



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

# MECAP **news**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



January 2021

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Asphyxia/Suffocation  
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning  
Submersion

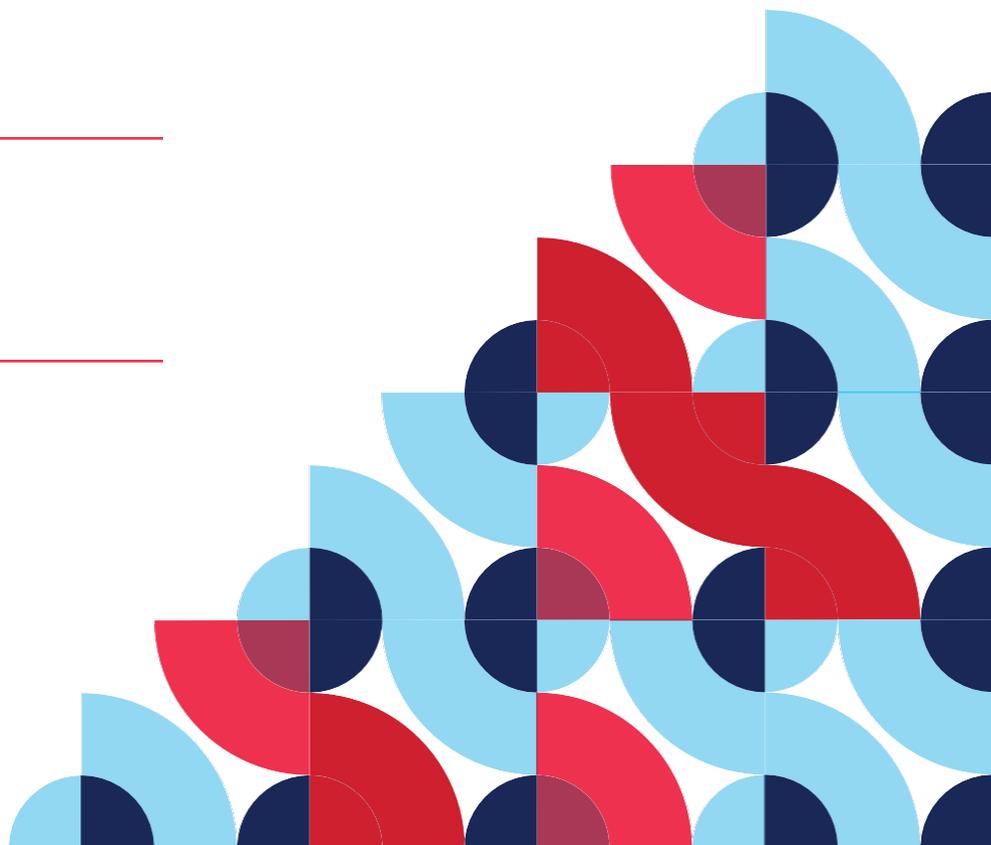
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## MECAP **Reports** | [Page 3](#)

Fire  
All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)  
Electrocution  
Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

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The following pages summarize MECAP reports received by CPSC and 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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Commission**

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

#### **Asphyxiation/ Suffocation**

A 5-year-old female died from asphyxiation while playing on a chair. The decedent became entangled in a folding chair while playing in her room. The child ended up supine on the bed, with one rail against her neck and the other against her upper back. Despite Emergency Rescue efforts, the decedent died at the hospital. The locking mechanism was broken on the chair. The cause of death was asphyxiation due to compression of the neck.

#### **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

Five victims died from carbon monoxide poisoning. A 12-year-old female was discovered unresponsive in her residence, along with her four siblings. The sibling's ages range from 2-years-old to 12-years-old. The decedent's mother used a propane-fueled fryer inside their home to cook dinner the previous evening. The parents returned from work to discover the children deceased. The

parents also exhibited CO symptoms, including headaches and vomiting. The cause of death was carbon monoxide toxicity.

A 50-year-old male was found deceased in the garage, trying to save his 58-year-old male friend from carbon monoxide poisoning. The decedent was attempting to pull his unresponsive friend from the garage that was filled with gas fumes from a generator. The Fire Department measured the carbon monoxide level at 400ppm. The cause of death for both decedents was acute carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### **Submersion**

\*An 18-month-old female was found unresponsive, floating face-up in a large above-ground inflatable swimming pool located in her backyard. The mother was cleaning the pool and got out to do something else. Minutes later, she realized the decedent was missing and started to search for her. The decedent was found in the

deep murky water pool with algae. The mother performed CPR until EMS arrived and transported her to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

\*A 2-month-old male died from drowning in a baby tub. The mother was in the bathroom bathing the decedent in a baby tub at home. The mother fell asleep for 15 minutes, and the father discovered the decedent unresponsive floating face down in the water. The decedent was taken to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

#### **Fire**

A 71-year old male died from a house fire caused by electrical wiring. EMS suspected that the decedent was using an electric heating chair or electric heating device on his back that had short-circuited, causing the fire. The cause of death was thermal injuries.

A 14-month-old female died in a mobile home fire caused by several space heaters. Three children, including the decedent's grandmother, escaped the fire. The grandmother sustained extensive thermal injuries and was airlifted to a local hospital. The decedent was found in the back of the house in a playpen where the fire started. The decedent's parents were not at home during the time of the fire. The three siblings were treated at a local hospital. The cause of death was thermal injuries and smoke inhalation.

An 86-year-old female died at home in a trailer house fire. A neighbor witnessed smoke coming from the decedent's residence. The fire originated from curtains in the living room where the decedent was sleeping. The cause of death was burning trauma and inhalation of products of combustion.

#### **ATV/UTV**

A 72-year-old female died from crushing chest injuries while riding on a UTV. The decedent was test-driving the UTV with her son-in-law, who owned the vehicle, to determine if she wanted to purchase it for her property. They were driving too fast and not wearing helmets or using seat belts. The decedent took a turn too quickly, and the UTV rolled onto her. The UTV flipped on its left side, and the roof landed on the decedent's chest. The son-in-law sustained minor injuries. The cause of death was crushing injuries to the chest.

#### **Electrocution**

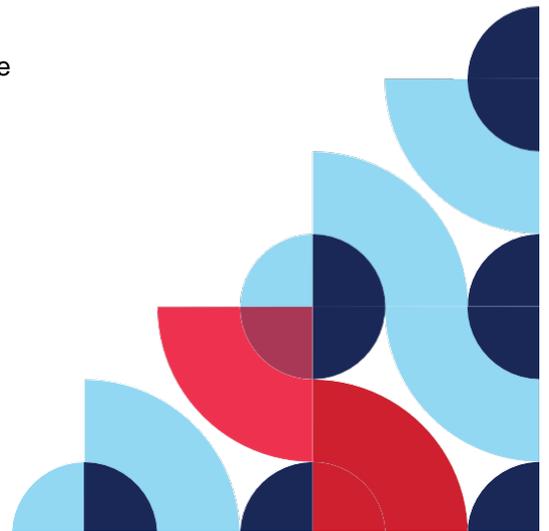
A 58-year-old male died from electrocution when he grabbed a metal pipe adjacent to the dishwasher. The decedent sustained burns to his hand. The cause of death was complications following cardiac arrest due to low-voltage electrocution.

#### **Fatalities Involving Other Hazards**

A 12-year-old male died while playing on a yoga swing at his home. The decedent was playing in the loft at his home and became entangled in the yoga swing. The cause of death was strangulation.

A 59-year-old male died when he fell into a ditch while riding his bicycle. The decedent was turning, and he hit the curb, which resulted in him falling into the ditch. EMS transported him to a local hospital where he died 3 days later. The cause of death was acute spinal cord fractures.

A 39-year-old male died while riding a motorized skateboard in the street. The decedent reportedly lost control and fell off the board, striking his head on the pavement. The cause of death was 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'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: <https://www.saferproducts.gov/CPSRMSPublic/Incidents/ReportIncident.aspx>

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal SaferProducts.gov: <https://www.saferproducts.gov/CPSRMSPublic/Incidents/ReportIncident.aspx>
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095

- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- E-mail to: [epdsfax@cpsc.gov](mailto:epdsfax@cpsc.gov)
- Postal Mail: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project  
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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.