



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

**MECAP**news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

April 2025

The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC and selected for follow-up investigations. 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 health and safety 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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*This report was prepared by the CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not represent the views of the Commission.*

**\*Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation**

## Asphyxiation/Suffocation

A 1-month-old female was found unresponsive at home. She was placed face down on a pillow. The cause of death was positional asphyxiation from an unsafe sleep environment.

\*A 4-month-old female was found unresponsive by her mother after being placed down to sleep. The father laid the infant on her side in a baby lounger located in the living room. When the mother later checked on her, she found the child unresponsive and positioned face-down in the lounger. The mother immediately administered lifesaving measures, and EMS transported the child to a local hospital, where she was pronounced deceased. The cause of death was asphyxia due to an unsafe sleep environment.

\*A 3-month-old female was found unresponsive by her father while co-sleeping with her mother lying on a pregnancy wrap-around pillow. Both the victim and mother were covered with blankets atop the parent's bed. EMS arrived and transported the infant to the hospital; however, despite resuscitative efforts, she was pronounced dead in the emergency department. The cause of death was undetermined, with contributing factors of an unsafe sleep arrangement.

A 3-year-old female was found deceased in a loft bed equipped with a ladder. She had become trapped between the bed rails, with her face positioned downward on the mattress, restricting her ability to breathe. The child's head was wedged between the rails, and this position resulted in asphyxiation, causing death.

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## Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

\*A 61-year-old male decedent, along with his wife and mother, became unconscious at their home due to carbon monoxide (CO) emitted from a water heater's exhaust vent pipe inside their home. After the wife regained consciousness from experiencing symptoms, she contacted emergency responders, and all three were transported to a local hospital, where the wife and mother were treated and released. The decedent, however, remained comatose and was later pronounced deceased at the hospital. The cause of death was ruled as complications of CO toxicity.

A 53-year-old female and her male roommate, age unknown, were found unresponsive in their home due to carbon monoxide poisoning caused by a gas generator. The house was without electricity, and the roommate ran the gas generator to supply power. Law enforcement was dispatched to conduct a welfare check, during which multiple gas generators that provided electricity were discovered in the basement of the home. The cause of death was carbon monoxide intoxication and drug intoxication.

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# Fire

\*A 76-year-old male sustained smoke inhalation and thermal burns when a fire occurred in his residence. The fire was determined to have been caused by a space heater operating near furniture and plugged into an extension cord connected to a living room outlet. Neighbors noticed the fire and attempted to contact and alert the decedent without success. Emergency Responders were called to the scene, and upon arrival, extricated the decedent and transported him to a local hospital. He succumbed to his injuries nine days later. The cause of death was ruled as smoke inhalation and thermal burns.

A 77-year-old male died because of a fire caused by a candle. A power outage had affected several areas in the neighborhood, and the decedent had lit candles as a light source. A fire subsequently broke out in the home. Fire Rescue responded to the scene and transported the decedent to a Trauma Center, where he was admitted to the burn unit and succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was thermal injuries and congestive heart failure.

Four young brothers, ages 4, 5, 6 and 11, died in a house fire. The siblings were in the basement when a lit candle was knocked over, igniting a fire in the back room. The children were trapped in the basement, which had only one exit that was blocked by flames. The cause of death was complications of carbon monoxide toxicity and inhalation injury.

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# Submersion

\*A 22-month-old male was found unresponsive and submerged in a residential pool. The child left the house without his mother's knowledge while she was asleep. He gained access to the front yard above-ground swimming pool by unknown entry and subsequently drowned. The cause of death was drowning.

\*A 3-year-old male fell into an apartment complex in-ground pool after he tried unsuccessfully to reach for a flotation toy in the pool. The cause of death was asphyxia from drowning.

A 1-year-old male was at a rental home with family members when he gained access to the in-ground pool and drowned. After realizing he was missing, the family began searching and found him unconscious, floating in the pool for approximately five minutes. He was removed from the water, and CPR was attempted. The child was taken to the hospital, where he died 5 days later. The cause of death was complications of drowning.

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## ATV/UTV

A 75-year-old male died from an ATV incident. The decedent was trying to go down a hill in the woods and lost control, causing the ATV to flip backward on top of him. Emergency Rescue pronounced him dead on the scene. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxiation.

A 31-year-old male died from a UTV incident. The decedent was ejected while riding down a steep hill. EMS pronounced him dead on the scene. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

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## Other Hazards

A 58-year-old female died from a motorized scooter incident while she was crossing the street and was struck by an SUV. The cause of death was multiple blunt force trauma injuries.

A 27-year-old male was involved in a skiing incident after veering off a designated trail and skiing out of bounds. The decedent became inverted and immersed in deep snow. The decedent was wearing a helmet and was discovered with his feet in the air and head buried beneath the snow. Both skis were ejected off his feet during the incident. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was snow immersion asphyxia.



The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities associated with consumer products. There are thousands of consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC's) jurisdiction, and the 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 [saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting](https://saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting)

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal [saferproducts.gov](https://saferproducts.gov)
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- E-mail: [mecaps@cpsc.gov](mailto:mecaps@cpsc.gov)
- Postal Mail:  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)  
Attn: Yolanda Nash  
4330 East-West Highway  
Bethesda, MD 20814

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 identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.

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