



UNITED STATES
CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Memorandum

Date: November 27, 2006

TO : Jacqueline Elder
Assistant Executive Director, Hazard Identification and Reduction

THROUGH: Russell Roegner, PhD *RR*
Associate Executive Director, Directorate for Epidemiology

Kathleen Stralka *RR for KS*
Director, Hazard Analysis Division

FROM : Craig O'Brien *COB*
Division of Hazard Analysis

SUBJECT : Update of incident reports involving yo-yo balls

This memorandum provides an update of previous memoranda dating back to September 30, 2004, which provided the number of incidents reported to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) concerning yo-yo balls.

This memorandum includes incidents from December 2002 through October 2006.

This analysis was prepared by the CPSC staff, has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.

Summary of Reported Incidents Associated with Yo-Yo Balls

From January 1, 2006 through October 31, 2006 there were seven incidents involving yo-yo balls reported to CPSC. That brings the total number of reported incidents from December 1, 2002 through October 31, 2006 to 416 reported incidents. Incident reports were reviewed, duplicate reports of the same incident were removed, and patterns were identified. Incident reports that mention that the injured person received medical attention were also identified. **Not all of the incident reports involved an injury, and not all of the injured people sought medical attention.**

Table 1: Number of Reported Incidents Received from November 1, 2004 through October 31, 2006 Associated with Yo-Yo Balls, by Month Reported.

Month Reported	Cases Reported	Cumulative Total
November 2004	5	5
December 2004	-	5
January 2005	1	6
February 2005	-	6
March 2005	-	6
April 2005	3	9
May 2005	3	12
June 2005	2	14
July 2005	1	15
August 2005	2	17
September 2005	2	19
October 2005	-	19
November 2005	1	20
December 2005	-	20
January 2006	-	20
February 2006	-	20
March 2006	4	24
April 2006	1	25
May 2006	1	26
June 2006	1	27
July 2006	-	27
August 2006	-	27
September 2006	-	27
October 2006	-	27

Table 1 presents the monthly number of cases reported to CPSC staff from November 2004 through October 2006. During this 24 month period, a total of 27 cases involving yo-yo balls were recorded by CPSC staff. During the previous 23 months (December 2002 – October 2004), CPSC staff was made aware of 389 incidents involving yo-yo balls. Figure 1 presents a graph of the number of cases reported by month.

Figure 1: Reported Incidents Received by CPSC Involving Yo-Yo Balls,
December 2002 – October 2006

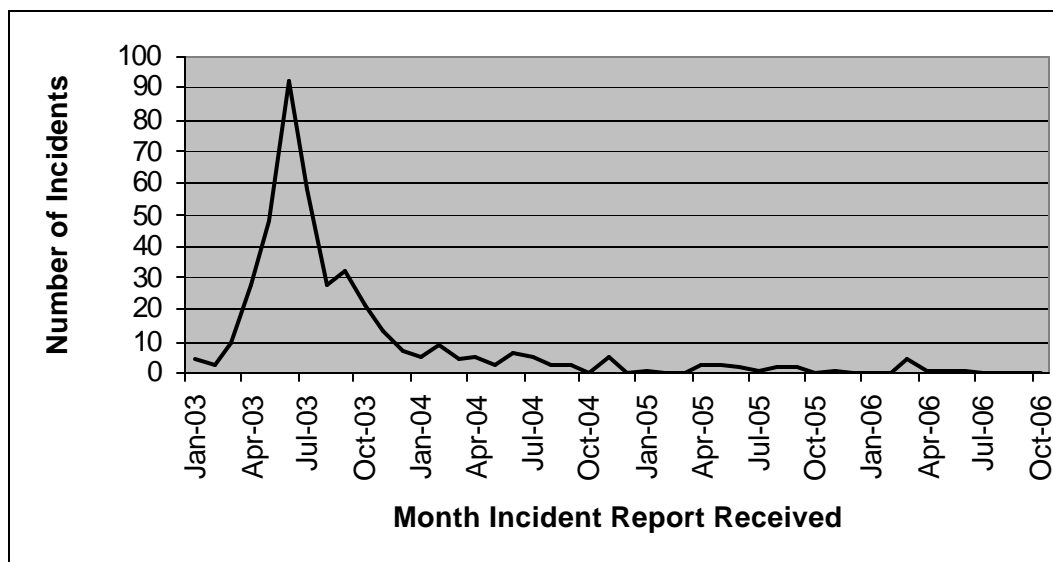


Table 2: Comparison of Incident Reports Associated with Yo-Yo Balls, by Hazard Pattern,
December 2002 Through October 2006

Pattern	Dec. 2002 – Dec. 2003	Jan. 2004 – Sep. 2004	Oct. 2004 – Apr. 2005	May 2005 – Dec. 2005	Jan. 2006 – Oct. 2006	Total
Cord wrapped around head or neck	245	29	6	7	3	290
Ball burst or leaked	46	8	3	2	-	59
Impact with ball or cord	22	4	-	1	-	27
Chemical odors	14	-	-	-	4	18
Fire or flammability	4	-	-	-	-	4
Other	4	1	-	-	-	5
Perceived hazard	10	1	-	-	-	11
Small part	1	-	-	1	-	2
Total	346	43	9	11	7	416

Source: Injury and Potential Injury Database, November 2006

Table 2 records the total number of reported incidents by hazard pattern. The time period recorded in the columns corresponds to previous summary report updates.

Not all incident reports associated with yo-yo balls resulted in medical attention. Table 3 summarizes the number of reported incidents by hazard pattern and the number of reported cases receiving medical attention.

Table 3: Incident Reports Received Concerning Yo-Yo Balls, December 2002 through October 2006, Counts and Description of Cases by Hazard Pattern.

Pattern	Count and description of cases
Cord wrapped around head or neck	290 reports, 6 incident reports state that the injured person received medical treatment, 16 incident reports state that the injured person lost consciousness as a result of partial strangulation and 3 of these report the injured person received medical attention
Ball burst or leaked	59 reports, 5 incident reports state that the injured person received medical treatment
Impact with ball or cord	27 reports, 8 incident reports state that the injured person received medical treatment for eye injuries, 1 incident report states that the injured person lost consciousness after the yo-yo ball struck his chest
Chemical odors	18 reports
Fire or flammability	4 reports
Other	5 reports
Perceived hazard	11 reports from consumers who perceived that a hazard exists, but did not report any incident or injury
Small part	2 reports indicating that a small part presenting a choking hazard broke off of the toy

To summarize the medical treatment information: Out of 416 incident reports received from December 2002 through October 2006, 19 cases report that medical treatment was received. Seventeen cases report that the injured person lost consciousness and three of these reports also state that the injured person received medical treatment. One hundred fifty-one of the 416 incidents reported no injury, 254 of the incidents reported an injury, and 11 incidents did not report whether or not there was an injury.

Only those incident reports that state that the person received medical attention were identified, but this claim has not been verified. In some of the other incidents the injured person may have received medical attention, but this detail was not included in the incident report to CPSC.