



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP **news**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



April 2021

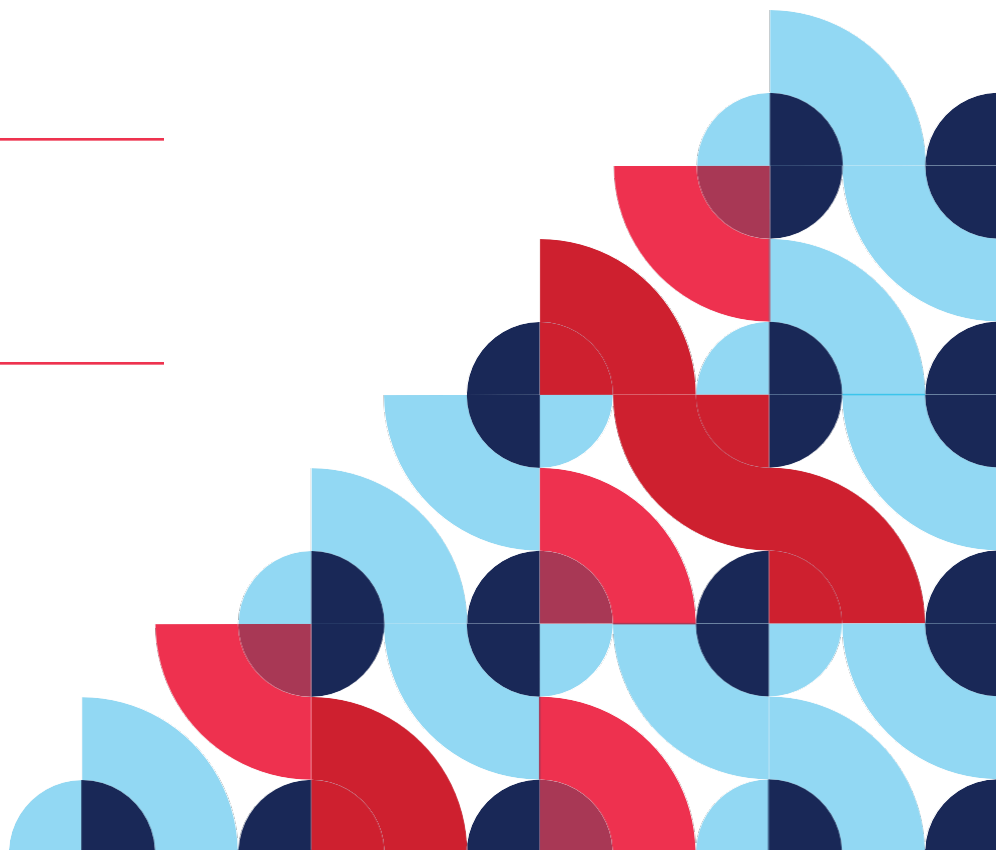
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The following pages summarize MECAP reports received by CPSC selected for follow-up investigation. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. This important information helps CPSC carry out its mission to protect the public from product-related injuries and deaths.

We appreciate your support; please continue to report your product-related cases to us.

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

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*Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation

**Asphyxiation/
Suffocation**

*A 7-year-old female was discovered by her mother unresponsive in bed with a balloon pulled over her face. The decedent became entangled with a helium balloon tied to her bed and suffocated. EMS transported her to a local hospital, where she died 3 days later. The cause of death was complications of asphyxiation due to extrinsic obstruction of airway-smothering.

A 4-week-old male died while sleeping in a full-size bed. The decedent was sleeping on his back next to his mother. The mother woke up and discovered the decedent underneath her, lifeless. Emergency rescue transported the decedent to the hospital. Despite resuscitative efforts, he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was unspecified.

A 5-month-old male was discovered unresponsive while sleeping in a toddler bed. The infant was placed

down to sleep in a toddler bed with multiple heavy blankets. The next morning, the mother found the decedent positioned face down in the soft bedding and blankets. Despite emergency efforts, the infant was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death is pending.

A 4-year-old male aspirated a thumbtack. The decedent was at home playing with his brother, and the brother witnessed the decedent placing the thumbtack in his mouth and collapse to the floor. He was taken to a local hospital and resuscitated. The thumbtack was surgically removed. After further complications, the child died a few days later. The cause of death was aspiration.

**Carbon Monoxide
Poisoning**

A 53-year-old male was discovered unresponsive in his apartment, lying on the floor beside two portable gas generators. The generators were positioned at the bottom of the

basement stairs. The electric power had been shut off, and the generator was used to provide power. EMS measured the carbon monoxide level at 500 ppm. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

*A 3-year-old male was found floating in an in-ground swimming pool at his home. The mother had briefly directed her attention to her older child to help with her homework. Minutes later, the decedent was missing. The mother and grandmother searched for the decedent, and the grandmother found the child floating face down in the pool in the rear of the residence. A wooden fence surrounded the pool. The door to the fence was propped open for an unknown reason, which allowed the child to gain access to the pool. The cause of death was drowning.

A 47-year-old male drowned in an in-ground swimming pool. The decedent was at a private pool party with other friends. At some point, his friends left the pool, and the decedent was alone. The decedent's wife discovered him at the bottom of the pool. He was removed from the pool and began vomiting with labored breathing. Fire Rescue arrived at the scene and transported him to the hospital, where he died in the emergency room. The cause of death was drowning.

FIRE

*A 63-year-old female died from a candle fire. The decedent was trying to blow out a candle when she dropped it on the floor, subsequently catching her pants on fire. She stumbled and fell, sustaining injuries to her face. The cause of death was complications of thermal cutaneous injuries.

A 3-year-old-female died in a house fire caused by a space heater and toaster oven. The family was using the items to stay warm. The decedent was sleeping when the fire began. She was found in the living room. Four siblings taken to the hospital suffered smoke inhalation. The children's ages ranged from 5-years-old to 10-years-old. The children's parents refused medical attention. The cause of death of the 3-year-old female was smoke and soot inhalation.

Two brothers, a 57-year-old and a 63-year-old, died in a house fire. The decedents

resided with their nephew. Both decedents were heavy smokers. The decedents used a stove to heat the house and smoke. The nephew was sleeping upstairs and was awakened by the smoke alarm. He was unable to go downstairs due to the smoke, and called out to his uncle. The uncle yelled that a chair was on fire. The nephew jumped out of the second-floor window. The fire department confirmed both brothers were dead on the scene. The cause of death was acute carbon monoxide intoxication and thermal burns.

ATV/UTV

Three people were hit by a car and killed while riding an ATV. The decedents were a 7-year-old female, a 13-year-old female and the decedents' father was driving. No one was wearing any safety equipment. The ATV overturned on its side. The vehicle was speeding over 100 mph. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

*A 50-year-old male died while riding his ATV in an open field. The decedent was not wearing any safety devices and was partially ejected when the ATV overturned. The roll bar landed on the decedent's neck, and he was unable to lift the ATV off of him. The decedent died on the scene. The cause of death was external compression of the neck.

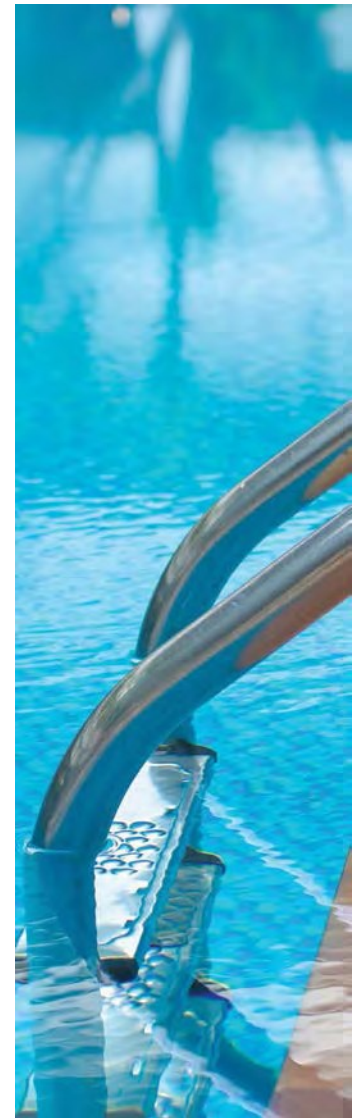
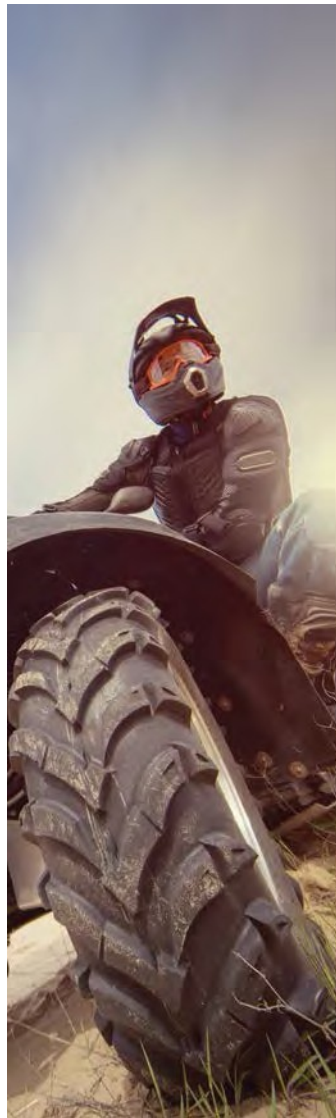
Electrocution

A 63-year-old male died from electrocution while trimming trees. The decedent's power saw came into contact with an overhead 7,200-volt power line. The decedent sustained electrical burns with charring of the palms of both hands and wrists. The cause of death was electrocution with cardiac arrest.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 37-year-old male died from a crushing injury to his neck while lifting barbell weights alone at the gym. The decedent was discovered in cardiac arrest by a security guard. The guard removed the weight-lifting apparatus off of the decedent. Fire and Rescue transported him to the hospital. Despite all life-saving efforts, the decedent expired. The cause of death was asphyxia and neck compression.

A 40-year-old male died from a severe head injury while repairing an indoor pool pump for a recreational center. The pump exploded while the decedent was repairing the unit. The decedent was taken to the hospital and placed on life support. The cause of death was severe head trauma.



The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities associated with consumer products. There are thousands of types of consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) jurisdiction, and Commission staff needs your help in identifying potentially hazardous products or hazard patterns that contribute to deaths of consumers.

Medical examiners and coroners should submit fatality reports and reports of harm or potential harm involving consumer products to CPSC. Guidelines for completing and submitting a MECAP report are located at: <https://www.saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting>

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal: <http://SaferProducts.gov>
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- E-mail to: epdsfax@cpsc.gov
- Postal Mail:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)
Attn: Yolanda Nash
4330 East-West Highway, Ste. 510
Bethesda, MD 20814

Yolanda Nash: ynash@cpsc.gov,
1-800-638-8095 x7502, or 301-504-7502

Please contact CPSC to report fatalities that are associated with a consumer product. Every MECAP report is important to CPSC investigators and will be included in the CPSC's incident database. All it takes is one MECAP report to alert the CPSC to a potentially hazardous product. The MECAP reports help CPSC staff to identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data are crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.