



MECAP NEWS

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities involving consumer products. There are thousands of types of consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC's) jurisdiction, and we need your help in identifying hazardous or potentially dangerous products. The CPSC collects death, injury, and incident information from many sources, including medical examiners and coroners; the nation's hospital emergency rooms; and other sources, such as news clips, the Internet, our toll-free hotline, and death certificates.

You can submit fatality reports and reports of harm or potential harm involving consumer products to our website: www.SaferProducts.gov. Guidelines for completing 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:
<https://www.saferproducts.gov/CPSRMSPublic/Incidents/ReportIncident.aspx>
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- Fax number: 1-301-504-0038
- E-mail to: epdsfax@cpsc.gov
- Postal Mail: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)
Attn: Yolanda Nash
4330 East-West Highway, Ste. 510
Bethesda, MD 20814
ynash@cpsc.gov
1-800-638-8095 x7502 or 301-504-7502

Please contact us whenever you encounter a fatal incident that may be related to a consumer product. Every MECAP report is important to us and is included in the CPSC's incident database. All it takes is one MECAP report to alert the CPSC to a potentially hazardous product. Raising awareness of longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards is crucial to empowering consumers and reducing the risk of death and injury.

The following pages summarize a few medical examiner and coroner reports received during the period January 2016 through August 2016. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. This important information helps us to carry out our mission to protect the public from product-related injuries and deaths.

We appreciate your support, and please continue to report your product-related cases to us.

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Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A seven-month-old female was found unresponsive with her neck wedged between an infant bassinet and an adjacent dresser. The decedent was placed by her mother in a bassinet for a nap. The mother checked on the decedent later and discovered that the infant fell from the bassinet and asphyxiated when she became entrapped between the two pieces of furniture. The cause of death was asphyxia.

A two-year-old female was home with her mother and a four-year-old sibling. The mother placed the decedent on a bed to watch TV. The mother was tending to her four year old sibling. The mother returned to the master bedroom and found the decedent unresponsive, hanging from the vertical blind. Emergency response arrived on the scene and transported the decedent to a local medical facility where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was hanging.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

An 83-year-old female decedent was exposed to elevated environmental Carbon Monoxide (CO) levels. The home furnace had been service repaired several days prior to the event. The fire department performed a CO level reading of 498 ppm in the basement near the furnace. The cause of death was atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, complicated by carbon monoxide poisoning.

A three-year-old male decedent was playing with a disposable lighter. His grandmother told him to stop before the drapes catch on fire. The decedent then lit the drapes on fire. The grandmother and the decedent's siblings were able to get outside of the mobile home. The decedent was in the mobile home for approximately 10-15 minutes before the fire department got him outside. The decedent suffered 2nd and 3rd degree burns and was transported to an acute care hospital where he died. The cause of death was thermal burns and carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

A 31-year-old male died while riding his snowmobile on an ice pond. The decedent told his friends that he was going to ride his snowmobile on the pond. His friends called the police since they did not hear from him. The decedent's boots and coat were found near a break-through of the ice. The decedent was found approximately 40 feet from the shore line, the water depth was 14 feet, and the ice thickness around the break was 6-8 inches. The cause of death was drowning/cold water submersion.

A two-year-old male was placed inside his bed for a nap at the family's residence while his mother and father went into another room to watch television. The mother went to check on the decedent and found the bedroom door ajar and the patio door unlocked. She observed the decedent at the bottom of the backyard in-ground swimming pool. Fire Rescue transported the decedent to a local medical facility where the decedent was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

*A two-year-old male drowned in an above-ground-swimming-pool located at his family's residence. The decedent was with his father who was doing some chores around the house. The father told the decedent that he could go swimming later. The decedent was unattended for a brief time. The child climbed a 4-foot chain-link fence to access the pool. He was discovered by his father face down in the water unresponsive. The cause of death was anoxic brain injury.

*A two-year-old male decedent was discovered submerged under water in the community pool where he lived. The decedent did not know how to swim and was placed in a life vest. The decedent's mother was with the decedent inside the pool. She was videotaping and taking pictures of the decedent and his siblings. The decedent was seen in the video recording in the beginning of the recording. Minutes later, family members notice that the decedent was not in the life vest and started

searching for the decedent. The decedent was found submerged fully underneath the water at the bottom of the pool. EMS transported the child to the hospital where he arrived in full arrest and was treated until expired. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

A 64-year-old male died of smoke inhalation from a fire that started in his home. The fire originated on combustible material (plastic wire insulation) in the basement in the rear bedroom along the wall above a television cabinet. The man was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

An 80-year-old male died in a house fire at his apartment. The fire started from the clothes dryer. The wife of the decedent was doing laundry and she saw fire coming from the dryer. Fire marshals investigated the origination of the fire and believe that the ignited dryer lint caused the fire. The cause of death was smoke inhalation from an accidental fire.

Tip-Over Incident

A four-year-old female decedent died from a television tip-over. The decedent was in her room watching television when the mother heard a crash in the decedent's bedroom. The mother ran in the room and found the decedent on the floor with the large old tube television and dresser on her head and chest. The decedent was transported by ambulance to a local hospital where she was met by air ambulance and transferred to another hospital. The decedent was pronounced dead as a result of her injuries. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

A two-year-old male decedent died from a dresser tip-over. The decedent was placed in bed by his mother. During the night, the child pulled clothes out of a nearby dresser. The dresser tipped over and the top drawer pinned the decedent. The infant wasn't discovered until the morning by a parent. The decedent was transported to the hospital where he later died. The cause of death was anoxic encephalopathy and compressional asphyxia.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

*A nine-year-old male decedent was riding as a passenger on an ATV with his father. The decedent was ejected from the ATV when the driver of the ATV was speeding and hit a curb. The decedent was wearing a helmet and sustained a skull fracture behind his right ear. Resuscitative measures were attempted, but the child died shortly thereafter at the hospital. The cause of death was blunt force injuries of the head.

*A 23-year-old male was operating an ATV on a public roadway. The decedent was thrown from the ATV and then run over by a car that dragged him down the roadway for 90 feet. The cause of death was blunt force head trauma and massive chest trauma.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

*A 58-year-old male decedent fell off a hoverboard in his bedroom, and the back of his head struck the hardwood floor. The victim suffered a traumatic brain injury and died in the hospital three weeks later.

A 14-year-old male decedent was celebrating the 4th of July at a friend's home with fireworks. Witnesses observed a large firework mortar launch from its original position and strike the decedent on the back of his head. Resuscitative efforts were attempted by witnesses and continued with emergency rescue. The decedent was transported to the hospital where he died 10 days later. The cause of death was anoxic encephalopathy, skull fractures, subdural hematoma, cerebral contusions, lacerations, and blunt force injury of the head.

A 76-year-old male had just finished competing in a tennis match and went to the fitness club inside the condominium where he resides. He went into the sauna. Another resident later went to the sauna and supplied information that the timer which had not worked in three weeks was set on 30 minutes and the red light was on. He returned later to use the sauna and observed that the light was still on and the sauna was still functioning. He then found the decedent slumped over. Fire rescue arrived on the scene and pronounced the decedent dead at the scene. The cause of death was thermal burns.

Electrocution

A 57-year-old male decedent was electrocuted while at work installing an air conditioning duct. He was discovered unresponsive by his co-worker inside an attic. Emergency responded to the scene where he was pronounced. The cause of death was electrocution.

A 46-year-old male was electrocuted while working as a tree trimmer. The decedent was trimming a mango tree in the rear yard of the residence with an expandable aluminum trimming tool when he accidentally contacted an electrical transformer box with his tool. Fire Rescue arrived on the scene and found the deceased hanging unresponsive in his safety harness. He was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was electrocution.