United States Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP Summary of Eligible Cases













Statement of Purpose

This document is intended to assist medical examiners and coroners in the identification and reporting of fatalities to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

About the Consumer Product Safety Commission

CPSC was established in 1972 as an independent federal regulatory agency and is charged with protecting the public from unsafe consumer products. CPSC has jurisdiction over some 15,000 types of consumer products such as power tools, furniture, and toys, as well as products associated with recreational activities such as baseball and hiking. CPSC uses a public health approach for the prevention of fatal and nonfatal injuries, including education, enforcement, and engineering strategies. CPSC works to reduce the risk of injuries and deaths from consumer products by developing voluntary standards with industry; issuing and enforcing mandatory standards; banning consumer products if no standard would adequately protect the public; obtaining the recall of products and arranging for their repair, replacement, or a refund; conducting research on potential product hazards; and informing and educating consumers through the media, state and local governments, private organizations, and by responding to consumer inquiries.

About the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)

The primary purpose of the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is to collect timely data on unintentional deaths occurring in the U.S. that are associated with consumer products under CPSC jurisdiction. The injury and death data that we collect from our partners is vital to the evidence-based work of the CPSC. MECAP ensures that CPSC receives and investigates deaths caused by hazardous products promptly. CPSC relies on medical examiners and coroners to voluntarily provide data on product-related deaths as they often provide the fastest and most detailed reports in our data.

Information collected through the MECAP, together with data from other CPSC sources, guides the CPSC in setting priorities for further study and has led the CPSC to recall or ban products, develop regulations and/or voluntary standards, and conduct public awareness campaigns.

Important Definition

Consumer Product

A consumer product is any article, or component part thereof, produced or distributed (i) for sale to a consumer for use in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise, or (ii) for the personal use, consumption or enjoyment of a consumer in or around a permanent or temporary household or residence, a school, in recreation, or otherwise (15 U.S.C. § 2052(a)(5)). While CPSC has jurisdiction over some 15,000 types of products, some products fall outside the jurisdiction of the CPSC (see page 4 for a detailed list).

The final four pages of this document identify examples of reportable and out-of-scope cases.

Reportable MECAP Cases:

Reports on fatalities are among the most valuable reports CPSC receives. We seek reports of pool drownings, television tip-overs, infant suffocations, ATV deaths and carbon monoxide poisonings that are <u>NOT</u> intentional and were <u>NOT</u> caused by vehicle fumes, and many more consumer product-related deaths. Often, we investigate deaths in which a fire was started by a consumer product (*e.g.*, extension cord, consumer electronic equipment), or when smoking materials ignited a consumer product (*e.g.*, chair, couch, or bed). We also seek reports about fireworks deaths.

Additionally, we are interested in any sports or exercise-related fatality; car seat fatalities not related to motor vehicle incidents; lifesaver or float devices used in swimming pools; and incidents involving cigarettes in conjunction with a mattress or upholstered furniture or setting other consumer products on fire.

CPSC seeks reports on all unintentional fatalities associated with a consumer product within CPSC jurisdiction. Below are the types of cases we collect for the MECAP program.

- All accidental or undetermined deaths associated with a consumer product (see exclusions below)
- AGE = Under 5 (where no consumer product is identified but could have been involved) (e.g., Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)/ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) deaths with no overlay or product mentioned)
- Child overlay
- Chemical burn (children under 5 years old)
- Poisoning from non-consumer products (e.g., pharmaceuticals and pesticides) in children under 5 years old (excludes illegal drugs)
- Difluoroethane toxicity
- General house fires (including mobile home fires)
- Residential Propane Gas Explosions
- Home electrical fires
- Implied products (deaths associated with chopping trees, mowing lawn, cutting food, etc.)
- Construction equipment used for home or yard improvement
- Occupational deaths associated with consumer products
- Unintentional, fatal injury events associated with hot water, carbon monoxide (CO), and gas fumes or vapors, even if the source is unknown

Exclude (Do Not Report):

Please do not report the following types of cases to CPSC:

Deaths where the Manner of Death is "Suicide" or "Homicide." Do not report
"Natural" deaths unless they are from a fatal illness or allergic reactions whose
onset are unintentional and associated with a consumer product or activity
within CPSC jurisdiction.

- Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning involving motor vehicles, boats, or aircraft exhaust.
- Poisonings involving illegal drugs only.
- Certain types of activities where no product is identified (see page 5 for more detail).
- Falls in victims age 65 and above when the only product identified is Floor or Flooring Materials, Stairs or Steps.

Example Out-of-Scope Cases

Below are a few examples of scenarios that are **not** reportable where a consumer product is not involved.

- Victims fell to ground
- Victim hit by a rock
- Contact with a bush/shrub
- Piece of broken glass, piece of metal, or other parts of products, where the product is unknown
- Falls from roofs, unless the fall is related to a product such as a ladder
- Falls to the floor or steps by people 65 years and older, unless another consumer product is involved. Do not report a fall involving syncope, stroke, heart attack, or seizure when there is no consumer product involved.

The products in the chart below also are not collected because CPSC may not have jurisdiction and should not be reported. Please report these cases to the listed federal agency or local government. (If it is unclear whether or not a product falls under CPSC's jurisdiction, please reach out to your CPSC contact for clarification):

Example	Reporting Agency
 Hospital beds and hospital bed rails Oxygen Tanks Wheelchairs Complications of medical/surgical procedures Food (food packaging may be within CPSC's jurisdiction and should be reported) Medical Devices Pharmaceuticals, medicines, cosmetics (if victim is age 5 or older) 	Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
 Towing Hitch Motorcycle accidents Mobile homes, unless a fire or consumer product is involved Two-wheeled licensed motor vehicles (excluding mopeds & trail bikes) Trailers RV Car Jacks Motor vehicles (car/hauler) CO deaths involving only motor vehicles 	National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)

 Kayaks (paddles or other accessories may be within CPSC's jurisdiction and should be reported) Jet skis Boats or boat docks Rafts for use on lakes or other natural bodies of water Personal floatation devices (life jackets and buoyancy aids) intended for use exclusively on boats and watercraft CO deaths involving boats 	U.S. Coast Guard
Planes	Federal Aviation Administration
Skydiving	(FAA)
Hang gliders or powered paragliders	
Farm Tractors	Occupational Safety and Health
Industrial Equipment	Administration (OSHA)
Fatalities from local government equipment or	State or Local Governments
fixtures, such as fire hydrants, telephone poles, traffic	
signs, commercial mailboxes, sidewalks, streets, etc.	
 Pesticides (if victim is aged 5 or older) 	Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
Illegal Drugs	Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA)
• Trains	Federal Railroad Administration (FRA)
Alcohol beverages	Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)

Notes on Special Case Types

- Activity related deaths where no product is identified: Please do not report the following types of cases if no product is identified and the decedent is age 5 or older:
 - Diving, unless a pool, diving board, or scuba diving is mentioned
 - Exercise with no consumer product mentioned (e.g., running, walking, and jogging)
 - Fishing
 - Hunting
 - Swimming exclude only if age 5 or older, and no consumer product included, and in natural bodies of water only. Always include these cases if a swimming pool or other consumer product is involved, or victim is aged 4 or younger.

Please report accidental deaths associated with other recreational and sport-related activities such as football, basketball, track and field, etc., even if the manner of death is "natural."

- Child Poisonings: CPSC enforces the Poison Prevention Packaging Act (PPPA) and Federal Hazardous Substances Act (FHSA). The PPPA requires certain substances to be in "special packaging" that is designed or constructed to be significantly difficult for children under 5 years of age to open within a reasonable time. The FHSA establishes labeling requirements for certain hazardous substances. As a result, CPSC has particular interest in poisonings involving children under the age of 5, even if the substance is not regulated by the CPSC (e.g., pharmaceuticals and pesticides). Report the following cases regarding poisonings or chemical burns to children under 5 years of age, where the child has ingested or inhaled a product that could lead to a poisoning or chemical burn:
 - Cosmetics if applied to the body (e.g., face paint); code only for poisoning or chemical burn occurring to children under 5 years of age.
 - o Pesticides;
 - Liniments or rubbing compounds;
 - Medications or other drugs;
 - Lotions;
 - Hair Shampoos;
 - Hand Sanitizers;
 - Pet supplies;
 - Mouth wash;
 - Cigarettes/Tobacco and liquid nicotine; and
 - o Iron salts.
- Lead Poisoning in children 12 years of age or younger. Section 108(e) of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act of 2008 (CPSIA) (Public Law 110-314) places limits on the lead content of children's products. Please report any lead poisoning death in children 12 years of age or younger if it is related to a consumer product, including products for which CPSC has shared jurisdiction with other agencies (e.g. medical devices, cosmetics, life jackets, etc.). Please do not report lead poisoning deaths related exclusively to air, soil, or water contamination with no consumer product involvement.
- Non-poisonous death for children under 5 years of age where no product is identified: Please report all accidental deaths of children under age 5 where a consumer product could have been involved. Examples include:
 - Sudden Unexplained Infant Death (SUID)/ Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)
 - Drownings
 - Aspirations
 - Sports or activity related fatalities

Fires

 House Fires – general home or room involvement: Deaths from house or mobile home fires are reportable without a specific consumer product identified. Do not report deaths when the fire occurred at a commercial

- or industrial location, or the location is not stated. Also, please do not report deaths associated with arson or an intentionally ignited fire.
- <u>Cigarette Fires:</u> Fires caused by cigarettes are only in-scope if a general house fire or CPSC product is involved (e.g., a lighter, mattress, or clothing ignition). Cigarette fires/explosions exclusively involving oxygen tanks are out of scope.
- Electrical fires Electrical wire or wiring systems: Deaths from electrical
 wire or wiring are reportable when the incident involves the electrical
 wiring in a home, including an overloaded circuit or short circuit, or an
 unspecified house-wiring electrical issue. Do not report deaths associated
 with wiring outside of the home (e.g., power lines, meters), or with wiring
 in industrial or commercial locations.
- <u>Falls CPSC</u> does not collect MECAP reports of falls resulting in fatalities involving victims 65 years of age and older that only include mention of the following products: stairs/steps, floors/flooring (e.g., tile, carpet, etc.). Please report deaths from falls in victims ages 0 64 if stairs/steps or flooring is involved.
- Firearms Unintentional fatalities from BB guns, paintball guns, and air guns are reportable. The only time a handgun, pistol, rifle, or shotgun unintentional death is reportable is when a consumer product, such as a malfunctioning gun lock or gun safe is involved. A gun taken from an unlocked safe or without a gun lock should not be reported. Unintentional deaths involving personal protective equipment (e.g., pepper spray, a stun gun, or other similar devices) are reportable.
- Inhalants of Abuse (Huffing) Please report deaths related to inhalants of abuse if a product is a consumer product or could be a consumer product. Products like nail polish remover, paint remover, lighter fluid, gasoline, aerosol products like spray paints and air fresheners, and cleaning products can be used as inhalants of abuse. Some of the most commonly used products for huffing are:
 - Solvents: industrial or office supplies such as paint thinners, lighter fluids, gasoline, and glue.
 - Aerosols: spray paints, hair sprays, deodorant sprays, oil sprays.
 - o Gases: butane lighters, whipped cream aerosols, ether, chloroform.
 - Nitrites: video head cleaners, room odorizers, liquid aromas.
 - Nitrous Oxide (if product is not intended for medical use, or case details are unclear).
 - Difluoroethane (aerosol dusters).
- Micromobility Products. Deaths related to micromobility products should be reported. They include consumer mobility products powered by a rechargeable lithium-ion battery intended for a single rider with an electric drive train that balances and propels the rider, and which may be provided with a handle for grasping while riding. The product may or may not be self-balancing. Examples include:
 - electric scooters,
 - electric self-balancing scooters,
 - electric skateboards,

- electric unicycles, and
- electric bicycles, which are two or three wheeled electrical/mechanical bicycles provided with functional pedals that include one or more electric motors to either assist the rider when pedaling (in Electrically Power Assisted Cycle (EPAC) versions) or provide motive power to the wheels when the rider is not pedaling.

Do not report products that are excluded from CPSC's definition of micromobility products, such as motorized wheelchairs, mobility scooters for medical purposes, and gas-powered motorcycles intended for use on public roads.

MECAP Report Form

The following information should be included when you submit a MECAP Report:

- Medical Examiner/Coroner Case Number;
- Date of incident;
- Date of death;
- Age of the victim;
- Sex of victim;
- Type of consumer product involved;
- The location involved in the incident (such as Home, Farm/Ranch, Street or highway, Public Property, Manufactured (Mobile) home, Industrial place, School, or Place of recreation or sports);
- A scenario depicting sequence of events;
- Name, phone number, and county of medical examiner reporting the incident;
 and
- Cause of death.

The following information is also useful to CPSC but is not required:

- Victim's name;
- Race and ethnicity of the victim;
- City and state where the incident occurred;
- Brand name, model number, and/or serial number of the product involved; and
- Information as to whether the product involved in the accident is available for examination or testing.

How to Submit MECAP Data

There are many options available to submit a report:

Internet: www.saferproducts.gov

E-mail: CPSC can accept cases in Excel, Access, SAS, or other digital formats. Documents must be submitted through an encrypted messaging system. Please email MECAPS@cspc.gov or your CPSC point of contact for details.

Phone: 1-800-638-8095 x7502 or 301-504-7502

Mail:

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) Attn: Yolanda Nash

4330 East-West Highway, 502-C Bethesda, MD 20814

CPSC REPORTING GUIDELINE FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER AND CORONER OFFICES

Unintentional fatalities in the following categories should be reported to CPSC:

Children's Deaths	Deaths Related to Fire or Electrical Outlets	Deaths Related to Power Equipment	Deaths Related to Sports and Recreation
All children's deaths involving products manufactured for use by children, or other hazardous products; some examples are:	All electrocutions or fire deaths involving products found in or around the home; some examples are:	All deaths involving powered and un-powered tools and equipment, some examples are:	All deaths involving sports activities/equipment and other recreation products: some examples are:
 BEDS youth, bunk, water, crib etc. PLAYPENS BASSINETS INFANT CARRIERS STROLLERS BABY/INFANT WALKERS BABY/INFANT SWINGS PACIFIERS TOYS BALLOONS WHEELED RIDING TOYS: powered and un-powered SWIMMING POOLS PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT: swings, slides, climbing apparatus, and surface BUCKET DROWNING BATHTUBS SUFFOCATIONS: plastic bags, infant pillows SMALL PARTS/CHOKING: games, toys, marbles, balloons POISONINGS: medicines and chemicals BABY GATES WINDOW CORDS BICYCLES ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES (ATV'S) HIGHCHAIRS TOY CHEST DROWNING (report all drownings in children under age 5) 	· HAIR DRYERS · EXTENSION CORDS · OUTLETS/RECEPTACLES · STOVES/OVENS · REFRIGERATORS · FREEZERS · MICROWAVES · BLENDERS/CHOPPERS · TOASTERS · TOASTERS · TOASTER OVENS · COFFEEMAKERS · TELEVISIONS · STEREOS/RADIOS · VACUUMS · BUFFERS/POLISHERS · PORTABLE HEATERS · HEATING SYSTEMS · WATER HEATERS · WASHING MACHINES · DRYERS · ELECTRICAL WIRING · TELEPHONES · CHRISTMAS LIGHTS · FANS · HEAT TAPE · IRONS · ANTENNAS: outdoors, CB & TV · LAMPS · LIGHT FIXTURES · BATTERIES · BATTERIES · BATTERY CHARGERS · CIRCUIT BREAKERS · FUSES	CHAIN SAWS PORTABLE SAWS powered and unpowered ATV'S PORTABLE HAND TOOLS: powered and unpowered LAWN MOWERS: walk behind and riding GARDEN TRACTORS GARAGE DOORS: automatic openers DRILLS GRINDERS/POLISHERS WELDING EQUIPMENT TABLE SAWS SNOW BLOWERS PRUNING/TRIMMING EQUIPMENT: powered and un-powered	· AMUSEMENT RIDES · BASEBALL · FOOTBALL · BASKETBALL · SOCCER · VOLLEYBALL · HOCKEY · RACQUET BALL · SCUBA DIVING · SWIMMING/POOLS · DIVING/POOLS · DIVING/POOLS · DIVING (water and snow) · ATV'S, DUNE BUGGIES · DIRT BIKES · MOTOCROSS BIKE · BICYCLES/HELMETS · GO-CARTS · WRESTLING (organized) · MOPEDS, SCOOTERS (powered and unpowered) · TENNIS · GOLF CARTS · FISHING · BB, PELLET OR CAP GUNS · FIREWORKS · WATER SLIDES · ALPINE SLIDES · HORSEBACK RIDING · LAWN DARTS

CPSC REPORTING GUIDELINE FOR MEDICAL EXAMINER AND CORONER OFFICES

Deaths in the following categories should be reported to CPSC if the death is considered unintentional:

Deaths from Fires and Burns	Deaths from Drowning	Poisonings (including gas) and Asphyxiations	Deaths Involving Household Structures
All fire or burn deaths where the source of ignition was a consumer product; some examples are:	All drowning or submersion incidents involving a consumer product; some examples are:	All incidents of suffocation/asphyxiation and, where a child ingested a medicine or other item (NOT FOOD) causing a death; some examples are:	All deaths involving causes of falls where the surface or cause (product) of the fall can be identified; some examples are:
 MATCHES CIGARETTE LIGHTERS HOT WATER HEATERS OIL/WOOD/COAL STOVES PORTABLE HEATERS (kerosene, space radiators, etc.) CLOTHING IGNITION (daywear, nightwear, etc.) FURNITURE (sofas, beds, bedding, etc.) PROPANE GAS EXPLOSIONS GRILLS COOKWARE/STOVES FLEXIBLE GAS CONNECTORS SCALDS FURNACES SMOKE DETECTORS HEAT TAPE CO POISONING FROM MALFUNCTIONING HEATING DEVICES 	SPA/HOT TUBS/WHIRLPOOLS FLOTATION DEVICES BUCKET DROWNING (report all drownings in children under age 5) BATHTUB SWIMMING POOLS	PLASTIC BAGS WINDOW CORDS WATER BEDS REGULAR BEDS INFANT PILLOWS ASPIRATION OF SMALL PARTS/TOYS PHARMACEUTICALS	RAMPS/LANDINGS LADDERS (including contact with power lines) STOOLS WINDOWS WINDOW GLASS DOORS (garage and nongarage) SCAFFOLDING CARPET, RUGS RUNNERS, MATS COUNTER TOPS RAILINGS BATHTUBS SHOWERS ELEVATORS ESCALATORS

Examples of In and Out of Scope Fatality Cases

<u> </u>	N-SCOPE (do report)	OUT-OF-SCOPE (do not report
RECREATI	ONAL	RECREATIONAL
•	A 15-year-old male decedent was at football practice when he	 A 3-year-old female drowned while swimming in a lake.
	suffered a concussion due to blunt head trauma.	 A 45-year-old female jogging up a hill fell on a rock and died.
•	A 13-month-old male drowned in an in-ground swimming pool incident.	 A 50-year-old male died while hunting in the woods.
•	A 7-year-old female was found in a pool face down in the water	A 39-year-old female was swimming in a lake and died.
•	wearing a toddler float toy. A 59-year-old male was hiking up a	A 50-year-old male died while running.
	hill with a backpack, and he slipped and fell.	A 30-year-old male died while hunting and was hit by a tree.
•	A 39-year-old female was swimming in a neighborhood pool and died.	nancing and was nicely a cree.
•	A 50-year-old male died while running on a treadmill.	
•	45-year-old female was jogging on a treadmill and died when she slipped and struck the floor.	
CARRON	MONOXIDE	CARBON MONOXIDE
•	A 32-year-old female died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to a faulty furnace.	A 37-year-old female died from carbon monoxide poisoning sitting in her car.
•	A 10-year-old male died from carbon monoxide poisoning at his home.	
POWER E	QUIPMENT	POWER EQUIPMENT
•		
•	A 43-year-old male was trimming trees on his farm with a chain saw. The decedent was electrocuted when he came too close to a power	electrocuted outside when he inadvertently touched the wrong wire and made contact instead wi
	line.	the main power line.
FIREARM		FIREARM
•	A 7-year-old female died as the result of a single gunshot wound when a firearm accidentally fell	 A 17-year-old male, upset over an argument with his father, shot himself using a 12-gauge shotgun.
		A 22-year-old male drug dealer wa
•	from a gun cabinet and went off. A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the	, ,
•	A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the shelf. A 31-year-old male died from a	with a .38 caliber revolver during drug sale. • A 16-year-old male was shot multiple times and killed during a
	A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the shelf. A 31-year-old male died from a firearm injury. The firearm was placed inside a holster that was too small for the gun. The decedent reached for the gun, and it	with a .38 caliber revolver during drug sale. • A 16-year-old male was shot
•	A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the shelf. A 31-year-old male died from a firearm injury. The firearm was placed inside a holster that was too small for the gun. The decedent reached for the gun, and it discharged striking his thigh.	A 16-year-old male was shot multiple times and killed during a robbery attempt.
•	A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the shelf. A 31-year-old male died from a firearm injury. The firearm was placed inside a holster that was too small for the gun. The decedent reached for the gun, and it discharged striking his thigh. BILE INVOLVEMENT A 16-month-old male was found on	with a .38 caliber revolver during drug sale. • A 16-year-old male was shot multiple times and killed during a robbery attempt. AUTOMOBILE INVOLVEMENT • 13-year-old female was struck by
• AUTOMO	A 32-year-old male was unintentionally shot in the chest when a paint ball gun fell from the shelf. A 31-year-old male died from a firearm injury. The firearm was placed inside a holster that was too small for the gun. The decedent reached for the gun, and it discharged striking his thigh. BILE INVOLVEMENT	with a .38 caliber revolver during drug sale. • A 16-year-old male was shot multiple times and killed during a robbery attempt. AUTOMOBILE INVOLVEMENT

HOUSE FIRE

- A 10-year-old female was trapped in her home during a house fire and died.
- A 51-year-old male suffered thermal burns and smoke inhalation at his residence. He died at the hospital.

FIRE OR ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

- A 41-year-old male died from electrocution while working with electrical wiring in the house.
- A 33-year-old male was found underneath his home deceased from electrocution. He had been working on electrical wiring under the home in a crawl space area.

FLOOR

- An 85-year-old female tripped on the rug and fell down the steps and hit her head.
- A 60-year-old female fell to the floor and died.
- A 29-year-old male suffered a fall to the floor while wearing his roller skates and died.
- A 64-year-old male fell to the floor over his grandson's toys at home.
- An 80-year-old female reached for water from her bed, fell to the floor, and struck her head and died.
- A 63-year-old male fell to the floor and hit his head.
- A 65-year-old male fell to the floor while carrying a ladder and hit his head.

HOUSE FIRE

- A 15-year-old male died from thermal burns in an abandoned industrial building fire. The cause of the fire was unknown.
- A 70-year-old male and his dog went to the hospital for thermal injuries from a house fire. The patient was released from the hospital with minor burns, but the dog died a few days later.

FIRE OR ELECTRICAL OUTLETS

 A 41-year-old male died from electrocution while working on a power line outside.

FLOOR

- An 85-year-old male fell from the stairs to the floor.
- A 90-year-old male using a cane to walk fell to the floor and died.
- A 78-year-old intoxicated male was found dead at the bottom of the staircase.