



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

January 2024

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 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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The Commission has not reviewed or approved this report and may not reflect its views.

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

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A 23-month-old female became entangled in the cords of a window blind. The child became entangled in the cord, resulting in asphyxia and death.

*A 3-month-old female was found in a prone position, nonresponsive, in an adult bed surrounded by loose pillows and soft bedding. The cause of death was asphyxia and an unsafe sleep environment.

A 5-month-old male was sleeping with a blanket and suffocated. The decedent was taken to the hospital and pronounced dead. The cause of death was asphyxia due to blanket suffocation, pneumonia, and poly viral infection.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

Two 16-year-old males and a 17-year-old male died from carbon monoxide poisoning in a garage. The friends were playing video games and watching movies in the garage. They used a propane heater to heat the garage. The garage was lacking proper ventilation and carbon monoxide was exposed. Police found the propane heater in the “on position” in the garage. The cause of death was carbon monoxide intoxication.

*A 54-year-old male was found deceased inside the shed behind his house. The decedent was running a gasoline-powered portable generator inside the closed shed; an extension cord was attached to the generator, providing power to electronics. The cause of death was carbon monoxide toxicity.

Fire

*A 63-year-old female died of smoke and soot inhalation at her mobile home. The decedent's daughter arrived home to find the house engulfed in flames. Fire officials arrived on the scene and cited propane tanks on the porch as the cause of the fire. The decedent was found in a prone position in the bathroom and pronounced dead on the scene. The cause of death was 2nd and 3rd degree burns to the face and chest.

*A 9-year-old female died from smoke inhalation at her home. The fire started in the second-floor apartment of the decedent's home from a permanent heater steam radiator. The fire spread to the decedent's third-floor bedroom. The decedent's 30-year-old mother and six other family members escaped the fire. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

Submersion

A 2-year-old male was found at the bottom of a pool by his parents. The decedent was home with his older sister, mother, and grandmother. Both children played in the living room while the mother and grandmother worked from home in the bedroom. The bedroom door was shut due to the noise level of the kids playing. The mother checked on the children and noticed the decedent was no longer in the living room. The mother found the decedent at the bottom of the deep end of the pool (6-foot-deep) pool. The cause of death was anoxic encephalopathy and submersion injury secondary to drowning.

*A 20-month-old female drowned in a built-in swimming pool. Her father left her in her crib while he went to the bathroom. When he returned from the restroom, he noticed she was missing and saw the infant floating in the pool. EMS transported her to the hospital, where she was declared dead. The cause of death was drowning.

ATV/UTV

A 25-year-old male died from an ATV incident. The decedent was visiting his friends, and they went ATV riding. The group took turns riding an ATV through fields at the friends' residence. The decedent's friends provided brief instructions on riding the ATV because he had no experience. The friends realized the decedent was missing during his ride. They found the decedent underneath the ATV at the bottom of a hayfield where the ATV was still idling. The cause of death was asphyxia due to blunt force trauma of the torso with compression of the chest.

Electrocution

A 30-year-old male died from electrocution. The decedent was picking mangoes with a metal picker from his backyard when he touched a power line with the picker and was electrocuted. Fire Rescue arrived on the scene and pronounced him dead. The cause of death was high-voltage electrocution.

Tip Over

A 67-year-old male was discovered face-down in his bedroom from a television tip-over. The decedent was found lying on the floor near a dresser with a large television on top of him. The cause of death was compressional asphyxia, compression of the chest by fallen television.

Other Hazards

A 25-year-old male died while riding his skateboard and fell. The decedent was hanging out with his friends when they witnessed him fall off his skateboard. Fire Rescue transported him to the hospital. Despite all efforts, the decedent's neurological functions declined. The cause of death was sequelae of epidural hematoma with herniation due to blunt impact to the head.



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://www.saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting)

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal [saferproducts.gov](https://www.saferproducts.gov)
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095

- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- 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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