



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

January 2025

The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC and selected for follow-up investigations. 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

Program Analyst

Division of Hazard and Injury Data Systems Directorate for Epidemiology

ynash@cpsc.gov

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

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

This report was prepared by the CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not represent the views of the Commission.

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

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

An 8-month-old male was discovered unresponsive in a playpen. The playpen had fitted sheets, and a comforter blanket was placed over his lower extremities. He was found prone on his side and unresponsive, wrapped with the comforter with only a small portion of the head visible. Despite resuscitation efforts the infant did not regain consciousness. The cause of death was asphyxia due to unsafe sleep.

*A 2-month-old female was found unresponsive in her bassinet in the living room of her apartment home residence. The mother had placed the child supine with blankets covering her abdomen; however, the child was found prone with her face in contact with the fitted sheet, airways obstructed. The father began CPR and Emergency Rescue arrived at the scene. The child was transported to the hospital by EMS where she was pronounced deceased. The cause of death was suffocation.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 57-year-old male was found unresponsive in his residence where the generator was running. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

A 56-year-old male was found unresponsive after using a generator to power the house for several weeks. The generator had been set up inside the house with the windows and doors open for ventilation. It was equipped with an automatic shut-off feature for high CO levels. The wife reported going to bed the previous night and noticing the smell of exhaust fumes in the morning, she left for work without checking on her husband. Upon returning home, she found the decedent unresponsive in the garage. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

An 81-year-old male was found deceased in his bathroom by family members. There was an oil-filled heater in close proximity where he was in the bathroom. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Fire

*A 7-year-old female died in a residential house fire. The fire department determined the cause of the blaze to be faulty electrical wiring. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

*A 68-year-old male succumbed to injuries sustained in a house fire caused by a propane tank explosion and ignited cooking grease. He was transported to a burn center where he died from complications of thermal injuries. The cause of death was complications of thermal injuries while cooking.

A 3-year-old male was found deceased inside an apartment building after a fire involving a stove control panel. The cause of death is carbon monoxide poisoning and thermal injuries.

Submersion

*A 3-year-old male was discovered unresponsive at the bottom of an in-ground-pool by his mother. The mother-initiated CPR and called EMS. Despite resuscitation efforts by EMS, the child died at a local hospital. The cause of death was drowning.

A 4-year-old male became submerged after he slipped and fell off a floating device. He was removed from the water, CPR was attempted. Emergency Rescue transported him to a local hospital where he died. The cause of death was complications of terminal submersion in water.

ATV/UTV

A 9-year-old male died in an ATV incident. The mother had left him at his grandparents' home while she returned to their home. While the grandfather was outside working on a backhoe, the child went to the garage and climbed onto the ATV. According to the family, it was not unusual for him to sit in the ATV. The decedent started the ATV using a key left in the ignition. He backed out of the garage but lost control and was ejected, with the rear passenger tire coming to rest on his head. When the mother returned, she found the child unresponsive. EMS arrived, and he was taken to the ER and pronounced dead. The cause of death was blunt force injury due to ATV Rollover.

A 36-year-old female died from an ATV incident. She was the sole driver of the ATV driving on a rural farm. She was not wearing a helmet during the time of the incident. While attempting to make a turn at a high speed, the ATV overturned and rolled, trapping her underneath. Emergency Responders arrived at the scene, and she was transported to a local medical facility where she was pronounced dead.

Other Hazards

A 13-year-old male died from an incident while playing tetherball. The decedent was alone playing with a tetherball when the rope wrapped around his neck and entangled causing choking. The cause of death was anoxic brain injury.

*A 6-year-old female died from complications of an injury to her head that was received when a badminton racket broke free from its grip, exposing a sharp edge that struck the victim in the head. The victim and her two siblings were playing with

badminton equipment they found in the yard. The badminton was 10 years old. The victim's brother was swinging his racket when the grip disconnected from the racket, causing the racket to fly through the air, impaling the victim on the right side of her forehead, and penetrating her skull. The decedent removed the item from the wound and she immediately was unresponsive. She was transferred to a local hospital, where she underwent surgery.

*A 7-year-old female died from asphyxia from a balloon incident at her home. The decedent was playing and cutting up balloons with a scissor. The mother woke up and found the child unresponsive with a broken balloon completely covering her face. She was putting the balloons on her face to make a noise. The decedent placed the balloon on her head like a hat. She was discovered with the balloon covering the child's head as she was discovered face down and unresponsive. The cause of death was asphyxia.

A 65-year-old male died from fatal injuries from a chainsaw. The decedent used a chainsaw to cut down a tree. The tree initially landed where he wanted it to fall, however, a branch hit the ground at an angle causing the tree to rebound back toward his location. The decedent attempted to run away; however, he was struck and pinned under the falling tree. Emergency Rescue arrived and pronounced death on the scene. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries complicated by positional asphyxia.



The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities associated with consumer products. There are thousands 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 saferproducts.gov/IncidentReporting

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal saferproducts.gov
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095
- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- E-mail: mecaps@cpsc.gov
- Postal Mail:
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP)
Attn: Yolanda Nash
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Please contact CPSC to report fatalities that are associated with 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 identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.

Stay Connected with Consumer Product Safety Commission:



SUBSCRIBER SERVICES:
[Unsubscribe/Manage Preferences](#) | [Help](#)