



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 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.

The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC from October 2017 through April 2018. 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.

***Yolanda Nash
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****Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation***

Asphyxia/Suffocation

*An 8-month-old male decedent was found unresponsive and wedged between a toddler bed and mattress on the floor. The decedent's mother reportedly placed the boy on the right side of a toddler mattress located 6 inches from an adult mattress that was directly on the floor and in a position that was 3 inches above the adult mattress. The mother found the decedent in a prone position within the crevice between the two mattresses. The child was found face down and on top of a large stuffed animal that was placed between the beds. The decedent was pronounced at the scene. The cause of death was suffocation.

*A 10-month-old male decedent was found unresponsive by his father at their residence. The father had placed the decedent down with a bottle in the decedent's bed. The father discovered the baby lying supine with his neck stuck at the bottom of a highchair. The decedent was known to climb on everything and to get very excited when his father gets home from work. The parents took the baby to the ER where he was pronounced. The cause of death was asphyxia.

A 4-month-old female decedent was put to bed with her sibling. The parents went to check on them and found the decedent unconscious underneath her sibling. The decedent was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was asphyxia due to co-sleeping.

A 4-month-old male died when he was found face down on an adult pillow in his portable crib. The crib contained an adult pillow, and the child was placed on top of a comforter that had been

folded several times. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

A 17-day-old male decedent was found unresponsive while co-sleeping with his mother in bed after she fell asleep after feeding him at home. The mother laid the infant beside her, propped up on a pillow while she turned to her right side with the infant wedged between her right arm and breast. He was positioned face up with his head tilted to the left to feed from her right breast. The mother woke to find the decedent unconscious. Although resuscitation was performed, the decedent did not regain consciousness. The cause of death was suffocation.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 33-year-old male died from carbon monoxide poisoning due to using a gasoline generator for electricity and to run a small heater. The father stopped by the decedent's home for a welfare check. He discovered the decedent lying in the hallway on his knees with his head resting on the floor with blood coming out of his nose. The gasoline generator was inside the residence located in a small foyer. A portable propane gas heater was next to the gasoline generator. The gasoline generator and the portable gas heater were not running. The decedent's small dog was deceased in the kitchen lying on the floor and the decedent's cat died behind the couch in the living room. Fire and Rescue attempted life-saving procedures with no success. The cause of death was CO poisoning.

*A 42-year-old homeless man was using a charcoal grill with wood logs as a heat source in his pickup truck. During the night the man succumbed to carbon monoxide fumes. The

decedent was discovered in his truck deceased with the charcoal grill warm and the doors open. A partially burned wooden log was found on the ground outside the truck. The cause of death was toxic effects of carbon monoxide.

Submersion

*A 2-year-old male decedent drowned in an in-ground swimming pool incident. The decedent was at home in the care of his mother and grandmother. They were all sleeping in a master bedroom when he woke up and went outside to the backyard where an in-ground pool was located. The decedent fell in the water and drowned. A sliding door in the bedroom was left open with the screen closed for air circulation since there was no power as a result of a recent hurricane. When the mother and grandmother awoke, they found the victim missing and began a search. The mother found the decedent in the pool and retrieved him. CPR was attempted before emergency assistance arrived. He was transported via ambulance to a hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

A 13-month-old male drowned in an in-ground swimming pool incident. The decedent was with his mom visiting his grandparents. The mother thought the decedent was with his grandmother, and the grandmother thought the child was with his mother. The mother went out to the pool area and found the decedent floating in the in-ground pool. EMS arrived to the scene and transported the decedent to the pediatric ER in asystole status. Although resuscitation was attempted, the decedent died in the ER. The cause of death was drowning.

*A 7-month-old male died in a pool drowning. The decedent's mother and four children watched the infant. Someone exited the locked sliding glass door to take out the garbage and

then returned and relocked the door. During that time, the decedent exited the home and entered the in-ground swimming pool. He was transported to the hospital where he expired. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

A 62-year-old female died when a recliner chair she was sitting in caught fire. The decedent's husband helped her get out of the chair. However, she suffered burns to her flank, arms, and leg. The cause of death was thermal burns.

A 40-year-old female died from a house fire caused by a candle lit near a couch. The decedent sustained thermal burns to 90% of his body. Two adults and four children escaped the fire. The cause of death was thermal burn inhalation and smoke inhalation.

All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

An 11-year-old female died following an all-terrain-vehicle accident. The decedent was thrown from the ATV and it bounced and landed on the child's neck. The cause of death was blunt force injuries.

Two 21-year-old men died of multiple blunt impact injuries after they were riding all-terrain-vehicles at a high rate of speed. They collided and were ejected from the ATVs. Both men were pronounced dead at the scene.

Electrocution

A 60-year-old male died while using a trimming pole to cut some trees in his yard. All of a sudden, he screamed and his son saw flames coming from his legs and the tree trimming pole. Fire and rescue transported the decedent to a burn and trauma facility where he was pronounced dead. It was determined that the

metal cutting tool came in contact with high voltage wires. The cause of death was electrocution.

A 49-year-old male decedent died from accidental electrocution while on the job. The decedent picked up an electric light that was plugged in with three extension cords. The decedent was later discovered lying across one of the cords. One of the three extension cords reportedly was not commercial grade. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 43-year-old male was trimming trees on his farm with a chain saw and wearing a helmet. He was found the following day on the ground deceased with a tree resting on his back. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries of the torso and mechanical asphyxia.

A 64-year-old male died while riding his bicycle. He was wearing a helmet when he lost control of the bike at an intersection. The decedent fell head first onto the pavement, hitting his head. He sustained a subarachnoid hemorrhage with multiple facial injuries, including orbital wall, temporal, and maxilla fractures. The decedent was transported to a local area hospital where his condition declined, and he died 3-weeks later. The cause of death was blunt force trauma to the head.