



CPSC Safety Alert



CPSC Warns Consumers of Impalement Hazard with Exposed Bicycle Handlebars

As consumers across the United States bicycle in warm summer weather, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers about an impalement hazard from the sharp, exposed ends of metal handlebars. CPSC is aware of at least six impalement deaths and an estimated 2,000 emergency department visits in connection with bicycle handlebars between 2000 and 2019. The most recent death occurred in 2018, and involved a 6-year-old boy. The five other deaths involved two children aged 7, another aged 11, a 41-year-old man and a 50-year-old man. Injuries and deaths can occur when children and adults fall from their bicycles onto handlebars that can get twisted during the fall.

CPSC recommends that consumers regularly inspect their bicycles for this serious hazard. Handlebar ends should be covered by protective plastic or rubber grips that are in good condition.

If the bicycle's handlebar ends are exposed, or the plastic grips are showing signs of wear, it is important to get new grips. Grips can be purchased at bicycle shops, other stores and online. Grips can help prevent these horrific injuries and deaths.

Report injuries with this and other consumer products to CPSC at www.SaferProducts.gov.

