



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
MECAPnews
MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



May 2019

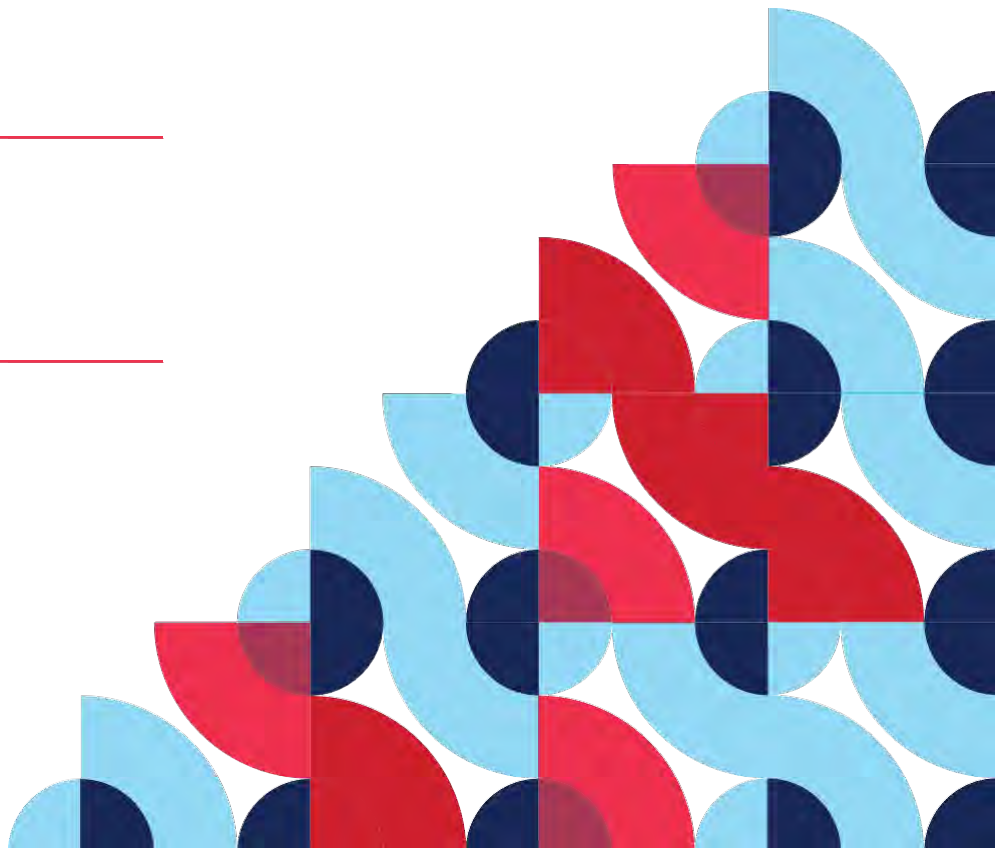
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The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC from January through May 2019. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. This important information helps 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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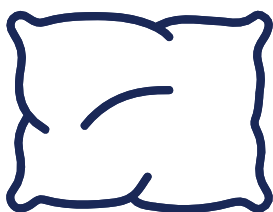
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Asphyxia/Suffocation

***A 6-year-old female** was discovered unresponsive by her mother at home. The decedent had an attraction to rubber objects like balls and rubber bands. Emergency medical services arrived and found the decedent and her mother in the front yard. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where the emergency room physician dislodged a green **rubber ball** from the upper airway and glottis. Despite resuscitation efforts, the decedent was pronounced dead. The cause of death was asphyxia due to choking.



***A 3-month-old female** decedent was found lifeless in her **bassinet**. The decedent slept in her bassinet in the bedroom with her mother. The next morning, the mother found the decedent lifeless emanating bubbles from her mouth. The bassinet contained a large **pillow**. She was placed on her back to sleep with a **blanket** to

her chest. The mother discovered the decedent unresponsive on her right side with her face towards the pillow, and the blanket covered her lower extremities. She was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was unexplained.

A 2-year-old male died when he was found wedged between a **bunk bed** and the **bunk bed ladder**. The cause of death was positional asphyxia due to chest compression.

***A 1-month-old male** decedent was placed in a **playpen** with a **pillow** and was later found unresponsive with blood coming from his nose. EMS and police arrived at the scene and initiated CPR. The child was transported to a hospital, where he was later pronounced dead. The cause of death was asphyxia.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 10-year-old male was found unresponsive in his home from carbon monoxide poisoning. The family stayed home because they thought they had the flu. The friend's mom and grandmother went to check on the family and discovered the decedent lying supine

on the couch in a pile of vomit. The decedent's friend and mother were found unresponsive on the floor. The decedent's father was disoriented and seen pacing the floor through a window. The decedent's parents and friend of the decedent were transported to the hospital. The Fire Department found a **gas furnace** in the basement with a broken exhaust pipe that leaked fumes through a central ventilation point approximately 10 feet from the decedent. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.



***A 15-year-old male** died from carbon monoxide poisoning coming from a **portable generator** that was being used in his family's recreational vehicle. The victim went to sleep and was later found unresponsive by his parents. He was found unresponsive on the mattress in the back of the motorhome. Fire Rescue detected an odor of fumes on the scene from a generator. The victim's two

siblings and father were also affected by the fumes but were medically treated and survived. Paramedics pronounced the decedent dead on the scene. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

***A 2-year-old male** was found submerged face down in his grandparent's backyard **swimming pool**. The grandmother was vacuuming her car, and the grandfather was creating a garage sale sign in the driveway. The grandfather briefly went inside the house to get a knife. Both grandparents thought the decedent was with the other on the driveway. The grandfather found the decedent face down submerged in the pool. The pool was round and both partially **in-ground** and **above-ground** with overall dimensions of about 3ft x 12ft. The victim expired at the hospital six days later. The cause of death was anoxic brain injury due to drowning.



*A **22-month-old male** was found submerged in a **hot tub**. The decedent was playing with toys in the living room while his mother was upstairs, and his father was looking for a hot tub cover on the Internet. After approximately 5 minutes, the father noticed the living room was quiet, and discovered the boy face up in the hot tub. The father retrieved the boy and began CPR at the scene. The boy gained access to the pool through a **sliding glass door**. The boy was transported to a local children's hospital where he died from drowning.

Fire

*A **66-year-old male** died from a **propane gas heater** fire. The decedent was smoking while sitting next to a portable gas heater when his **chair** and **jacket** accidentally caught on fire. The decedent tried to remove the jacket, but he was unable to and suffered thermal burns. The cause of death was thermal burn injuries.



An **84-year-old female** was trapped on the second floor of her residence during a house fire. The fire initiated in the basement from an **extension cord** that was plugged into a three-prong adapter that was plugged into a two-prong **adapter** connected to a **power strip**. The power strip was overloaded with a **TV, refrigerator, space heater** and another **power strip**. The second power strip included the **window AC unit plug**. The cause of death was soot and smoke inhalation with extensive thermal burns.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

A **52-year-old female** died while driving a **4-wheeled ATV**. The decedent was driving up an embankment when she lost control and struck a tree. She was thrown from the ATV and suffered multiple blunt force injuries. Despite resuscitative efforts, she was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

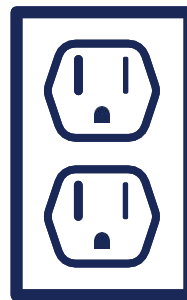


*A **34-year-old male** was operating a **4-wheeled ATV** in a warehouse/parking lot area when he attempted to negotiate a turn and collided with a fire hydrant. The ATV continued and struck a wall. The decedent was then ejected, and hit the same wall. The ATV landed on top of him. Fire rescue responded and the decedent was airlifted to a trauma

hospital. Despite medical efforts, he succumbed to his injuries. The cause of death was blunt force injuries.

Electrocution

A **42-year-old male** died from accidental electrocution when he bumped into a power line connected to his house. The decedent was on a **ladder** cleaning the **gutters** at his residence. He fell 22 feet to the ground and struck his face on a **banister** during the fall. He was transported to a local hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was complications of blunt force injuries due to the fall and electrocution.



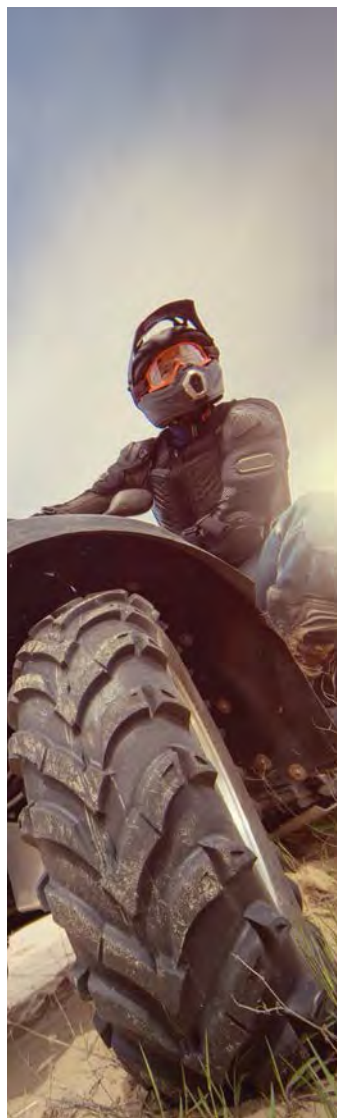
A **2-year-old female** decedent was found unresponsive lying on the floor behind the **clothes dryer** in the laundry room. The decedent's father discovered the child and attempted to pick up the decedent and received a shock. The decedent's mother stated that the family had a cat who recently had kittens, and the kittens would hide behind the dryer. The mother believes that the child attempted to get one of the kittens. The child died on the scene. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A **51-year-old-male** decedent died from a **skateboard** accident. The decedent called Fire Rescue and reported that he had fallen off his skateboard onto his chest. He was transported to the hospital alert and complaining of abdominal pain. Scans performed in the ER revealed a splenic and liver laceration. The decedent was vomiting and became unresponsive. The cause of death was splenic and liver laceration.



**Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation*



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 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: <https://www.saferproducts.gov/CPSRMSPublic/Incidents/ReportIncident.aspx>

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal SaferProducts.gov: <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 CPSC to report fatalities that involve 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 to identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.