



## **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](http://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: 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  
4330 East-West Highway, Ste. 510  
Bethesda, MD 20814  
[ynash@cpsc.gov](mailto: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 of September 2016 through December 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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1-800-638-8095 x7502 or 301-504-7502***

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

### **Asphyxiation/Suffocation**

\*A 12-day-old female decedent was found supine and unresponsive in a portable bassinet/playpen. The decedent's mother had just fed the decedent a bottle of breast milk. She swaddled the decedent with a blanket and then placed the decedent supine in the portable bassinet/playpen. There was a heater on in the room. The decedent's mother went to check on the decedent and found her unresponsive and not breathing. The father came into her room and performed CPR. EMS transported the decedent to the emergency room. The decedent was pronounced dead shortly after arrival. The cause of death was sudden unexplained infant death (SUID), with unsafe sleep arrangement (portable bassinet with unsafe bedding material).

\*A 2-month-old male was found unresponsive and not breathing after being removed from a playpen at an unlicensed daycare facility located in a personal residence. There was a fleece blanket, toy foam pillow, rubber duck, stuffed animal and a dish rag toy in the playpen. There was no indication of any item obstructing the child's breathing; however, the medical examiner concluded that the cause of death was suffocation from an unsafe sleep environment.

### **Carbon Monoxide Poisoning**

A 30-year-old male died while performing renovations to his trailer. The trailer had no electricity and used power via an extension cord and a portable gas-powered generator. Multiple electric items were in the "on" position but were not working. The items

were plugged into an extension cord running to a portable generator with a gallon tank that was empty. The generator was not running at the time of scene examination, but the engine switch, the fuel valve and the voltage selector "120v" were set to the "on" position. There appeared to be no obvious form of ventilation throughout the residence. The doors and windows were closed with the exception of one window which was slightly ajar. A carbon monoxide test returned results of 8ppm approximately two hours after discovery of the decedent. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

\*A 2-year-old female, 23-year-old male and 28-year-old female were found deceased in a residence while operating a gas generator inside the house. The cause of death was asphyxia by carbon monoxide poisoning.

### **Submersion**

A 50-year-old male drowned in an in-ground swimming pool that was 8-feet deep. The decedent was swimming in a pool at a party for a 3-year-old, and he never resurfaced. He was found at the bottom of the pool where he was submerged for 5 minutes. The decedent knew how to swim. He had been drinking beer and his BAC level was 0.025. The cause of death was drowning.

A 64-year-old male decedent drowned while on an inner tube. He was floating on an inner tube in a river with his relatives. He fell off the inner tube and went underwater. Emergency rescue responded to the scene, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

## **Fire**

A 73-year-old female decedent died in a house fire. The fire started in the kitchen near the stove or microwave. The decedent was found by the firefighters next to her bed. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

A 6-year-old female and 9-month-old female sibling died in a residential house fire caused by a candle. The fire started after the mother lit a candle. Seven people were inside the house, including two adults. The parents tried to save the decedents but were unsuccessful. The cause of death was inhalation of products of combustion.

\*A 46-year-old mother and her 23-year-old daughter were found unresponsive inside their home after a house fire. The fire started when the mother left incense burning on the carpet. Both decedents were pronounced dead at the hospital. Two children, 13-year-old-female and 7-year-old male escaped the fire by jumping out of a window. Smoke alarm information was not available. The cause of death was smoke and soot inhalation due to a townhouse fire.

## **Tip-Over Incident**

\*A 3-year-old female was found unresponsive in an upstairs bedroom at her temporary residence. Occupants heard a loud crash and rushed to the bedroom. They found a makeshift television stand on top of the child and a 31-inch older model tube television inches from her head. The girl died the following day at the hospital from blunt force head injury.

An 8-year-old male decedent climbed onto a television cart. The television tipped over and landed on the decedent's head. This took place at a day care center. The decedent was transported to the hospital where he succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

## **All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)**

A 75-year-old male decedent was traveling on his ATV on a rural road at approximately 30 miles per hour. The decedent lost control of his ATV and it rolled over. He was not wearing a helmet. He died 3 days later from a traumatic head injury.

\*A 52-year-old male decedent died as the result of an ATV crash. The decedent and his friend were ascending a steep grade on a mountain trail on separate ATVs. The friend witnessed the decedent's ATV descending the grade coming back toward him. The friend reportedly abandoned his ATV, which the decedent's ATV struck. The decedent's friend ascended the trail and found the decedent unresponsive with apparent trauma and alerted emergency personnel. EMS arrived and pronounced the decedent dead at the scene. The cause of death was blunt force trauma.

\*A 70-year-old man was driving an ATV down a trail when he struck a tree stump. The impact ejected the victim from the ATV causing the ATV to overturn and land on him. The victim was pronounced dead on the scene. The cause of death was asphyxia and blunt force trauma to the head.

## **Electrocution**

A 14-year-old male was found electrocuted near his driveway by his mother when she returned home. The decedent was swinging a dog runner/leash apparatus that came in contact with the power lines directly above his driveway. The current went through the dog leash over power lines while the decedent was standing on very wet ground. The cause of death was electrocution.

A 64-year-old male decedent went into his yard to pick some mangoes using a ladder and a fruit-picking metal pole. The decedent was found lying on the ground unresponsive with the fruit-picking pole hooked to a power line near the mango tree. The cause of death was high voltage electrocution.

## **Fatalities Involving Other Hazards**

\*A 59-year-old male decedent died while riding a dirt bike around his property. He made a motorcycle jump approximately 4.5 feet high. Witnesses indicate the decedent went off the jump at a high rate of speed. While in the air, the back end rotated over the front end of the motorcycle and crashed 75 feet impact. The decedent was thrown and landed an additional 65 feet away. Emergency rescue was called and the decedent was transported to a local hospital where he later died from his injuries. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

A 65-year-old male decedent died while driving his riding lawn mower. He fell over a 10-feet deep embankment with the mower landing on his neck. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

A 4-year-old female died when she fell off a riding lawn mower. The decedent's father was mowing a field of grass with the decedent on the mower. The decedent fell off the lawn mower and was run over by the blade section of the riding lawn mower. The decedent had an injury to the back of her head and multiple linear cuts to her right hand. The cause of death was a sharp force injury to the head.