



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAPnews

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

July 2025

The following pages summarize a snapshot of MECAP reports received by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and selected for follow-up investigations. The entries include a brief description of the reported 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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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.

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A one-year-old male was found unresponsive by his parents, face down with his head trapped between a broken part of the crib. The crib had not been properly assembled and was visibly unsafe for use, with a missing screw that created a gap. The cause of death was acute pneumonia with diffuse anoxic encephalopathy and cerebral edema.

*A 16-month-old female was found unresponsive in her crib by her brother. She was lying on a blanket with another blanket across her face, obstructing her breathing. The decedent's brother immediately ran to tell the mother that the child felt stiff to touch. The mother administered CPR until Law enforcement and EMS arrived. The child was pronounced deceased at the residence.

A 3-month-old male infant was found unresponsive in his crib. The infant was fed a bottle by his mother, then placed on a fluffy blanket on a sectional couch and covered with another fluffy blanket. His three siblings were also sleeping on the couch along with their mother. The mother awoke to find the infant on his stomach with his face to the side, unresponsive and cold. Fire Rescue and Law Enforcement arrived on the scene and transported him to a local medical facility, where he was pronounced dead.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 58-year-old male was found unresponsive by his daughter. He had been running multiple generators in the basement of the home to provide electricity. Police arrived on the scene and smelled a strong scent of exhaust. The decedent was pronounced dead on the scene. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fire

A 68-year-old male was found unresponsive in a house fire. Emergency Responders transported him to the hospital and treated him for inhalation injury and thermal injuries. He developed anoxic brain injury and succumbed to his injuries. According to the Fire Department's Fire Investigation Report and the Police Department's Incident/Investigation Report, the fire patterns and fire effects indicated that the fire originated at floor level near the foot of the bed, where an electrical space heater was in use.

*An 89-year-old female died from injuries sustained in a house fire. She was cooking in her oven when the oven mitt she was using to remove a dish caught fire, which subsequently ignited her shirt and caused severe burns. As she tried to remove the pan from the oven, it tilted, and hot grease spilled onto the burner, causing flames to spread up her left arm. Emergency Response transported her to the hospital, where she

received medical care but ultimately succumbed to her injuries. The cause of death was complications of thermal injuries of the upper left torso.

Submersion

A 71-year-old female drowned in a community pool. She was in the pool with her husband using a flotation device. Her husband swam away briefly and then returned to find her floating face down in the water. Emergency Rescue transported her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with an anoxic brain injury. Despite medical intervention, the decedent had a progressive decline in health and died.

*A 2-year-old female drowned in an in-ground swimming pool. The mother was at home with the child in the kitchen, where a sliding glass door was open. The child exited through the sliding glass door and gained access to the pool. The mother noticed the decedent was no longer in her view and began looking for her. The mother found the child outside in the in-ground swimming pool. The mother removed her from the pool and started CPR. Emergency Rescue arrived on the scene and transported the child to a Children's Hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

A 47-year-old male died from drowning when he fell into a hot tub. The decedent was intoxicated at his relatives' house when he stumbled and fell over into the hot tub. The cause of death was drowning.

ELECTROCUTION

A 51-year-old male was found unresponsive in the attic in front of an air conditioner handler that had exposed wiring. Paramedics pronounced him dead on the scene. He was in front of an air conditioner handler that had exposed wiring while the breakers were live. The cause of death was electrocution.

*A 44-year-old female was found deceased in a bathtub of her home by a friend who went to check on her. The decedent had used an immersion water heater device in the water while taking a bath. The decedent was found lying supine in the bathtub full of water. In the tub was a cord extending from within the water. A power cord revealed a water immersion heater device used to warm the bathtub. The cause of death was electrocution.

ATV/UTV

A 50-year-old male was the driver of an ATV that attempted to drive up an embankment on his property; the ATV rolled down the embankment and landed on the decedent. Emergency Rescue transported him to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was blunt force injuries.

Other Hazards

A 60-year-old male was working on his snowmobile outside of his residence when the throttle became stuck, propelling the decedent onto the sled and causing him to crash into the side of his house. Although he had blunt force head and chest trauma, he thought he was okay and went into his house without seeking medical attention. His wife later returned home, noting the injuries and urging him to seek medical attention, which he initially refused. He later complained of difficulty breathing, and an ambulance was summoned. He went unresponsive, and despite all efforts by First Responders and Emergency Department (ED) staff, he was later pronounced dead the ED.

A 31-year-old male was operating a dirt bike on a public roadway. He was not wearing a helmet. He was struck by an SUV making a turn and was ejected approximately 45 feet from the site of impact. Emergency Responders airlifted him to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was multiple trauma injuries.



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 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.

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal saferproducts.gov
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- E-mail: 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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