



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

# MECAP<sup>news</sup>

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



October 2021

## MECAP Reports | [Page 2](#)

Asphyxia/Suffocation  
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning  
Submersion

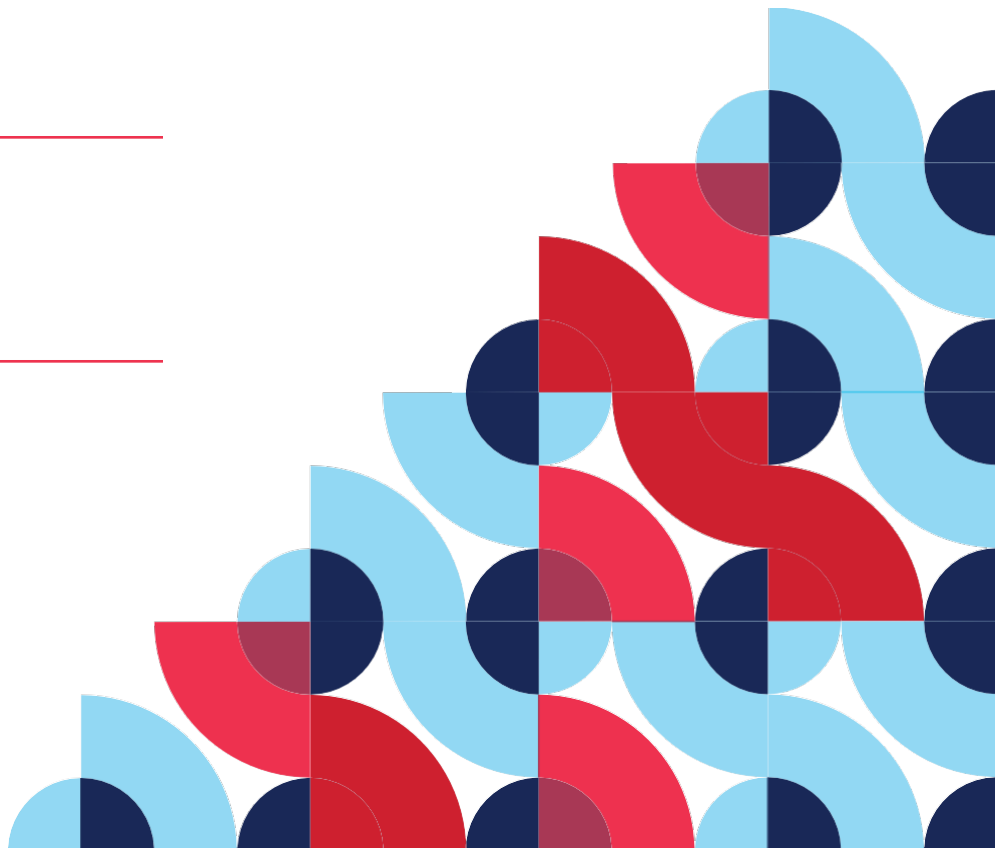
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## MECAP Reports | [Page 3](#)

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

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The following pages summarize MECAP reports selected for follow-up investigation received by CPSC. 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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*This report has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not reflect its views.*

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

#### **Asphyxiation/ Suffocation**

\*A 28-day-old male decedent began to cry in his crib. The father took the decedent out of the crib, He put the decedent on his chest while he laid on his queen-sized bed. The father found the decedent face down and unresponsive, cold, and stiff. EMS transported the infant to a local medical facility, where he was pronounced in the ER. The cause of death was sudden unexpected infant death in the setting of an unsafe sleep environment.

An 8-month-old female was found unresponsive in an adult bed. The infant was breastfed and was placed next to her mother with her head pointing towards the headboard. Hours later, the mother awoke and observed that her daughter appeared unresponsive with her head pointing towards

the foot of the bed and was cold to touch. The parents drove the decedent to a local medical facility (ER), where the decedent had turned blue. Lifesaving efforts were futile, and the infant was pronounced. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

#### **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

\*A 33-year-old male was found deceased in the bathroom while doing renovation work in a private residence. The homeowner found the decedent slumped over a running saw with the bathroom door closed. The bathroom had poor ventilation emitting a strong odor. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

#### **Submersion**

\*A 3-year-old female died in an in-ground swimming pool. The decedent was

playing in the water using the flotation device that she wore on her arms. She later got out and asked her father to remove the flotation devices. Another child was getting out of the pool and noticed the decedent submerged at the bottom of the pool. The cause of death was drowning.

#### **Fire**

\*A 61-year-old male was killed while trying to fix an air compressor, and it unexpectedly blew up. The explosion threw the decedent into a nearby wall, and he lost consciousness. When he regained consciousness, he was pinned under the air compressor and could not move it off of him. The decedent's brother found him 8 hours later and called 911. The decedent was transported to the hospital, where he died several days later. The cause of death

was complications of blunt impact and thermal trauma of the torso and right arm, with a contributory cause of chronic alcoholism.

A 67-year-old male and a 64-year-old female died in a house fire caused by a kerosene heater.

Investigators found two kerosene heaters in the back of the house. One heater wasn't working, and the other heater caught fire and burned through the foundation. The decedent's wife died on the scene. The decedent was transported to the Burn Unit, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was complications of thermal injuries.

### **OHV**

A 4-year-old male was killed in an OHV rollover. The decedent was riding in the front seat of a side-by-side OHV. He was in the middle between his father and uncle. The uncle was driving and jerked the wheel hard on a turn, causing the decedent to eject from the OHV. The decedent was unrestrained, and he was not wearing a helmet. The cause of death was head trauma right side open fracture with exposed brained matter.

### **Electrocution**

A 62-year-old male died from electrocution when he went to the garage to do woodworking. The decedent was burning wood with electrical plugs. He was found unresponsive by his mother, lying prone on the floor. The cause of

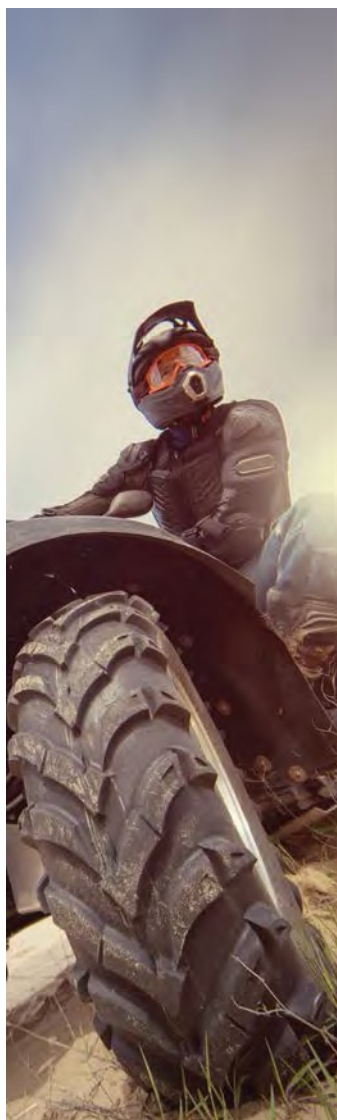
death was electrocution.

A 32-year-old male died from electrocution while wiring existing lights to new switches. The cause of death was electrocution.

### **Fatalities Involving Other Hazards**

A 72-year-old male died when he fell from a ladder. The ladder was to click into position when secured. However, when the decedent attempted to climb the ladder, it buckled underneath him, causing the wind to be knocked out of him. The decedent laid down to rest and awoke with altered mental status. He was transported to a hospital, where a CT scan showed an extensive subarachnoid hemorrhage. He was moved to ICU, where he succumbed to his injury. The cause of death is subarachnoid hemorrhage.

A 30-year-old male died from a dirt bike crash where multiple cars were involved. The decedent was riding at night along the roadway. A car struck the dirt bike's front, which caused two cars to crash into a third car. The decedent was not wearing a helmet or any night reflector apparel. The cause of death was blunt 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 (MECAP)  
Attn: Yolanda Nash  
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Please contact CPSC to report fatalities that is 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 is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.