

**LOG OF MEETING
OFFICE OF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION**

SUBJECT: Button Battery Task Force (BBTF) meeting

LOCATION: Virtual meeting

DATE: April 19, 2021

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Huy Le, Division of Electrical Engineering and Fire Sciences (ESEF)

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Doug Lee, Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction (EXHR)
Huy Le, ESEF
Jill Hurley, Human Factors
Cheryl Scorpio, Health Sciences
Commissioner Peter Feldman and Staff (observers)
Jonathan Midgett, Consumer Ombudsman

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Kris Jatana, MD, BBTF Co-Chair
Ian Jacobs, MD, BBTF Co-Chair
Vivian Thorne, AAP Section Manager
Melissa Fensterstock, Landsdowne Labs
And other BBTF members and guests

MEETING SUMMARY:

Background: In 2012, the American Broncho-Esophagological Association (ABEA) and American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) partnered to address a critical problem of serious injury and death caused by button battery ingestions by creating the BBTF. The National BBTF established a central mission statement: *A collaborative effort of representatives from relevant organizations in industry, medicine, public health and government to develop, coordinate and implement strategies to reduce the incidence of button battery injuries in children.*

The BBTF met to provide updates on several topics including: medical engagements and manuscripts, outreach, standards, smartphone apps, industry updates, and medical specialty updates.

Manuscripts included an April publication on the current management of button battery injuries which is available to download and has open access.

Trista Hamsmith reported that she testified to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission as part of their public priorities hearing on April 7th regarding her daughter, Reese, who swallowed a button battery in October 2020. Reese endured countless surgeries and scopes and was intubated under sedation for 40 days. Tragically, Reese lost her fight on December 17, 2020, at just 18 months old. Ms. Hamsmith has become an advocate for legislative action and warning others on the hazards of button battery ingestions.

On standards updates, CPSC staff provided an update on recent ANSI C18 voluntary standards efforts. The committee agreed to withhold discussion on changes to Annex E (Packaging, warning labels, and pictograms for non-lithium button cells) in ANSI C18.1 Part 2 *Portable Primary Cells and Batteries with Aqueous Electrolyte - Safety Standard* since the IEC 60086 Part 5: Safety of Batteries with Aqueous Electrolyte Final Draft International Standard (FDIS) is in the final balloting stage. The committee recommended to wait until the IEC draft becomes official before drafting and balloting the ANSI C18.1 Part 2 Annex E. The serious injury and death data provided by Dr. Jatana was reportedly provided to the IEC committee for consideration. CPSC staff continued to support the same labeling for non-lithium button cells, which is used for lithium coin cells, because there have been deaths associated with these button cell ingestions. The text Dr. Jatana proposed includes, “Death and serious injury can occur.” Also, CPSC staff continued to support the “WARNING” signal word over using “CAUTION” as the signal word which is presently in the IEC 60086-5. proposed draft. “WARNING” is recommended in ANSI Z535.4 *American National Standard for Product Safety Signs and Labels* when serious injury or death is the possible outcome of not following the warning.

A link was provided to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) webpage on button battery safety and the new Australian mandatory standards (<https://www.productsafety.gov.au/products/electronics-technology/button-batteries>).

The improving smartphone app-based injury reporting and multi-center research, Global Injury Research Collaborative is available as “GIRC App” both on App/IOS and Android/Google Play. GIRC is a tool to report relevant details of injuries that occur to patients, supporting injury prevention research.

Melissa Fensterstock, CEO of Lansdowne Labs, gave an update on their technology to mitigate button battery ingestion hazards. Ms. Fensterstock showed an image of a battery ingestion simulation of one of their prototype coin cells showing its ability to mitigate damage in the simulated esophagus. Another BBTF participant from the Netherlands said they are also working on a battery technology to “switch off” the battery if exposed to saliva.

Medical specialists gave updates on each of their respective specialties.

The next Button Battery Task Force meeting will be in October 2021.