



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 called: 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: 1-301-504-0038
- E-mail faxes via pdf to: epdsfax@cpsc.gov
- 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

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 October 2013 through May 2014. 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*

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A 4-month-old female was put down for a nap at a family daycare. The infant was placed in a Pac-N-Play with a quilted blanket. She was found sometime later by the daycare provider with the blanket over her face and unresponsive. CPR was performed and ER was called. The child was transported to an area hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was likely asphyxia.

*A 1-month, 14-day-old male decedent was sharing his bed with his mother. The mother placed the baby down horizontally in the middle of the bed. The mother lay down next to the child. She awoke and found the child under her unresponsive and not breathing with blood coming out of his mouth. The cause of death was asphyxia.

*A 3-month-old female decedent was fed and then placed on her back in her crib for a nap. The victim's mother checked on her and found her lying face-down and unresponsive. She performed CPR on her child until rescue units arrived. Police Department and Fire Rescue arrived and transported the decedent to a local hospital where she was pronounced dead. The crib contained bedding/bumpers, two large blankets, a small blanket, a wedge pillow, and a stuffed animal. The cause of death was probable asphyxia due to unsafe sleep environment.

A 52-year-old female died when she became wedged between the mattress and nightstand. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

*A 3-month-old male child died when he was placed onto a futon bed. He was found wedged into the fold of the mattress. The cause of death was positional asphyxia wedging in mattress.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

*A 70-year-old man was found deceased in his apartment. Neighbors had not seen the decedent and reported smelling gas in the building. The oven and the four stove burners were in the "on" position. The carbon monoxide level in the apartment, measured by the fire department, was 648 ppm, which is extremely dangerous and high enough to cause a fatality in a short period of time. There was a power outage in the building and the man apparently tried to warm the apartment. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

*A 76-year-old male was found unresponsive lying across his bed in his apartment. The furnace exhaust vent pipe was disconnected from the furnace in the basement causing fumes to be exhausted directly into the residence. Fire department officials measured the carbon monoxide level in the basement at 1,100 ppm, which is considered an extremely dangerous CO exposure. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning due to inhalation of home furnace exhaust.

Submersion/Drowning

A 96-year-old male was swimming in the community in-ground swimming pool. He stopped swimming and sank under the water after attempting to hold onto the side. Fire rescue transported the decedent to a local medical facility where he expired. The cause of death was cardiovascular disease contributory cause was submersion in swimming pool.

*A 17-month-old male died as a result of drowning after getting into or falling into a hot tub. The father and decedent had been playing together in the hot tub. They both

entered the house when they finished. His father later discovered the decedent floating in the hot tub. The father attempted CPR until ambulance personnel arrived. The cause of death is drowning.

*An 8-year-old male was helping his 16- and 11-year-old neighbors clean their in-ground swimming pool. He did not know how to swim and the water had poor visibility and murky water. He remained cleaning the shallow end while the older neighbors cleaned the deep end. They assumed the decedent got out of the pool; however, he was found submerged in the deep end hours later. The cause of death was drowning.

A 2-year-old female wandered away from her parents and was found floating in the family's swimming pool. EMS transported her to the hospital. Despite medical efforts, the child did not respond to treatment and was pronounced dead a few days later. The cause of death was drowning.

Fires

A 56-year-old male decedent was found slumped over in the bath tub when a fire started in the bedroom. Fire officials determined that a discarded cigarette next to the bed was the initial point of ignition. The cause of death was a combination of smoke inhalation and hypertensive cardiovascular disease with contributing hydronephrosis in the right kidney.

A 30-year-old man died from smoke inhalation as a result of a fire that started in his bedroom. The fire started in electrical wiring and spread to nearby combustibles (closet door, clothing, paper, rubbish), then to the mattress and bedding, then to the floor walls and ceiling and contents throughout the apartment. He was transported to a hospital where he was pronounced dead in the emergency room. The cause of death was asphyxia.

A 60-year-old female died from a house fire due to a candle. They found the decedent on the floor where she appeared to be crawling to the front door. Fire officials traced the fire origin to a candle. ER was unable to resuscitate her. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning and smoke inhalation due to house fire from candle.

Tip-Over Incidents

A 75-year-old female fell while standing from a chair and struck her head on a television set. Initially, the injury was not thought to be severe, but later she complained of a headache and was acting confused. The victim was taken to the hospital where her injury was diagnosed and her health declined. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.

*A 4-year-old female died when a television set fell on her head. The cause of death was craniocerebral injuries.

An 85-year-old female decedent fell from a chair to the floor in the living room of her residence, striking her head/face on a television stand and the carpeted floor. Fire/rescue transported the victim to a local medical facility where she was diagnosed with multiple facial fractures. Her condition deteriorated and she expired. The cause of death was blunt impact head trauma.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

*An 11-year-old male died when he collided head-on with another (dirt bike) off-road motorcycle. The decedent was wearing full riding gear that included a helmet. The decedent was transported to a local hospital where he died from his injuries. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

*A 36-year-old male decedent was riding an off-road ATV with a passenger. The decedent

road the ATV from a private driveway onto a public street and ran into the side of a pick-up truck. The decedent failed to yield the right of way as it entered the street. The decedent suffered fatal head trauma after striking the truck and was pronounced deceased at the scene. He was not wearing a helmet or any other protective clothing. The passenger suffered non-fatal injuries. The cause of death is multiple traumas.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 67-year-old male decedent fell while climbing on a ladder on the 13th floor balcony. He was putting up hurricane shutters on the windows. He lost his balance and he fell over the balcony railing to the ground. Fire and rescue arrived at the scene and pronounced the victim dead. The cause of death was blunt trauma injuries due to fall.

*A 19-month-old female was found unresponsive at her residence on an adult mattress with blood coming from her nose and mouth. The victim was transported to the hospital where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was determined to be ischemic bowel due to spherical magnets found in the victim's small intestine.

A 48-year-old male decedent was found unresponsive on the kitchen floor from electrocution contact with a microwave. The appliance had been malfunctioning and he attempted to fix it using a metal foil. The cause of death was electrocution.