



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 July through September 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.

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

Asphyxia/Suffocation

* A 42-year-old male was found deceased in his bedroom, crushed beneath an unidentified dresser and an unidentified television that had tipped over and fallen on him. The decedent was discovered after a neighbor called 911 to report that they had not seen the decedent in several days. Local police responded to the scene and discovered the decedent dead. The cause of death was ruled asphyxia due to being crushed beneath falling television and dresser.

*A 2-year-old male died at his residence in his parent's bedroom underneath a three-drawer dresser that toppled over on top of him. The decedent's father had laid the decedent down for a nap. An hour later, the father checked on the decedent and found him lying face down on the floor with the dresser on top of him with his head stuck inside of the middle drawer. The father removed the decedent and ran outside for help carrying the child in his arms. The father then ran back inside and laid the decedent on his bed, and started CPR until emergency personnel arrived. The decedent was transported to a local hospital, where he was pronounced deceased. The cause of death was asphyxia due to mechanical compression of the neck.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

*A 63-year-old male died from elevated levels of carbon monoxide poisoning

from a gas floor furnace heater in his apartment. The fire department discovered the decedent in his room barricaded by a couch and board. The fire department officials measured the carbon monoxide level in the apartment at 209ppm, which is dangerous and high enough to cause a fatality. The cause of death was CO poisoning.

Submersion

*A 1-year-old male decedent was found floating in an above-ground swimming pool. His parents had a gathering of friends and family at their home. There were five adults present - the decedent's parents, two neighbors, and the decedent's grandmother. There were multiple children ages, 1-13 years old at the gathering, as well. Everyone was in and out of the residence. The decedent's father was getting ready to swim. The decedent's mother had gone inside to change clothes, and the decedent's father had gone inside at the same time for a drink of water. They quickly noticed that all of the kids had come inside with the adults, except for the decedent, who was missing. They searched the immediate area first (inside) with no success and then continued outside. The decedent was found by one of the neighbor's children. The 13-year-old male jumped in the pool and pulled the decedent out. The decedent's father immediately initiated CPR, and someone called 911. EMS performed CPR at the scene. The decedent was airlifted to a locale ER, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

*A 3-year-old male and his 31-year-old father died from drowning in an apartment complex built-in swimming pool. They were playing with toys on the surrounding concrete deck. The decedent lives with both parents. The decedent and his father went to play in the pool at his residential apartment complex. A resident discovered the decedent floating in the pool and his father was on the bottom. First responders found a child's tricycle at the bottom of the pool, leading police to believe that the father tried to rescue his son after he rode into the pool. EMS and police transported the decedents to the ER, where both decedents were pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

An 82-year-old male died from a trailer house fire. The decedent fell asleep while his heating pad was turned "on" and caught fire. The fire department extinguished the flames and the decedent was taken to the hospital with burns over 50 percent of his body. The decedent never regained neurological function. He was pronounced dead 2 months later. The cause of death was complications of thermal burns.

A 69-year-old male died in a house fire that started in an air conditioning unit. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

*A 15-year-old girl died when a clothes dryer caught fire within her home. Officials determined that the fire's area of origin was in the laundry area, and

the cause was most likely lint build-up within the dryer. The dryer was burned beyond recognition, and no relevant product or manufacturer information could be obtained. Smoke detectors did not sound during the fire because no batteries were installed. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning and thermal burns.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

*A 14-year-old male died from an all-terrain-vehicle incident. The decedent was driving at a public dirt ATV track. The decedent collided with several other ATVs, which caused him to flip over the handlebars and eject from his ATV. The cause of death was depressed skull fracture, caused by the camera mounted to the decedent's helmet.

Electrocution

A 50-year-old male died from electrocution while installing an air conditioning unit in a residence attic. The person-who was helping the decedent left the attic briefly, and when he returned, he found the decedent unresponsive and slumped onto the ground. Electrical cords were near the decedent. EMS transported the decedent to the hospital. The decedent's family was consulted and advised of the decedent's poor prognosis. Support measures were removed, and the decedent was pronounced dead the next day. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 61-year-old male died from a laceration from a glass picture frame. The decedent unintentionally cut his wrist and chest on the glass of a broken picture frame while working on it in his garage. He lost a massive amount of blood. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the chest and wrist.

A 71-year-old male died from a ladder fall at a residence. The decedent was standing on an A-frame-type ladder while painting the balcony on the third story of his residence. He leaned over the edge of the ladder that was on a drop cloth, and it shifted, resulting in the decedent losing his balance and falling to the rocky bedded ground. Fire and rescue transported the decedent to a local medical facility, where he expired due to multiple blunt trauma injuries.

A 25-year-old female died from a dirt bike incident. The decedent was an unhelmeted passenger on a dirt bike that struck the rear end of an ATV. The decedent was ejected from the dirt bike and struck her head. The cause of death was multiple blunt traumas.

*An 83-year-old female victim was walking by a grandfather clock in her dining room when she saw a piece of paper behind it. The decedent tried to move the unsecured clock away from the wall to use her foot to retrieve the paper, and the clock fell partially on her, striking her neck. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she received treatment for a C-spine injury. She developed shingles, and was later pronounced dead due to

cardiopulmonary arrest, sepsis, aspiration pneumonia, and C-spine fracture.