



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

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CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY REVIEW

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Keeping Children Safe

In recent months, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has released several studies examining injury and death data across a range of children's products.

CPSC data show that nursery product-related injuries and crib-related deaths have declined, injuries to children on scooters and trampolines have increased, and injuries involving toys have stayed about the same over recent years.

Nursery Products

Nursery product-related injuries for young children declined almost 20% between 1995 and 1999. An estimated 65,400 children under age 5 were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 1999 for these injuries compared with an estimated 80,500 children in 1995.

This decrease in nursery product-related injuries was associated primarily with baby walkers (*Figure 1*). Baby walker-related injuries to children under age 15 months dropped from 20,100 in 1995 to 8,800 injuries in 1999, or almost 60%. Most of these injuries were from falls down stairs.

This decline in baby walker-related injuries was due, in part, to a new voluntary safety standard. CPSC staff worked closely with ASTM, a voluntary standards organization, to revise the industry standard for walkers to include provisions to address falls down stairs. The revised standard was published in 1997. Walkers that meet the new stair-fall provisions have special features, such as gripping strips under the base to stop the walker at the top of the stairway.

These new walkers are now available in stores throughout the country.

Continued on page 2

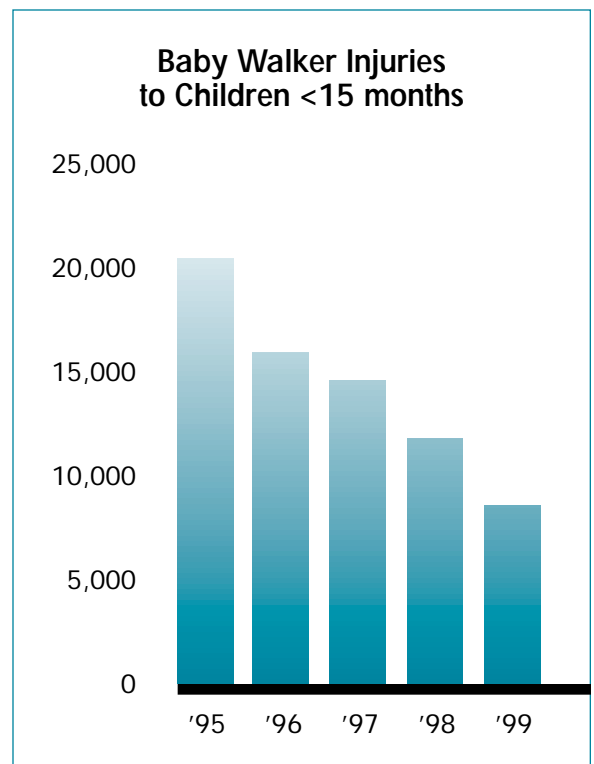


Figure 1

Making Cribs Safer

CPSC has reports of 261 deaths (or an annual average of 87 deaths) associated with nursery products during the period from 1995 to 1997. About 41% (106) of the deaths reported involved cribs.

In pre-crib standard years (early 1970s), an estimated 150 to 200 babies died annually from injuries associated with cribs. The average annual reported deaths have decreased over the years to about 35.

For many years, CPSC has worked to make cribs safer. In 1973 and 1976, CPSC published mandatory safety standards for full-size and non-full-size cribs, respectively, to address side height,

slat spacing, mattress fit, and other factors. These standards were amended in 1982 to prohibit hazardous cutouts in crib end panels. CPSC also worked with ASTM on industry voluntary safety standards for cribs, including provisions to address entanglement on cornerposts, and most recently in 1999 to address the integrity of crib slats.

Scoters

Injuries associated with unpowered scooters have increased dramatically in 2000 — largely due to the popularity of new, light-weight scooters. Sales of these new scooters were virtually zero in 1999. The industry predicted sales of 2 to 5 million units in 2000.

From January 2000 through December 2000, CPSC staff estimates there were more than 40,000 emergency room-treated injuries associated with scooters. Injuries increased almost 1,800% from May 2000 to September 2000 (*Figure 2*).

In September 2000 alone, there were about 8,600 injuries. That month marked the first time that scooter injuries surpassed in-line skating injuries.

About 85% of the injuries were to children less than 15 years old. Two-thirds of the injuries were to males. The most frequent injury was a fracture (29%), usually to the arm or hand.

CPSC knows of four deaths related to the new type of scooter. One death was an adult who fell and struck his head while showing his daughter how to ride the scooter. Two children were killed as a result of being struck by

Estimated Number of Emergency Room-Treated Unpowered Scooter-Related Injuries for 2000

(As of 1/15/2001)

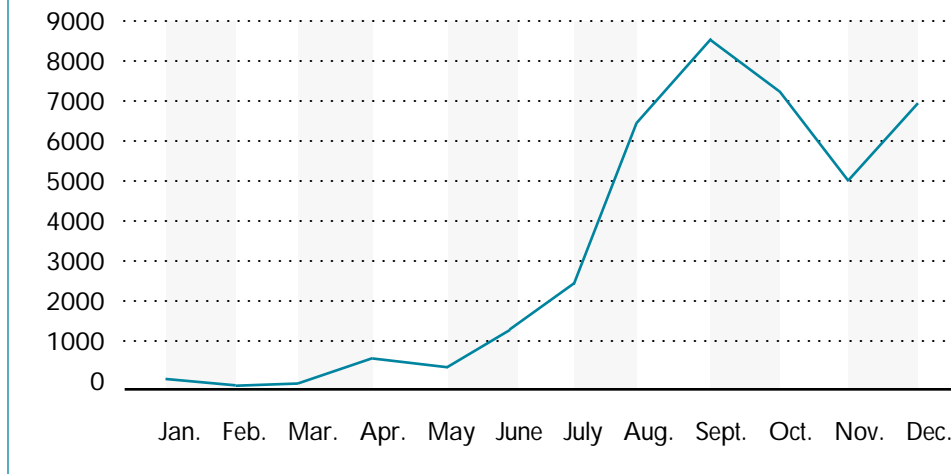


Figure 2

cars, and one boy died of head injuries after he fell from his scooter.

Most of the new scooters are made of lightweight aluminum, with small low-friction wheels similar to those on in-line skates. The new scooters weigh less than 10 pounds, fold for easy portability and storage, and usually cost between \$30 and \$120.

In December 2000, CPSC announced the recall of almost 100,000 scooters from two manufacturers. (See *CPSC Recalls*, page 10.)

Trampolines

Injuries related to trampolines also have increased, almost tripling since 1991. Sales have increased during this same time period.

In 1999, CPSC estimates that almost 100,000 people were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with trampolines. In 1991, by comparison, an estimated 37,500 people were treated for these injuries.

Most trampoline-related injuries occurred to children. Children ages 6 to 14 comprised almost two-thirds of the hospital emergency room-treated injuries. Children under age 6 sustained about 15% of the trampoline injuries (*Figure 3*).

Most trips to hospital emergency rooms were the result of jumpers falling or jumping off the trampoline, colliding with one another, falling on the trampoline springs or frame, or doing stunts. In 1999, injuries to the leg/foot were reported most frequently, accounting for 40% of total injuries.

Since 1990, CPSC has received reports of 11 deaths relating to trampoline use. Victims who died while using trampolines ranged in age from 3 to 43, with six victims being teenagers, ages 12 to 19. Falls from trampolines were the most frequent cause of death, followed by landing on the neck while attempting somersaults.

According to the International Trampoline Industry Association, an estimated 640,000 backyard trampolines were sold in 1998. This was more than a 350% increase in sales from an estimated 140,000 sold in 1989. An estimated 3 million backyard trampolines are in use today. Backyard trampolines, 10 to 14 feet in diameter, sell for about \$200 to \$600.

Trampoline Safety

To address some known hazards associated with trampolines, CPSC staff requested changes to the ASTM voluntary safety standard for trampolines. Four provisions, effective in 1999, were added to the standard. These included:

- Padding must cover the entire frame, hooks, and springs.
- Labels on trampoline boxes must state that trampolines over 20 inches tall are not recommended for children under six years of age.
- Ladders cannot be sold with trampolines (to prevent young children's access to these products).
- Warnings visible on trampoline beds must alert jumpers against somersaults and multiple jumpers — use patterns associated with death, paralysis, and the largest number of injuries.

In addition, trampoline net enclosures can help prevent jumpers from falling off trampolines and injuring themselves.

Toys

In another study released in November 2000, CPSC reported that there were an estimated 152,600 toy-related injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms in 1999. Seventy-eight percent (118,300) of these injuries were to children under 15 years of age, and 46% (69,600) were to children under 5. Most of the victims (98%) were treated and released from the hospital. Overall, males were involved in 60% of the toy-related injuries.

Riding toys (excluding bicycles) continued to be associated with more injuries than any other type of toy, accounting for 26,100 estimated injuries in 1999. Of the riding toys, wagons and tricycles were once again associated with the highest number of injuries, with about 7,700 and 6,000 injuries respectively.

CPSC has reports of 16 toy-related deaths in 1999. Victims of the 16 fatal incidents ranged in age from 10 months to 11 years old. Eleven of the fatalities involved male victims.

The cause of death in 10 of the 16 fatalities was choking or aspiration. Four children (5 and 11 years old, and 17 and 22 months old) choked on or aspirated balloons. Other toys involved in the choking or aspiration deaths were three toy balls of various types, a miniature pool game ball, the suction cup projectile of a toy dart, and an unspecified type of toy.

Two children rode tricycles into pools, resulting in their deaths. A tricycle and a three-wheeled riding toy were involved in two motor vehicle-related fatalities. Two asphyxiation fatalities involved a toy container and a toy box.

— *Joyce McDonald and George Rutherford, Directorate of Epidemiology, and Jean Kennedy, Office of Compliance*

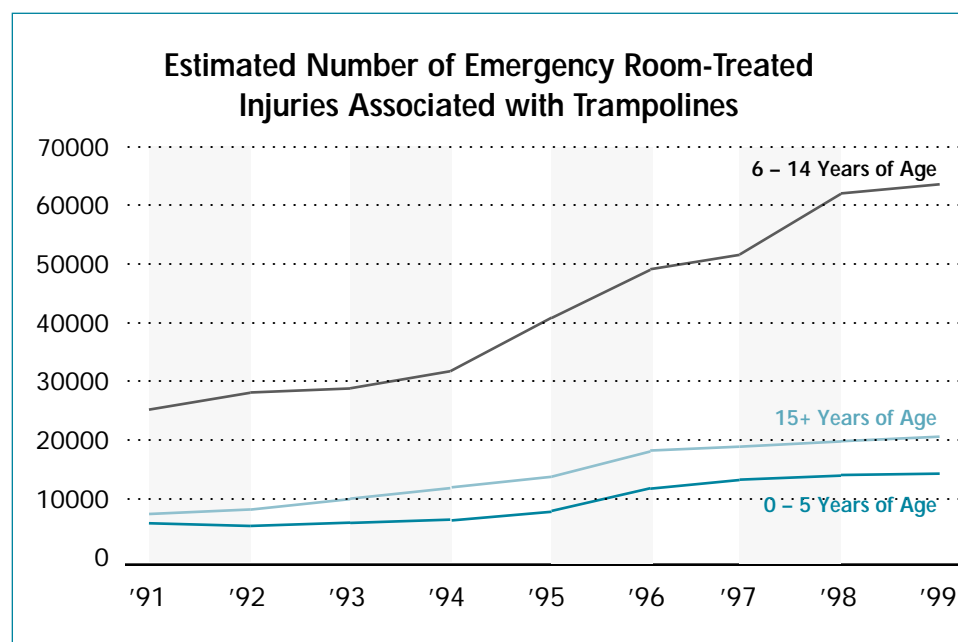


Figure 3

For More Information

For more on children's safety, visit CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

Tips for Safe Play

Many injuries involving children's products or sports activities can be prevented or lessened in severity by taking some simple precautions.

For example, for a safe ride on scooters, be sure to wear a helmet, knee pads, and elbow pads. Children under age 8 should not use scooters without close adult supervision.

To prevent trouble on trampolines, it's important to closely follow safety guidelines. These include: only one person at a time on the trampoline, no somersaults, and close supervision of children who use trampolines.

Toy injuries can be reduced, especially for young children, by following the suggestions below.

- Select toys to suit the age, abilities, skills, and interest level of the intended child. Toys too advanced may pose safety hazards to younger children.
- Be a label reader. Look for labels on toys that give age recommendations and use that information as a guide.
- For infants, toddlers, and all children who still mouth objects, avoid toys with small parts that could pose a fatal choking hazard.
- Look for sturdy construction, such as tightly-secured eyes, noses, and other potential small parts.
- For all children under age 8, avoid toys that have sharp edges and points.
- Do not purchase electric toys with heating elements for children under age 8.
- Check toy instructions for clarity. They should be clear to you, and when appropriate, to the child.
- Immediately discard plastic wrappings on toys. These wrappings can cause suffocation.

Product Safety Circle

To help make products safer and reduce the number of products recalled each year, CPSC initiated a new program called the Product Safety Circle. Companies who are part of the program agree to implement ten safety principles, name a senior product safety official to oversee implementation, and agree to share and publicize product safety innovations.

Thirty-eight companies have joined the Product Safety Circle since it was formally launched on October 5, 2000. While CPSC cannot certify the safety of products before they go on the market, the Product Safety Circle encourages companies to take steps to engineer their products with safety in mind from the outset.

Over the years, CPSC has identified ten safety practices that tend to result in the manufacture and sale of safer products. These corporate product safety principles are:

- Build safety into product design.
- Do product safety testing for all foreseeable hazards.
- Keep informed about and implement the latest developments in product safety.
- Educate consumers about product safety.
- Track and address the safety performance of the company's products.
- Fully investigate product safety incidents.
- Report product safety defects promptly.
- If a defect occurs, promptly offer a comprehensive recall plan.
- Work with CPSC to make sure the recall is effective.
- Learn from mistakes – one's own and others.

These principles can be used as a tool for top-level corporate officials to give direction to their employees responsible for safety. They can also provide impetus to middle management and employees throughout the company to suggest creative safety improvements for their company. The Product Safety Circle initiative is not an endorsement of any product. CPSC will continue to monitor the safety performance of the companies in the marketplace. CPSC reserves the right to remove a company from the Circle if it is broadly disregarding the pledge or failing to operate in the spirit of the initiative.

CPSC invites interested companies to contact Lowell Martin, CPSC Office of General Counsel, for additional information about the Product Safety Circle (lmartin@cpsc.gov).

Child-Resistant Lighters

A CPSC safety standard requiring disposable cigarette lighters and novelty lighters to be child-resistant is responsible for substantial decreases in deaths, injuries, and fires, according to a recently-released CPSC report.

Fire deaths associated with children of all ages playing with lighters of all types dropped 43% since CPSC required cigarette lighters to be child-resistant in 1994; deaths fell from 230 in 1994 to 130 in 1998. Children under age 5 accounted for 170 of those who died in 1994, and 40 of those who died in 1998.

Injuries related to lighter fires also declined. Injuries in fires related to children of all ages playing with lighters dropped about 50%, from 1,600 in 1994 to 810 in 1998.

The number of fires related to children of all ages playing with all types of lighters dropped by 45% between 1994 and 1998 (*Figure 4*). In 1994, there were 11,100 residential fires associated with children of all ages playing with lighters. By 1998, that number had declined to 6,100 fires. By comparison, residential structure fires due to other causes decreased by 15% in that same period.

When the safety standard for cigarette lighters was developed, CPSC estimated that children younger than age 5 ignited 73% of all residential structure fires started

by children playing with cigarette lighters. Those fires accounted for 93% of the cigarette lighter child-play fire deaths, 83% of the cigarette lighter child-play fire injuries, and 73% of the cigarette lighter child-play fire estimated property loss.

Taking into account the estimated fires that would have occurred in 1998 without the standard, the CPSC study indicates that 4,800 fires, 130 deaths, 950 injuries, and \$76.4 million in property damage were prevented in 1998 alone because of the cigarette lighter safety standard.

For More Information

For a complete copy of the report, *Fires Caused by Children Playing with Lighters: An Evaluation of the CPSC Safety Standard for Cigarette Lighters*, visit CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

Testing for Child-Resistance

The cigarette lighter safety standard requires disposable and novelty lighters to have a child-resistant mechanism that makes the lighters difficult for children younger than age 5 to operate. The child resistance of a cigarette lighter is determined by tests using panels of young children ages 42 through 51 months.

The cigarette lighters used in these tests have no fuel and will not produce a flame. When operated, the lighters produce an audible or visual signal instead of a flame. The child-resistant mechanism must automatically reset after each operation of the lighter.

These products must be designed so that at least 85% of the children included in the test panel are not able to operate the lighters under the test conditions. Manufacturers or importers must report the results of the testing to CPSC before first importing or distributing lighters within the U.S. Most reports indicated that the lighters met even higher criteria, with over 90% of the children not able to operate them.

Despite the decreases in fire-related deaths, injuries, and property losses, fires caused by children playing with lighters remain a concern. The new CPSC safety standard requiring child-resistant mechanisms on household multi-purpose lighters, effective in December 2000, will help reduce fires and fire deaths even further.

— *Linda Smith, Directorate for Epidemiology*

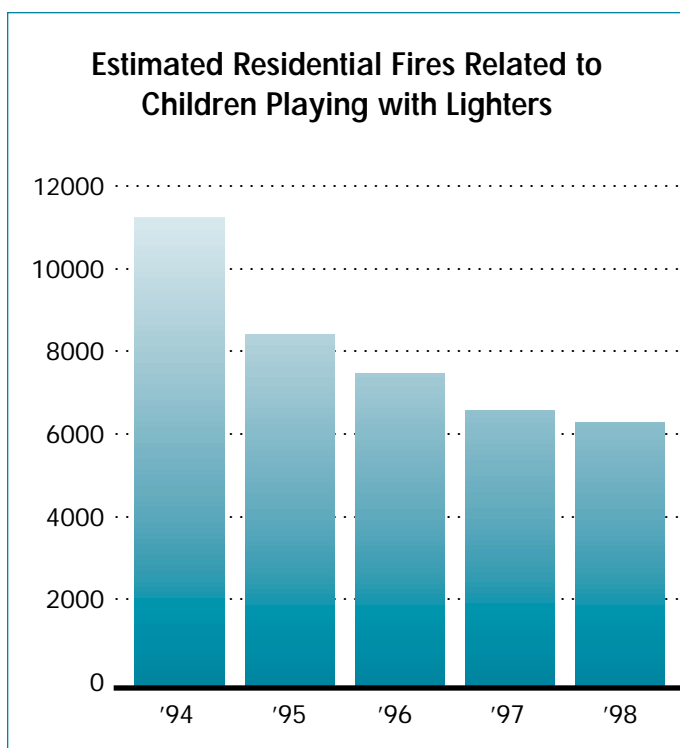


Figure 4

Recall Round-Up

Reducing fire hazards from consumer products is CPSC's theme for this year's kick-off of "Recall Round-up" on April 17, 2001.

For the past four years, CPSC has organized a nationwide campaign to encourage consumers to discard hazardous consumer products. This year's event will focus on items that may pose fire hazards and will encourage local fire departments to establish collection sites for recalled products. These will include such items as:

- Disposable and novelty cigarette lighters without child-resistant mechanisms.
- Extension cords with frayed or cut insulation, undersize wire, loose connections, or improper grounding that can cause fires.
- Halogen torchiere floor lamps that do not have a wire guard to help reduce the fire risk.
- Old electric hair dryers that can cause electrocution because they lack built-in shock-protection devices in the plug.

To help conduct this year's Recall Round-up, CPSC has enlisted the aid of fire marshals, fire departments, state and local officials, and national and state health and safety organizations. Governors, state health officials, and grassroots voluntary/service groups will help publicize the safety campaign and distribute information about the hazardous products.

In past years, Recall Round-Up campaigns have generated tremendous interest and media attention nationwide. They have become CPSC's single most successful federal-state-local partnership program.

CPSC coordinates approximately 300 recalls of defective or dangerous products each year. It is easier to remove recalled products from the distribution chain than from consumers' homes. Despite recall notices and public warnings, many old hazardous products are still in homes, at flea markets, second-hand stores, and garage and yard sales. Deaths and serious injuries to consumers caused by recalled products still occur.

Last year, CPSC partnered with the U.S. Postal Service to display the "Most Wanted" dangerous products throughout 33,000 post offices nationwide. All 50 states participated, as well as Guam, the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, and many local community and national non-profit organizations.

— Carol Cave, Directorate for Field Operations

For More Information

To obtain a list of products being targeted in this year's Recall Round-up, visit CPSC's website at www.cpsc.com.

Information is also available on CPSC's toll-free hotline at 800-638-2772 or by sending a postcard to:

Recall List

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, DC 20207

"Cool" Fire Safety

Teaching children how to protect themselves and their families against fire hazards is the core message of the campaign "Be Cool About Fire Safety."

CPSC, along with organizations like the U.S. Fire Administration, American Trauma Society, and the National Safety Council, is part of the *For A Safer America Coalition* that produced a 22-minute fire-safety video for children. The video features rapping and dancing young teens. The accompanying public service announcements are targeted to kids, ages 8 to 11. A fire safety website also is being developed.

The Coalition was created and developed by Allstate Insurance Company. This campaign follows earlier Coalition efforts, also produced with The Advertising Council, to educate children ages 4 to 7 about fire safety.

For more information about this program, call Margaret Neily at CPSC at 301-504-0508.

Consumer Product Incident Report

Please contact us about any injury or death involving consumer products. Call us toll free at: **1-800-638-8095**. Visit our website at **www.cpsc.gov**. Or, fill out the form below. Send it to: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission/EHDS, Washington, DC 20207 or fax it to: **1-800-809-0924**. We may contact you for further details. Please provide as much information as possible. Thank you.

YOUR NAME _____

YOUR ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR TELEPHONE _____

NAME OF VICTIM (IF DIFFERENT FROM ABOVE) _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

TELEPHONE _____

DESCRIBE THE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DESCRIPTION OF INJURIES _____

VICTIM'S AGE _____ SEX _____ DATE OF INCIDENT _____

DESCRIBE PRODUCT INVOLVED _____

PRODUCT BRAND NAME/MANUFACTURER _____

IS PRODUCT INVOLVED STILL AVAILABLE? YES NO PRODUCT MODEL AND SERIAL NUMBER _____

WHEN WAS THE PRODUCT PURCHASED? _____

This information is collected by authority of 15 U.S.C. 2054 and may be shared with product manufacturers, distributors, or retailers. No names or other personal information, however, will be disclosed without explicit permission.



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Washington, DC 20207

TC-49

MECAP NEWS

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project and Emergency Physicians Reporting System

The MECAP-EPRS Project is designed to collect timely information on deaths and injuries involving consumer products. Please contact us whenever you encounter a death or situation that you believe should be considered during a safety evaluation of a product.

To report a case or ask for information about MECAP, please call our toll-free number, 1-800-638-8095, or our toll-free fax number, 1-800-809-0924, or send a message via Internet to AMCDONAL@CPSC.GOV.

*Indicates cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigations. Cases reported but not selected for follow-up also are important to CPSC. Every MECAP report is included in CPSC's injury data base and will be used to assess the hazards associated with consumer products.

During the months of September and October 2000, 469 cases were reported to CPSC. Included here are samples of cases to illustrate the type and nature of the reported incidents.

ASPHYXIATIONS/ SUFFOCATIONS

A female, 6 months, was napping on a bed. Blankets and comforters were on each side of her to prevent her from rolling off the bed. The victim was found wedged in a space between the mattress and footboard. The cause of death was asphyxia secondary to mechanical compression. (Carolyn Gates for Joye M. Carter, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Harris County, Houston, TX)

A male, 2 months, was found lying prone between two cushions on the floor. His mother had fed him and then laid down next to him to sleep on the floor. He rolled between the cushions while sleeping, and his face compressed against a cushion. The cause of death was asphyxiation. (Russell Vega, M.D., Associate Medical Examiner, Hillsborough County, Tampa, FL)

A male, 3 months, was placed on a double bed for a nap at his babysitter's residence. He was later found unresponsive, wedged between the bed and the wall. The cause of death was asphyxiation. (Carol Koop for Susan Roe, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, Ramsey County, St. Paul, MN)

CARBON MONOXIDE POISONINGS

A male, 57, was found dead inside his residence. He had been using a charcoal hibachi grill indoors with the windows closed. The cause of death was carbon monoxide intoxication. (Eileen Gomez for L. Sathyavagiswaran, Chief Medical Examiner, Los Angeles County, CA)

DROWNINGS

*A male, 11 months, was placed in a plastic infant bath seat in a bathtub with his 23-month-old brother. They were left unsupervised, and the 11-month-old was found unresponsive about 15 minutes later. The cause of death was drowning. (Ron Flud, M.P.A., Coroner, Clark County, Las Vegas, NV)

A male, 18 months, was found floating face down in a swimming pool. His mother noticed the rear door and front gate open, and upon searching, found the victim under an inflatable raft. The cause of death was drowning. (Jacqueline Dobbins for Edmund R. Donoghue, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Cook County, Chicago, IL)

A female, 2, and her brother, 5, walked to a neighbor's house where they climbed the entry ladder to an above-ground swimming pool. They both jumped into the 4-foot pool. The 2-year-old sank, and her brother ran for help. The victim was found unresponsive. The cause of death was drowning. (John Lawson for Holly Watkins-Sperry, County Coroner, Jefferson County, Pine Bluff, AR)

A male, 2, wandered outside of his home after his mother had fallen asleep. He climbed up the steps of an above-ground swimming pool in his backyard and entered the pool. He was later found unresponsive in the pool by his grandmother. The cause of death was drowning. (A.J. Macri, M.D., Medical Examiner, Rockingham County, Eden, NC)

A female, 2, walked through an open kitchen patio door and fell into an in-ground swimming pool. She was found floating in the pool 10 minutes later. The cause of death was drowning. (Jim Piccini, Sheriff-

Coroner, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, CA)

A female, 9 months, was helped into the bathtub by her 2-year-old sister while their mother was sleeping. The 2-year-old filled the bathtub with water. The mother awoke to find the 9-month-old floating face down in the bathtub. The cause of death was drowning. (Bonfacio T. Floro, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, District IV, Duval County, Jacksonville, FL)

ELECTROCUTIONS

A male, 56, was working on a light in his attic. His wife heard a noise, checked on her husband and found him unresponsive with electrical wires clutched in his hand. The cause of death was electrocution. (Carolyn Gates for Joye M. Carter, M.D., Chief Medical Examiner, Harris County, Houston, TX)

A male, 17, was found dead on the floor of his bedroom with a switch to a fan in his hand. He had tried to turn on a fan that had frayed wires and received an electrical shock. The cause of death was electrocution. (Bonfacio T. Floro, M.D., Assistant Medical Examiner, District IV, Duval County, Jacksonville, FL)

FIRES

A female, 47, fell asleep while she was cooking food in a pan on her kitchen stove. When she awoke, she discovered that the pan was on fire. She tried to throw the pan outside of her apartment, but the flames caught her nightgown on fire. She suffered thermal burns over 50% of her body, and died two days later. The cause of death was thermal burns. (Gregory A. Schmunk, M.D., Coroner, Santa Clara County, San Jose, CA)

MECAP COMMENDATION

Edmund R. Donoghue, M.D., the Chief Medical Examiner of Cook County, Chicago, Illinois, is the first recipient of CPSC's new MECAP Commendation.

This award recognizes outstanding contributions to CPSC's Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP), including the timely and frequent reporting of product-related fatalities to CPSC. In the past two years, CPSC received more than 300 product-related death incidents from Dr. Donoghue's office. As a result of this information, CPSC staff was able to investigate the following deaths:

- A male, 15 months, was strangled by a mini-blind cord while in his crib.
- A female, 18 months, died when her 2 year-old brother ignited a chair with a butane lighter.
- A female, 56, died as a result of an improperly-connected gas heater.
- A male, 15 months, choked on a toy building block.

Dr. Donoghue is a graduate of the University of Notre Dame and the Medical College of

Wisconsin. He received his post-graduate medical specialty training at the Mayo Clinic, the Wayne County Medical Examiner's office, and the Armed Forces Institute of Pathology.

Dr. Donoghue is certified by the American Board of Pathology in anatomic and



Edmund R. Donoghue, M.D.

forensic pathology and is a clinical professor of forensic pathology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

He is the president-elect of the Chicago Medical Society and the immediate past president and chair of the board of directors of the National Association of Medical Examiners. He serves on the board of directors of the American Academy of Forensic Sciences and the Illinois State Medical Society. Dr. Donoghue is the author of many articles in forensic pathology and is a member of the editorial review board of the *Journal of Forensic Sciences*.

MISCELLANEOUS

*A male, 4, climbed up the front of an entertainment center that contained a large television. The furniture fell over and crushed the child. The cause of death was head injuries with skull fracture. (T.P. Sparks for Karen Gunson, M.D., Oregon State Medical Examiner, Portland, OR)

A male, 66, was riding his bicycle behind his wife who was also on a bicycle. His front wheel got entangled

with his wife's rear wheel, and he struck the pavement with his head. He was not wearing a helmet. The cause of death was a head injury. (Jim Piccini, Sheriff-Coroner, Sonoma County Sheriff's Department, Sonoma County, Santa Rosa, CA)

— *Denny Wierdak, Directorate for Epidemiology*



CPSC Recalls

The following product recalls were conducted by firms in cooperation with CPSC. For more information about recalls, visit CPSC's website at www.cpsc.gov.

Product: About 90,000 **scooters** by Kent Intl. Inc. and 7,500 scooters by Kash 'N Gold Ltd. The Kent scooters are the Kickin' Mini-Scooters. Toys R Us stores nationwide sold the Kickin' scooters from May 2000 through September 2000 for about \$60. The Kash 'N Gold scooters are the Racer X₂O sold at Discovery and Mervyn's stores nationwide from August 2000 through September 2000 for between \$70 and \$100.

Problem: The handles of the Kent Kickin' scooter can unexpectedly come out of the steering column if the clamp holding them in is not tight, causing the rider to lose control, fall and possibly suffer injuries. The Plastic "T" joint between the handlebars on the Racer X₂O can break, causing the rider to lose control, fall and possibly suffer injuries. Kent International has received four reports of the handles coming out, resulting in four children suffering injuries, including broken arms, a broken wrist, bruises, abrasions and a cracked tooth. Kash 'N Gold have received two reports of the joint breaking, resulting in two injuries including a bump on the head and a chest bruise.

What to do: Stop riding these scooters immediately. Owners of the Kent Kickin' scooter should call Kent International to receive a free replacement handlebar with pins to secure the handlebars. For more information, call Kent International at **(800) 451-KENT** (5368) between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Owners of the Kash 'N Gold Racer X₂O should return them to the store where purchased for a refund or a new scooter with a metal "T" joint. For more information, call Kash 'N Gold at **(800) 354-8785** between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.

Product: About 1 million **Options 5 High chairs** by Cosco Inc. The chairs are adjustable and have both recline and upright positions. The Cosco Option 5 High Chairs being recalled have five options for use: high chair, infant feeding, youth chair, play chair and booster seat. The recalled chairs can be identified by model number 03-286 and manufacture date. The Option 5 High Chairs subject to this recall were manufactured from December 1, 1997 through August 11, 2000. Mass merchandise, juvenile products and major discount department stores nationwide sold the high chairs for about \$40 to \$50.

Problem: In the recline position, the seats can separate from the frame and fall to the ground. In the upright position, the seats can slip from their set height position to the lowest position or can fall to the ground. Some seats sold with a metal restraint anchor can slip through the back of the seat allowing the child to fall to the ground. Infants and toddlers can suffer head, face and bodily injuries. Cosco and CPSC have received 168 reports of incidents involving the high chairs' seats or restraints, including 57 injury reports, primarily to the head and face. Two children reportedly suffered slight concussions; twelve children were monitored for head injuries; and others suffered swollen eyes, bloody noses and lips, bumps and bruises.

What to do: Stop using the high chairs immediately, and order a free repair kit from Cosco by calling **(800)-221-6736** between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. ET Monday through Friday. Consumers also may also visit the company's website at www.coscoinc.com/services/servfram.html to order a free repair kit and to obtain instructions for proper assembly and use.

Product: About 243,000 **bicycle helmets**. 240,000 bicycle helmets by Variflex Inc; 2,600 bicycle helmets by NHS Inc; and 1,000 bicycle helmets by First Team Sports Inc. The Variflex bicycle helmets are the "X-Games Aggressive" bicycle helmets, which are either black, white or chrome. They have a red "X-Games" insignia on the front and "X-Games" is written on the back. A large label inside these helmets reads "SGS CPSC CY50159" and "Variflex Inc" "Static" and "Made in Taiwan" are written on the packaging. Sporting good and discount department stores nationwide sold these helmets from October 1999 through September 2000 for about \$20. The NHS bicycle helmets are the "TSG Metallic Gold, "TSG Gloss Black" and "TSG Foundation Blue" helmets. The Metallic Gold and Gloss Black helmets have "TSG" written on the front and rear of the helmet. The Foundation Blue helmets have the word "Foundation" across the front and a star and moon on the side of the helmet. They have serial numbers beginning SN:00170 or SN:00171, and a date code of January, February and April 2000 written on the white label inside the helmets. Sporting good stores nationwide sold these helmets from February 2000 through October 2000 for between \$35 to \$45. The First Team Sports bicycle helmets are the "Guardian Junior Helmets". They are slate blue, and have "Guardian" written on the front and rear of the helmets. They have model numbers 007471, 007958, 009406, 009437, 009455 or 009830, and date code "2000/04" written on a label inside the helmets. Sporting good stores in the eastern and northeastern U.S. sold these helmets from February 2000 through October 2000 for about \$25.

Problem: These helmets fail impact testing required under CPSC's Safety Standard for Bicycle Helmets, violating the Consumer Product Safety Act. Riders wearing these helmets are not adequately protected from falls, and could suffer severe head injuries or death. The recalls are the result of a CPSC investigation, test results provided by the Good Housekeeping Institute and a helmet company's report to CPSC. CPSC and these firms are not aware of any injuries or incidents involving these helmets. This recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injuries.

What to do: Stop using the helmets immediately.

For the Variflex bicycle helmets, return them to the store where purchased for a refund or replacement helmet. For more information call Variflex at **(800) 248-5327** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

For the NHS bicycle helmets, return them to NHS Inc., not to the store where purchased, for a refund. For more information and instructions on how to return the helmet, call NHS at **(877) 743-7820** between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.

For the First Team Sports bicycle helmets, return them to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, call First Team Sports at **(800) 528-5872** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

Product: About 3.7 million **Craftsman radial arm saws** by Emerson Tool Co. The recalled Craftsman 8-, 8-1/4-, 9- and 10-inch radial arm saws have a model number beginning with 113, usually located on the base of the saw. The brand name "Craftsman" and store name "Sears" are written on the saws. Sears stores and catalogs sold the 8-, 9- and 10-inch saws from 1958 through 1992. The 8-1/4-inch saws were sold from 1990 through 1995. The saws sold for between \$100 and \$700, depending on the model, year purchased and accessories.

Problem: These radial arm saws were sold without a guard that covers the entire blade. Consumers have come into contact with the blade or have been hit by pieces of wood kicked back by the saws, resulting in severe injuries. CPSC and Emerson have received about 300 reports of injuries while using these saws. Injuries include hand and finger amputations; lacerated hands, arms and fingers; fractured hands and fingers; and facial injuries.

What to do: Emerson is offering a free repair kit that provides a complete blade guard. Stop using the Craftsman radial arm saws immediately. For older model saws and others that cannot accept the new guard, Emerson will provide \$100 for the return of the saw carriage.

Consumers must contact Emerson to receive a free repair kit or to return their saw carriage. Saws should not be returned to Sears. For more information, call Emerson at **(800) 511-2628** anytime, or visit the firm's website at www.radialarmsawrecall.com.

Product: About 113,000 **toy xylophones** by Dolgencorp Inc. The toy xylophone is white, rectangular-shaped with a green handle and multi-colored bars including, red, yellow, green and blue. A yellow button shaped like the face of cat is on the front of the xylophone. The mallet sold with the xylophone is red with two round balls at either end of the mallet. Writing on the box reads, "BABY TOYS XYLOPHONE, TO HELP BABY LEARN AND DEVELOP, and MADE IN CHINA". Dollar General stores nationwide sold these toy xylophones from July 1998 through October 2000 for \$3.

Problem: The red mallet sold with the toy xylophone can get lodged in the throats of young children, posing a choking hazard. CPSC and Dolgencorp Inc. are not aware of any injuries involving these toy xylophones. The recall is being conducted to prevent the possibility of injury.

What to do: Take this toy away from children immediately and return it to a local Dollar General store for a full refund. For more information, call Dollar General at **(800) 678-9258** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.

Product: Millions of **window blinds** with pull cords and inner cords. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the Window Covering Safety Council announce a recall to repair window blinds.

Problem: Since 1991, CPSC has received reports of 130 strangulations involving cords on window blinds. 114 strangulations involve the outer pull cords, and 16 involve the inner cords that hold the blind slats. Last year, CPSC began a new investigation of window blind deaths. CPSC found that children could also become entangled in the inner cords that are used to raise the slats of the blinds. These entrapments occur when a young child pulls on an inner cord and it forms a loop that the child can hang in. All of these deaths involved children in cribs placed next to windows. In most cases, the outer pull cords were placed out of reach, but the children strangled when they pulled on the inner cords of the blinds. The strangulation victims ranged in age from 9 months to 17 months.

What to do: Call the Window Covering Safety Council toll-free **(800) 506-4636** to receive a free repair kit for each set of blinds in the home. You can also visit their website www.windowcoverings.org to get more information on checking your window covering. The repair kit will include small plastic attachments to prevent the inner cords from being pulled loose. The kit also includes safety tassels for pre-1995 window blind with outer pull cords ending in loops. Consumers should cut the loops and install a safety tassel at the end of each pull cord. Consumers who have vertical blinds, draperies or pleated shades with continuous loop cords should request special tie-downs to prevent strangulation in those window coverings.

Product: Up to 9 million **chest freezers** manufactured between 1945 and 1970 by more than 40 manufacturers, a number of whom do not exist today. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers (AHAM) and its refrigerator/freezer manufacturing members are announcing a recall initiative for old chest freezers.

Problem: Most old chest freezers have latches that can trap a child. Children playing "hide-an-peek" have found the non-working freezers a deadly place to hide. When the lid closes, children become trapped inside and suffocate — usually in less than ten minutes. Tragically, 27 children have died from suffocation between 1980 and 1999 after becoming trapped in the freezers. The deaths occurred in non-working freezers stored outside, in basements or garages. Victims ranged in age from two to fourteen. In many cases, more than one child suffocated inside the freezer.

What to do: Properly dispose of non-working freezers immediately or disable the latch if disposal is impossible. AHAM has set up a special toll-free number **(800) 267-3138** from which consumers will be sent detailed information identifying the affected units and how to dispose of them or disable the latch. Even if a consumer has a pre-1970 chest freezer that is working, they should still call the toll-free number to get information on what to do when the freezer is no longer working. Consumers also can receive information at http://www.aham.org/freezer_safety.htm.

Product: About 4 million **infant car seats/carriers** by Century Products. The recall involves all Century rear-facing infant car seats/carriers with one-piece handles manufactured from January 1991 through July 1997. The date of manufacture, written as month, day, year (010101 through 073197), can be found on a label on the side of the seat. The recalled car seats/carriers have a molded, one-piece, one-color plastic handle colored white, gray, or tan. Juvenile product, mass merchandise and major discount stores nationwide sold the car seats/carriers from about \$40 when sold alone to about \$130 when sold with a stroller.

Problem: When the seat is used as an infant carrier, the handle can break. An infant inside the carrier can fall to the ground and suffer serious injuries. Century has received more than 2,700 reports of handle-related problems, including handles breaking, cracking or possibly not being locked while the seat is being used as a carrier. Century has also received 200 reports of injury, including concussions, skull fractures, lacerations, broken bones, bruises and scratches as a result of such handle-related problems.

What to do: Stop carrying the seat by the handle until it has been replaced. Consumers can continue to use the product as a car seat. CPSC, NHTSA and Century remind parents and caregivers to always restrain infants according to instructions when in the car seat/carrier. Always be sure the handle is locked in the carry position before picking up the carrier. To receive a free replacement handle, call Century toll-free at **(800) 865-1419** (anytime), or visit Century's website www.centuryproducts.com. Consumers with questions about this recall campaign should call CPSC's Hotline at **(800) 638-2772** or visit CPSC's website www.cpsc.gov. Information also is available at the NHTSA's toll-free Auto Safety Hotline at **(888) DASH-2-DOT (327-4236)** or visit NHTSA's website www.nhtsa.dot.gov. The NHTSA number to call in the Washington, DC area is **(202) 366-0123**.

Product: About 220,000 front suspension **bicycle forks** worldwide by RockShox Inc. Only 2001 Judy TT, Judy TT Special, Jett and Metro model RockShox front suspension bicycle forks are included in this recall. They have serial numbers beginning with "01". These forks were sold as original equipment on numerous brands and models of bicycles. These forks also were sold separately. Bicycle dealers nationwide sold these forks with bicycles and separately from July 2000 through October 2000. Bicycles with these forks sold for between \$399 and \$1,300, and forks alone sold for between \$89 and \$149.

Problem: The compression rods inside these forks can break, causing the rider to lose control of the bicycle, fall, and possibly suffer serious injuries. RockShox has received 23 reports of compression rods in these forks breaking, and two reports of injuries. Injuries included a concussion, a sprained wrist, scrapes and bruises.

What to do: Stop riding bicycles with the recalled forks immediately, and return them to the bicycle dealer where purchased for inspection and repair if needed. For more information and a list of bicycle brands and models sold with these forks, call RockShox at **(866) 888-6192** between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. MT Monday through Friday, visit the firm's website at http://www.rockshox.com/nonflash/recall/rockshox_recallinformation.htm, or write to: RockShox Inc., Customer Service Dept., 1610 Garden of the Gods, Colorado Springs, CO 80907.

— Carolyn Wellington and John Shumlansky, Office of Compliance

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