



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 link:***
<https://www.saferproducts.gov/CPSRMSPublic/Incidents/ReportIncident.aspx>
- ***Phone: 1-800-638-8095***
- ***Fax number: 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 months of April through June 2017. 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.

***Yolanda Nash
Program Analyst/MECAP Manager
Division of Hazard and Injury Data Systems
Directorate for Epidemiology
ynash@cpsc.gov
1-800-638-8095 x7502 or 301-504-7502***

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

Asphyxia/Suffocation

*A 1-month-old male died while in a bassinet stroller. The decedent was out with his mother, sister and a family friend for a mid-morning walk. The decedent and his twin sister were in a double bassinet stroller. During the walk, the decedent became fussy and the subject's mother placed the decedent into a baby carrier to breast feed. The decedent's mother was wearing a long-sleeve, cotton, breastfeeding shirt and the decedent was wrapped in a thin cotton blanket. The carrier was such that the decedent was placed in a chest-to-chest position with the mother, with his head in a neutral position facing one side. The decedent was reported to have fallen asleep at some point after the feeding. His mother found the decedent was unresponsive when she returned home with blood coming from his mouth and nose. The cause of death was unspecified.

A 78-year-old female died when she tripped, and a 40-pound television fell onto her back. She was found face down on a brick platform between a stove and a television stand. The television was on her back, and her right hand was gripping the cable wires. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 37-year-old male decedent died while using his barbecue grill to heat the interior of his house. The decedent was intoxicated and on methamphetamine. The decedent used charcoal briquettes on the grill for the heat source. The cause of death was CO poisoning.

*A 9-year-old male decedent died from carbon monoxide poisoning. A portable generator was placed in a back room closet inside the home. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

*An 8-month-old female died in an infant tub while in the bathtub. The mother placed the decedent in an infant tub and left the decedent unattended while the water was running. She returned to discover the decedent submerged in the water. The cause of death was drowning.

A 3-year-old male died from drowning in an in-ground swimming pool. The decedent was at his grandparent's residence, and he gained access to a "murky" backyard swimming pool. The pool was fenced, but the decedent gained entree via the grandparent's back door that he had access in and out throughout the day. The back door was described as old and warped and it would never close completely. Fire and Rescue discovered the body in the deep end of the pool. The decedent was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

A 92-year-old female died from a house fire while baking chicken in the oven. The decedent touched one of the heating coils in the oven and the mitts caught on fire. Fire rescue transported the decedent to a local medical facility where she was diagnosed with 2nd- and 3rd- degree burns. She was transferred to a burn center where her condition deteriorated, and she expired. The cause of death was thermal burns.

*Two females, a 3-year-old and a 10-year-old, died in a house fire caused by a hoverboard. The fire investigators determined that the hoverboard started a fire in the living room while charging. The home was destroyed. Both victims died as a result of complications of 3rd-degree burns to 95 percent full thickness.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

*A 39-year-old female died from an all-terrain vehicle crash. The decedent was intoxicated and driving a quad at a high rate of speed. The decedent attempted to make a left turn on blacktop, and the quad flipped and ejected the decedent. The decedent was taken to a local hospital where she later died from her injuries.

Electrocution

*A 7-year-old male died while playing outside after a rainstorm. The decedent received an electric shock when he touched a metal component of a golf cart that was charging in an exterior outlet at his house. The decedent's mother was able to break his contact with the golf cart and begin resuscitation efforts; the decedent died later that day at an area hospital. The cause of death was cardiac arrest due to electrocution.

A 33-year-old male decedent lost control while riding his bike down a ramp, which caused him to fall on a platform and land on a live rail. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

*A 2-year-old female died when she swallowed a lithium button battery. The decedent was home with her mother and grandmother. She began to vomit a bloody substance. Fire rescue

transported the decedent to a local medical facility where x-rays revealed the decedent had swallowed a lithium button type battery. The decedent developed massive hematemesis status post-surgery and expired. The cause of death was a gastrointestinal hemorrhage.