



NEISS Notes

National Electronic Injury Surveillance System

Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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CPSC Makes List & Says Check It Twice for Recalled Toys & Kids Products



Consumers are often advised to shop early for the holidays, even months ahead, to save time and money. The CPSC is alerting consumers that they may have bought children's items that have since been recalled. Hal Stratton, in his first news conference as CPSC Chairman, announced a list of some of the Commission's largest recalls of children's products over the past year.

"We've made our list and want consumers to check it twice," said Stratton. "Preventing needless tragedies and providing a safe environment are the best holiday gifts parents can provide their children."

Stratton also discussed hazardous products that consumers may have in their homes that could endanger children, as families gather for the holidays. Consumers should check whether products have been recalled and dispose of them or place them out of the reach of children until they can be replaced or repaired. Manufacturers will usually offer a free repair kit or replacement product.

These recalled children's products are off store shelves but may still be lurking in garages, attics, basements, toy boxes or closets. The Checklist of Recalled Children's Products includes the following items: Gearbox Pedal Cars; Air Powered Rockets; Firestormer and Skyblazer toy air-powered planes; Animal Toy Sponges; Stuffed Polyester Pool Animals; Cotton Candy Machine; Baby Walkers that can fall down stairs; Toy Tracks on Activity Center; Playpens that can collapse and entrap a child in the V-shape folded top rails; Lane Cedar Chests; Old Chest Freezers.

Let's Talk NEISS!

The *NEISS Coding Committee* was established approximately three years ago because of concerns about the necessity of universal understanding and dissemination of the coding rules and requirements. The *NEISS Coding Committee* consists of seven EPDS staff members.

The *NEISS Coding Committee* usually meets monthly to discuss and resolve the coding issues that routinely arise concerning NEISS and to make sure that coding decisions are disseminated to EPDS staff and to the NEISS Coordinators.

Those who are not regular members of the *NEISS Coding Committee* are always welcome to submit questions and issues for discussion. The final decisions are published by memorandum and in a quick reference guide called the "*NEISS Coding Committee Memorandum Index*" that is updated and distributed after each committee meeting. These updates should be placed into your *NEISS Coding Guidance* notebook.

The *Coding Committee* invites participation from **YOU**, our NEISS Coordinators, via your NEISS representative, e-mail, or our toll free 800 telephone number.

We want to hear **your** questions!!

NEISS Coding Reminders


A Hypodermic Needle should be coded as a multiple product when both a “drug” and a “needle” are mentioned and the injury is associated with the needle (i.e., cellulitis developed on arm after getting flu shot injection); however, if only a drug reaction is mentioned, do not code the needle. Intravenous Needles (IV) should be coded as medical equipment in lieu of a hypodermic needle.

Coffee tables – should be coded using product code 4057/tables (excl. baby changing tables, billiard or pool tables and television tables or stands).

Hematuria (or Blood In The Urine) – should be coded as 62/internal-organ-injury with the body part coded as 79/lower trunk (body part code 00 cannot be used with diagnosis code 62/I-O-I).


The “Ruled Out” diagnosis should only be used/coded if there is *no specific injury diagnosis stated*.

NEISS on the NET




CPSC's NEISS
Consumer Product-Related
Injuries & Illnesses

<http://www.cpsc.gov/neiss/default.html>



WISQARS
All Injury Program

<http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/default.htm>



Work-RISQS
Occupational Injuries & Illnesses

<http://www2.cdc.gov/risqs/default.asp>

Coding Updates

Listed below are the latest NEISS coding decisions. Please use the codes indicated.



- Bulletin Boards – 0652/wall decorations
- Anti-Theft Devices (Automobiles) – 0821/automotive tools or accessories
- Air Powered Rockets (Stomp Rockets) – 1317/flying toys (excl. kites, rockets and gasoline or other fuel-powered models)
- Street Luge Boards – 1200/sport or recreational activity, nec
- Laundry Chutes (If Part Of A Completed Structure) – 1876/house structures and repair or construction materials, nec
- Knee Pads (Work-Related) – 2200/industrial equipment
- Combination Gas/Electric Ranges – 0267/other ranges with ovens
- Backseat Tray Car Organizers Or Carry Away Car Organizers – 0821/automotive tools or accessories
- Disk Golf – 1200/sport or recreational activity, nec
- Waste Reclaimers – 3233/other grills or stoves
- Miniature Golf (activity) – 1212/golf (activity, apparel or equipment)
- “Bongo Boards” (used for balance training) – 3277/exercise equipment
- Canned Air – 1133/aerosol containers
- Chlorine Tablets – 0938/swimming pool chemicals, unless otherwise specified
- Umbrella Stands – 4056/cabinets, racks, room dividers and shelves, nec
- Stairs In Public Locations (Such As Subway Or Train Stations) – 1842/stairs or steps
- Tool Belts – 0835/toolboxes or tool kits (excl. tools)
- Retractable Cord Reels (Electrical) – 0685/extension cords
- Hair Beads – 1682/hair curlers, curling irons, clips and hairpins
- Glow Sticks (Lightsticks) – 5004/toys, nec unless specified as camping equipment in which case use 5029/camping equipment (excl. trailers, lighting equipment, sleeping bags, cots, hammocks, coolers, stoves and heaters)

Meet a NEISS Coordinator

Dolores H. Jones-Butler

NEISS Coordinator

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

Dolores H. Jones-Butler has been a NEISS Coordinator since 1980. She started at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania as a Coordinator and CPSC contract investigator, and has been at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) since 1981.



CHOP opened in 1855 as the nation's first hospital devoted exclusively to the care of children, and has been ranked the number one children's hospital in the nation by Child magazine. It is the only pediatric Level 1 trauma center in the Delaware Valley. CHOP is a 320-bed hospital, and the ER sees in excess of 50,000 patients yearly, with 12-15% of these cases reported to NEISS. The Poison Control Center is also located at CHOP. Dolores has enjoyed working with the hospital staff and continues to inform the medical personnel of how important the information generated from the medical records is to the NEISS study. She has conducted workshops and is always ready to speak to hospital personnel about the CPSC products being recalled. CHOP is a teaching hospital and several of the doctors have used data from the NEISS to publish pediatric injury data on products of high injury rates in JAMA. Dolores is also a reporter for the Medical Examiner Coroners Alert Program (MECAP) for the Philadelphia Medical Examiner's Office.

In addition to her work with NEISS, Dolores worked to set up the Injury Surveillance Program for the city of Philadelphia's Department of Health. She is also extensively involved in the political arena. A retired Chief of Staff and Legislative Assistant to a member of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, she has successfully managed the campaigns of candidates running for the offices of State Representative, City Controller, and Common Pleas Court Judge. Dolores

has served as Ward Chair for the Third Democratic Ward in Philadelphia, has been a board member of several organizations, including the Center for Studying Social Welfare and Community Development, and is affiliated with organizations such as the Order of Easterns Stars PH&FM in Pennsylvania and the Pennsylvania Federation of Democratic Women. Dolores is a deacon at the Yeadon Presbyterian Church and serves on several church committees.

Dolores is a widow and has 4 daughters, 3 sons, 15 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. In her free time, she loves to meet new people and travel. She has traveled to various places such as, Africa, Russia, China, Germany, Egypt, France and England. She visits England every year where one of her sons resides.

Recent Recalls

The following is a brief list of Press Releases sent out by CPSC in October and November 2002.

- CPSC, Damo Plus Corp. Announce Recall of Children's School Supply Sets (03-036)
- CPSC, Eveready Battery Co. Inc. Announce Recall of Kidz Club Flashlights (03-034)
- CPSC, Gen-X Sports Incorporated Announce Recall of Skateboard Ramp (03-031)
- CPSC and Carlisle Co. Announce Recall of Snake Lights (03-028)
- CPSC, API Outdoors Announce Recall of Hunting Treestands (03-027)
- CPSC, Jason International Inc. Announce Recall of Air-Whirlpool Baths (03-026)
- CPSC, Cannondale Corp. Announce Recall of Gemini Bicycles (03-024)
- CPSC, Brother International Announce Recall of Laser Printers (03-023)
- CPSC, IKEA Announce Recall of Stuffed Teddy Bears (03-020)
- CPSC, W.C. Wood Company Announce Recall of Dehumidifiers (03-019)

To see recent CPSC Recalls and other Press Releases, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prerel.html.

If you would like additional information, or need a copy of any CPSC recall notice or press release, please contact your CPSC representative.

Holiday Decoration Safety Tips

The CPSC reminds consumers that the holiday season should be merry and bright, not dangerous. Avoiding hazards such as dried out Christmas trees, unsafe lights and unattended burning candles could prevent thousands of injuries.

Each year, hospital emergency rooms treat about 12,500 people for injuries, such as falls, cuts and shocks, related to holiday lights, decorations and Christmas trees. In addition, there are 11,600 candle-related fires each year, resulting in 150 deaths, 1200 injuries and \$173 million in property loss annually. Christmas trees are involved in about 300 fires annually, resulting in 10 deaths, 30 injuries and an average of more than \$10 million in property loss and damage.

“Sometimes people are having such a nice time during the holidays that they forget to extinguish candles,” said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton. “Always put out lit candles before leaving a room or going to bed. Always keep burning candles within sight. Also, make sure your holiday lights bear the mark of a recognized testing lab to show they meet safety standards.”

CPSC monitors holiday lights and decorations at stores nationwide. Since 2001, the Commission has prevented the import of 116,500 units of holiday lights that did not meet safety standards.

CPSC suggests following these tips to make the holidays safe:

Trees:

- When purchasing an artificial tree, look for the label “Fire Resistant.” Although this label does not mean the tree won’t catch fire, it does indicate the tree will resist burning and should extinguish quickly.
- When purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. A fresh tree is green, needles are hard to pull from branches and when bent between your fingers, needles do not break. The trunk butt of a fresh tree is sticky with resin, and when tapped on the ground, the tree should not lose many needles.
- When setting up a tree at home, place it away from fireplaces and radiators. Because heated rooms dry live trees out rapidly, be sure to keep the stand filled with water. Place the tree out of the way of traffic and do not block doorways.

Lights:

- Indoors or outside, use only lights that have been tested for safety by a recognized testing laboratory, which indicates conformance with safety standards. Use only lights that have fused plugs.
- Check each set of lights, new or old, for broken or cracked sockets, frayed or bare wires, or loose connections, and throw out damaged sets. Always replace burned-out bulbs promptly with the same wattage bulbs.
- Use no more than three standard-size sets of lights per single extension cord. Make sure the extension cord is rated for the intended use.
- Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.
- Before using lights outdoors, check labels to be sure they have been certified for outdoor use.
- Fasten outdoor lights securely to trees, house walls, or other firm supports to protect the lights from wind damage. Use only insulated staples to hold strings in place, not nails or tacks. Or, run strings of lights through hooks (available at hardware stores).
- Turn off all lights when you go to bed or leave the house. The lights could short out and start a fire.
- For added electric shock protection, plug outdoor electric lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable outdoor GFCIs can be purchased where electrical supplies are sold. GFCIs can be installed permanently to household circuits by a qualified electrician.

Decorations:

- Use only non-combustible or flame-resistant materials to trim a tree. Choose tinsel or artificial icicles of plastic or nonleaded metals. Leaded materials are hazardous if ingested by children.
- Never use lighted candles on a tree or near other evergreens. Always use non-flammable holders, and place candles where they will not be knocked down.
- In homes with small children, take special care to avoid decorations that are sharp or breakable, keep trimmings with small removable parts out of the reach of children to avoid the child swallowing or inhaling small pieces, and avoid trimmings that resemble candy or food that may tempt a child to eat them.
- Wear gloves to avoid eye and skin irritation while decorating with spun glass “angel hair.” Follow container directions carefully to avoid lung irritation while decorating with artificial snow sprays.

Fireplaces:

- Use care with “fire salts,” which produce colored flames when thrown on wood fires. They contain heavy metals that can cause intense gastrointestinal irritation and vomiting if eaten. Keep them away from children.
- Do not burn wrapping papers in the fireplace. A flash fire may result as wrappings ignite suddenly and burn intensely.

All Trauma NEISS

National Electronic Injury Surveillance System

December 2002

All Trauma Coding Reminders

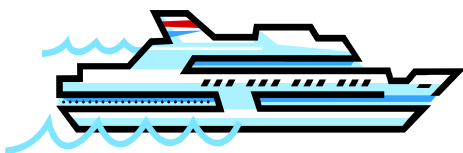
- Safety Harnesses (when work-related) should be reported using product code 2200/industrial equipment



- Foot Spas Or Baths should be reported using product code 2400/medical devices



- Cruise Ships should be reported using product code 3298/boats or boating activity



Nonfatal Choking-Related Episodes for Children 0 to 14 Years of Age

Physical and developmental factors put children at risk for choking on food and nonfood substances. Children choking run the risk of death, permanent brain damage caused by lack of oxygen, or other complications associated with airway blockage.

In 2001, there were more than 17,000 visits to U.S. emergency departments for nonfatal choking in children 14 years and younger. The percentage of visits caused by different food and nonfood substances varied by age. CDC Injury researchers found that the rates are highest for children under one year, and decrease as children grow older.

Parents and caregivers should be aware of choking hazards, keep a watchful eye on their children when they eat or play, and be familiar with ways to give first aid to a choking child.

Key findings include:

- In 2001, an estimated 17,537 children 14 years and younger were treated in U.S. emergency departments for choking episodes -- more than 100 visits for every choking-related death.
- 60% of these events were associated with food items, 31% were associated with nonfood objects including coins, and in 9% of the episodes the substance was unknown or unrecorded.
- Candy was associated with 19% of all choking-related emergency department visits by children 14 years and younger. Of these cases, 65% were related to hard candy and 12.5% were related to other specified types (chocolate candy, gummy candy, chewing gum, etc.). The type of candy was not specified in the remaining 22.5% of cases.
- Of children aged 14 years or younger treated in the emergency department for choking episodes in 2001, 10.5% were admitted to the hospital or transferred to a facility with a higher level of care.

[*Nonfatal choking-related episodes among children -- United States, 2001.* Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report, 51:945-948, (2002).]

All Trauma Really Cooks!!

CPSC sponsored its 2002 Combined Federal Campaign kickoff celebration on November 6 with a Chili Cookoff Contest. Each office in CPSC was encouraged to enter the contest by preparing a favorite chili. The chilis were judged in three categories: Best Vegetarian, Best Flavor, and Hottest. Your friends in EPDS entered four chilis and those who did not enter tasted and voted. You will be proud to know that your NEISS All Trauma Team won the prize for Best Vegetarian. We are including a loose recreation of the recipe for you here to try at home. The proportions are at your discretion.

Meditation Chili

Heat crockpot on high until as hot as a crockpot gets on high.

Chop red pepper, green pepper and onions. Sauté in bottom of crockpot with 1 Tablespoon of olive oil.

Add one bag of frozen textured soy protein (Morning Star Farms or other brand). Stir with pepper/onion mixture until unfrozen.

Here's where the fun stuff starts!

Optional spices (pick the ones you like):

- Packaged Chili mix **OR** Chili powder
- Cumin
- Cinnamon (small amount)
- Garlic (lots of it!)
- Sugar (Tablespoon)
- Salt (to taste)

Add:

- two 8 oz. cans of tomato sauce
- two cans diced tomatoes with green chiles
- Large can of dark kidney beans
- medium can of great northern beans
- medium can of cannelli beans
- medium can of black beans
- And any other bean you like
- 2 T. cooking sherry
- 8oz water



Simmer on high until all ingredients are hot, then turn down to low and let simmer for 6 hours if you have the time so that the spices and favors blend nicely (NEISSLY) or for a shorter time if need be.

Eat and enjoy and give us “feed” back!

Cathy Downs
NEISS All Injury Program Manager (and Home Ec. major)

In Memory of
Andrew J. Willey

February 22, 1979 – September 9, 2002

We extend our deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Andy Willey, a NEISS Coordinator from AVERA ST. LUKE HOSPITAL in Aberdeen, SD. Andy died, along with three other hospital staff, on September 9th in a helicopter accident during a CAREFLIGHT mission. Andy was 23 years old and an EMT who had earned his ECT certification. He attended our seminar at headquarters in July 2002 and had been a NEISS Coordinator for almost two years. His expertise as an EMT was evident in his reporting of cases. He not only dedicated his life to helping others but also played an important part in the Consumer Product Safety Commission's efforts to reduce injuries to make homes safer for all Americans.

How You Can Help...

NEISS NOTES is a publication providing background information on topics of interest to staff working on different tasks within the NEISS program. Issues will contain general information on the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and specific information on NEISS activities. Please call your NEISS representative on 800-638-8095 if you have any comments on topics in this issue or suggestions for future issues.

NEISS Notes Editor: Laura E.W. Noble

When a case is seen through your emergency room that you think is especially important, or that you think might be of great concern to CPSC, don't just enter it into the computer – notify your NEISS representative by phone or computer message.

Your work is essential in helping develop programs to reduce injuries. Analysts studying how injuries happen use the NEISS data every day. Before any action can be taken to reduce injuries, we need to know the size of the problem – how many injuries occur. CPSC's actions can take a number of different forms, from information campaigns alerting the public to safety hazards to the development of product safety standards.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
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