



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

October 2023

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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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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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

*Two sisters, ages 4-year-old and 6- year-old, were found unresponsive inside a waterproof cover of a weighted blanket that was zipped closed. The cause of death was asphyxia due to oxygen depletion deprivation in the setting of a confined space.

A 58-year-old female died when she became stuck in a large donation container. The decedent dropped clothing items in a metal container for donations. A passerby later discovered the decedent hanging out of the container. Paramedics responded and determined the cause of death was suffocation and mechanical asphyxia.

*A 6-month-old male was found unresponsive after being placed to sleep alone on his back on an adult-sized bed. The infant was on the mattress against the wall. His mother found him wedged between the wall and mattress with his face towards the bed in a standing position. His mother-initiated CPR. EMS transported him to the hospital, where he was comatose for three days and died. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

An 88-year-old male decedent suffered inhalation injuries due to an accidental electrical fire from wiring inside his apartment. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fire

A 74-year-old male was working in his shop at his residence when he caught his clothing on fire. The decedent was cutting metal with an electric band saw with the shop fan pointed at him when his pants caught on fire. The cause of death was 3rd degree burns to his feet and legs.

A mother and daughter, ages 64 and 34 (respectively), died in a house fire. The mother and daughter were visiting family members when someone lit an incense stick on an enclosed front porch and walked away. The fire quickly spread throughout the residence. They were trapped by heat in a 2nd-floor bedroom. Responders extracted both individuals from the home. The daughter was pronounced deceased in the emergency department, and the mother died a few days later. The daughter's cause of

death was thermal injury and inhalation of products of combustion, and the mother's cause of death was complications of thermal and inhalation injuries.

Submersion

*A 3-year-old female drowned in an in-ground swimming pool. The decedent and her mother were at a residence caring for an older adult. The mother thought the decedent was watching TV and noticed she was no longer in the room. The mother began to search for her and found her unresponsive inside a neighbor's inground swimming pool. Emergency rescue transported her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

A 1-year-old male was found unresponsive in a bathtub. The decedent's mother had placed the decedent and his 2-year-old sister in the tub for a bath. The mother reportedly stepped out of the room and fell asleep while the decedent was in the tub with his sister. She woke up to find the decedent face down in the bathtub. The drain plug was closed, and the decedent was lying face down in the water. The cause of death was drowning.

*A 10-month-old male was observed taking a nap on the living room couch. No one noticed when the child exited the house through the sliding glass door and fell into the hot tub. The decedent was found head down, submerged under water. The cause of death was drowning.

ATV/UTV

*A 13-year-old male was driving his parent's Utility Vehicle (UTV) at a construction site when he drove off a retaining wall 14-foot wall and crashed. He was ejected and fatally injured. His cause of death was blunt force torso injuries.

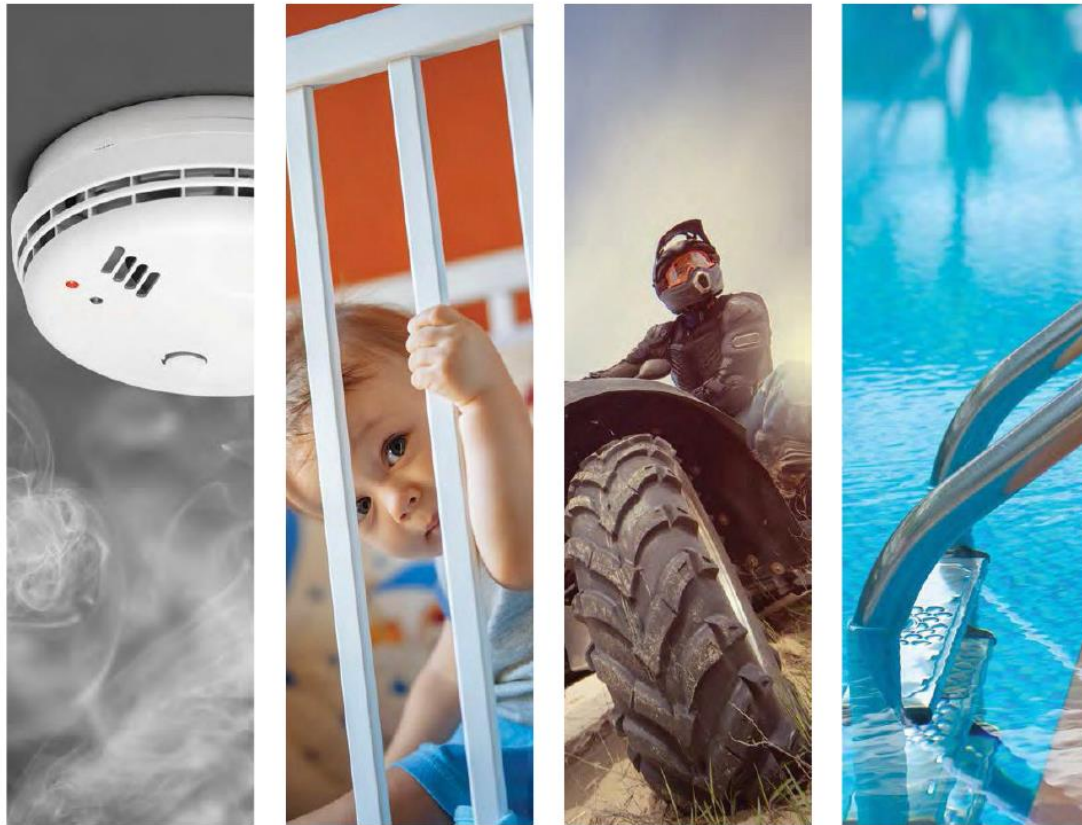
A 40-year-old male died while riding an ATV. The decedent was at a friend's house repairing an ATV. He was test-driving the ATV when he lost control, and it flipped over. The decedent was found pinned underneath the ATV. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries and mechanical asphyxiation.

Electrocution

A 43-year-old male died from electrocution. The decedent's friend found him at his home unresponsive leaning against the wall. He accidentally electrocuted himself while using a crafting wood burner. Emergency Rescue confirmed onsite he was dead. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 27-year-old male operated a motorized bicycle with a lawn mower engine affixed to the bike. The decedent was using the bicycle when a vehicle turned in front of him, causing him to eject and strike the pavement. He was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was multiple blunt impact 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 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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