2. Bicycles                                      | 2. Bicycles                                      | 2. Helmets, Bicycle                              |
| 3. Furniture Tipover                             | 3. Furniture Tipover                             | 3. Helmets, Recreational                         |
| 4. Helmets, Bicycle                              | 4. Helmets, Recreational                         | 4. Playground Equipment, Children Younger Than 2 |
| 5. Helmets, Recreational                         | 5. Helmets, Bicycle                              | 5. Playground Equipment, Home                    |
| 6. High Chairs                                   | 6. High Chairs                                   | 6. Playground Equipment, Public                  |
| 7. Infant Carriers                               | 7. Infant Carriers                               | 7. Playground Surfacing                          |
| 8. Playground Equipment, Children Younger Than 2 | 8. Playground Equipment, Children Younger Than 2 | 8. Swings, Baby                                  |
| 9. Playground Equipment, Home                    | 9. Playground Equipment, Home                    | 9. Changing Tables                               |
| 10. Playground Equipment, Public                 | 10. Playground Equipment, Public                 |  |
| 11. Playground Equipment, Soft                   | 11. Playground Equipment, Soft                   |  |
| 12. Playground Surfacing                         | 12. Playground Surfacing                         |  |
| 13. Swings, Baby                                 | 13. Swings, Baby                                 |  |
| 14. Trampolines                                  | 14. Trampolines                                  |  |
| 15. Window Guards                                | 15. Window Guards                                |  |
| <b>Children's Products (Other)</b>               | <b>Children's Products (Other)</b>               | <b>Children's Products (Other)</b>               |
| 16. Bassinets and Cradles                        | 16. Bed Rails                                    | 10. Bassinets and Cradles                        |
| 17. Bed Rails                                    | 17. Infant Bedding                               | 11. Infant Bedding                               |
| 18. Cribs  | 18. Mini-Hammocks                                |  |
| 19. Infant Bedding                               |  |  |
| 20. Mini Hammocks                                |  |  |

| <b>1999 Appropriation</b>             | <b>2000 Request</b>                   | <b>2001 Recommendation</b>            |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <b>Fire/Gas Codes &amp; Stds.</b>     | <b>Fire/Gas Codes &amp; Stds.</b>     | <b>Fire/Gas Codes &amp; Stds.</b>     |
| 21. Candles                           | 19. Fireworks Devices                 | 12. Fire Sprinklers                   |
| 22. Corrugated Ducts: Furnaces        | 20. Fire Sprinklers                   | 13. Fireworks Devices                 |
| 23. Fire Blankets                     | 21. Gas Water Heaters                 | 14. Gas Control Reliability           |
| 24. Fire Escape Ladders               | 22. National Fuel Gas Code            | 15. Gas Water Heaters                 |
| 25. Fire Extinguishers                | 23. Stoves, Pellet                    | 16. National Fuel Gas Code            |
| 26. Fire Sprinklers                   | 24. Valves                            | 17. Table Top Cooking Appliances      |
| 27. Fireworks Devices                 | 25. Wall Coverings                    | 18. Venting Materials, Flammability   |
| 28. Gas Systems: Overpressure         |                                       |                                       |
| 29. Gas Water Heaters                 |                                       |                                       |
| 30. National Fuel Gas Code            |                                       |                                       |
| <b>Electrical Codes &amp; Stds.</b>   | <b>Electrical Codes &amp; Stds.</b>   | <b>Electrical Codes &amp; Stds.</b>   |
| 31. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters    | 26. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters    | 19. Arc Fault Circuit Interrupters    |
| 32. Battery Operated Toys             | 27. Circuit Breakers                  | 20. Circuit Breakers                  |
| 33. Dishwashers                       | 28. Dishwashers                       | 21. Electrical Reinspection           |
| 34. Elec. Reinspection                | 29. Electrical Reinspection           | 22. Fans, Portable Electric           |
| 35. Heaters, Portable Electric        | 30. Fans, Portable Electrical         | 23. Heaters, Fixed Room               |
| 36. Polymeric Materials               | 31. Heaters, Fixed Room               | 24. Heaters, Portable Electric        |
|                                       | 32. Heaters, Portable Electric        |                                       |
|                                       | 33. Polymeric Materials               |                                       |
|                                       | 34. Ranges and Ovens                  |                                       |
|                                       | 35. Switches                          |                                       |
|                                       | 36. Toys, Ride on (Battery)           |                                       |
| <b>Electrocutions</b>                 | <b>Electrocutions</b>                 | <b>Electrocutions</b>                 |
| 37. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters | 37. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters | 25. Ground Fault Circuit Interrupters |
| 38. National Elec. Code               | 38. National Elec. Code               | 26. National Elec. Code               |

| <b>1999 Appropriation</b>      | <b>2000 Request</b>            | <b>2001 Recommendation</b>     |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| <b>Household (Mechanical)</b>  | <b>Household (Mechanical)</b>  | <b>Household (Mechanical)</b>  |
| 39. All-Terrain Vehicles       | 39. Escalators                 | 27. Garage Door/Gate Operators |
| 40. Escalators                 | 40. Garage Door/Gate Operators | 28. Nail Guns                  |
| 41. Garage Door/Gate Operators | 41. Nail Guns                  | 29. Saws, Chain                |
| 42. Go Karts (Fun Carts)       | 42. Plastic Applications       | 30. Saws, Table                |
| 43. Saws, Chain                | 43. Saws, Chain                |                                |
| 44. Saws, Table                | 44. Saws, Table                |                                |
| 45. Snowblowers                | 45. Snowblowers                |                                |
| 46. Washing Machines           | 46. Swimming Pool Alarms       |                                |
| <b>Sports and Recreation</b>   | <b>Sports and Recreation</b>   | <b>Sports and Recreation</b>   |
| 47. Protective Padding         | 47. Bicycle Lighting           | 31. Exercise Equipment         |
| 48. Soccer Goals               | 48. Exercise Equipment         |                                |
| 49. Treadmills                 |                                |                                |
| <b>Carbon Monoxide</b>         | <b>Carbon Monoxide</b>         | <b>Carbon Monoxide</b>         |
| 50. Camping Equipment          | 49. Camping Equipment          | 32. Camping Equipment          |
| 51. CO Detectors               | 50. CO Detectors               | 33. Furnaces, Central          |
| 52. Furnaces, Central          | 51. Furnaces, Central          | 34. Gas Appliances, Decorative |
| 53. Unvented Gas Appliances    | 52. Gas Logs                   | 35. Gas Appliances, Unvented   |
| 54. Vented Gas Room Heaters    | 53. Ranges and Ovens           | 36. Gas Logs                   |
|                                | 54. Unvented Gas Room Heaters  | 37. Ranges and Ovens           |
|                                | 55. Vented Gas Room Heaters    | 38. Unvented Gas Room Heaters  |
| <b>Poison Prevention</b>       | <b>Poison Prevention</b>       | <b>Poison Prevention</b>       |
| 55. Child Resistant Packaging  | 56. Child Resistant Packaging  | 39. Child Resistant Packaging  |

## CUSTOMER SERVICE GOALS

Under the agency's Results Act strategic plan, several goals have been established to maintain high customer standards for the agency. These include:

- *Aattain 80 percent success with the timeliness and usefulness of the Fast-Track Product Recall program and 85 percent success with the Small Business Ombudsman program by the year 2001*

The agency has established two goals designed to increase compliance with product safety rules. Under the Fast-Track program, firms report and correct product hazards more quickly than under traditional procedures. This reduces paperwork and legal expenses for the firms and hazardous products are removed from consumers' hands more quickly. Under the Small Business Ombudsman program, small businesses are provided a single point of contact that expedites responses to their inquiries. In 2001, the Commission will review and respond to industry and small business's assessments of the programs. In addition, the Commission will develop brief guides for 15 CPSC regulations so that industry can quickly and easily understand how to comply.

- *Increase consumer awareness of CPSC safety information from 1998 to 2001 through: Increased contacts to CPSC's web site by 500 percent; maintaining the reach of the Consumer Product Safety Review; and maintaining the capability to respond to Hotline calls for safety information at or above 250,000.*

CPSC's web site ([www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)) makes it easier for the public to access important safety information. The Consumer Product Safety Review offers an in-depth look at the latest hazards, the most significant recalls of consumer products, and information on deaths involving consumer products submitted by the nation's medical examiners and coroners. The Hotline is a toll-free, 24 hour-a-day, 7 day-a-week service that allows consumers to report unsafe products, report injuries, learn about recalls, and order safety publications. In the 2001 proposal, funds of \$258,000 are requested to improve ordering safety information over the Hotline by consumers and extend the hours callers can talk to Hotline representatives assisting consumers in time zones in the central and western sections of the nation.

- *Maintain the high level of satisfaction of consumers with the Hotline, Clearinghouse, and of the States with CPSC's State Partnership Program at 90 percent or better through the year 2001.*

Our annual goal for the Hotline is to maintain the time of 30 seconds or less for callers to reach a Hotline operator 90 percent of the time, respond to telephone voicemail messages within one business day 95 percent of the time, process product incident reports within eight working hours 90 percent of the time, respond to e-mail inquires by the next business day 90 percent of the time, and maintain CPSC's innovative Hotline contractor performance incentives.

To improve customer satisfaction, the agency has added more Hotline telephone lines and bilingual staff and simplified caller menus. The Clearinghouse responds to over 5,000 requests

for technical information relating to the prevention of deaths and injuries. Our annual goals include sending all Hotline incident reports for verification within 48 hours of receipt and verified reports to manufacturers within 48 hours. The CPSC's State Partners program works in cooperation with State and Local officials to deliver CPSC services to consumers. Our annual goals include conducting a Recall Round-Up program with all 50 states to encourage the repair or removal of selected unsafe consumer products and implementation of appropriate suggestions for improvements made by State and local officials.

## AGENCY MANAGEMENT DETAIL

Note: This summarizes the Agency Management activity that supports the agency's two programs and is allocated in this budget on a proportional basis to those programs. This detail is provided for information purposes only to assist in the transition from the previous Commission budget structure.

|  | 1999<br>Appropriation |                | 2000<br>Request |                | 2001<br>Recommendation |                |
|--|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------|----------------|------------------------|----------------|
|  | FTEs                  | Amount         | FTEs            | Amount         | FTEs                   | Amount         |
| Reducing Product Hazards to<br>Children and Families | 74                    | \$7,372        | 74              | \$7,844        | 74                     | \$8,112        |
| Identifying and Researching<br>Product Hazards       | 14                    | 1,385          | 14              | 1,502          | 14                     | 1,553          |
| <b>Total Activity</b>                                | <b>88</b>             | <b>\$8,757</b> | <b>88</b>       | <b>\$9,346</b> | <b>88</b>              | <b>\$9,665</b> |

### Goals and Strategies:

The Agency Management function provides policy, executive direction, legal guidance and administrative services necessary to function as a Federal regulatory agency. Most of the functions provided are required by law or regulation.

### 2000 Base Activity:

The 2000 resources include 88 FTEs and \$9.3 million. The agency has successfully worked to reduce the size of this function. As a percentage of total Commission resources, dollars and FTEs have declined from 20 percent in 1989 to 18 percent in 2000. As in all CPSC work, but particularly in this activity, managers are working supervisors sharing workload with staff.

### 2001 Changes:

There are no changes in the Agency Management function for 2001. The FTEs remain the same. The dollars are \$9.7 million and increase only to reflect the Agency Management function's prorated share of agency increases requested to maintain current services and fund information technology improvements.

| Activity Detail                     | 1999<br>Appropriation |         | 2000<br>Request |         | 2000<br>Recommendation |         |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------|-----------------|---------|------------------------|---------|
|                                     | FTEs                  | Amount  | FTEs            | Amount  | FTEs                   | Amount  |
| Commissioners and Staff             | 13                    | \$1,563 | 13              | \$1,725 | 13                     | \$1,818 |
| Commission Advice/Legal<br>Guidance | 12                    | 1,458   | 12              | 1,594   | 12                     | 1,674   |
| Executive Direction                 | 8                     | 923     | 8               | 1,020   | 8                      | 1,000   |
| Administrative Services             | 55                    | 4,813   | 55              | 5,007   | 55                     | 5,173   |
| Total Activity                      | 88                    | \$8,757 | 88              | \$9,346 | 88                     | \$9,665 |

### **Commissioners and Staff**

This activity includes support for three Commissioners and their staffs. The Commissioners provide policy direction and program guidance to the staff and make final decisions on Commission regulatory and enforcement actions.

### **Commission Advice/Legal Guidance**

Included in this activity are the Office of Congressional Relations, Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Enterprise, the Office of the Inspector General, and a portion of the Office of the Secretary and Office of the General Counsel. These offices are directly responsible to the Commissioners, providing advice and assistance on matters of policy and program management.

The Office of the General Counsel (OGC) is responsible for enforcement and defense litigation, document preparation and review, legal advice, and ethics coordination. Where possible, OGC time is budgeted in other areas it directly supports. The OGC time included under Agency Management (three FTEs) covers legal review for personnel matters, project support contracts, ethics coordination, and other general Commission legal matters.

The Office of the Inspector General (three FTEs) conducts audits, investigations, and inspections of Commission programs and activities to prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse and ensure compliance with policies and regulations.

A portion of the Office of the Secretary (OS) is included in this activity. Where possible, OS time is budgeted in other activities the office directly supports. Efforts by OS ensure that Commission

decisions are properly recorded and made available to the public. The OS staff (two FTEs) included under Agency Management issues Commission decisions, orders, rules, Federal Register notices, and other official documents for the Commission. The staff also prepares Commission agendas under the Government in the Sunshine Act, supervises and administers the dockets of adjudicative proceedings, and processes continuing guaranties (certificates of compliance), as required by the Flammable Fabrics Act.

The Office of Equal Employment Opportunity and Minority Enterprise (two FTEs) assures that the Commission complies with all laws, regulations, rules and internal policies relating to equal employment opportunity. It also assures compliance with the minority enterprise provision of the Small Business Act.

The Office of Congressional Relations (two FTEs) responds to congressional inquiries on legislation affecting product safety.

### **Executive Direction**

This activity includes the Office of the Executive Director and the Office of the Budget. These offices provide direct, day-to-day management of agency programs and operations. They are responsible for coordinating and directing agency activities in a manner consistent with the policy decisions and guidance provided by the Commission.

### **Administrative Services**

The Administrative Services activity provides the administrative support required to conduct Commission product hazard programs. This activity provides program staff with information technology and computer services, staff hiring and retention support, contract and purchasing services, accounting, printing, security, etc.