



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP **news**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



July 2021

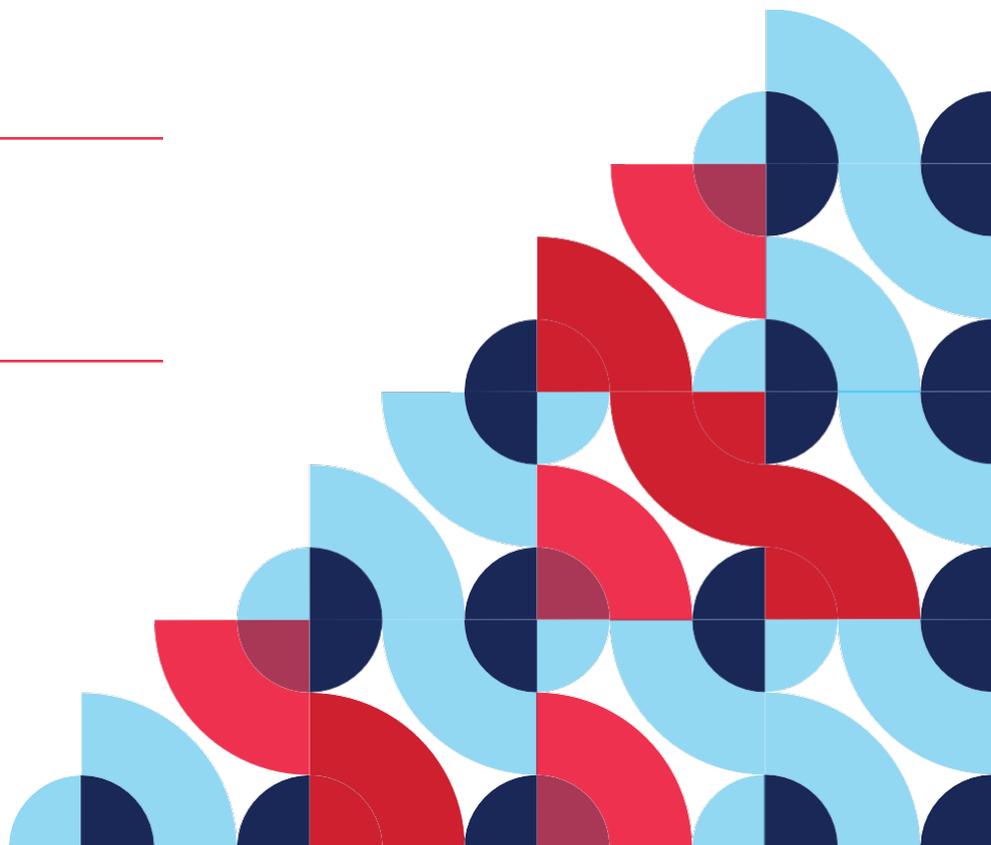
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The following pages summarize MECAP reports received by CPSC and selected for follow-up investigation.

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.

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**U.S. Consumer Product Safety
Commission**

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*Cases selected for CPSC follow-up investigation

Asphyxiation/ Suffocation

*A 17-month-old male choked on a small egg-shaped plastic toy. The caregiver witnessed the decedent putting a small toy in his mouth, aspirate it, and become unresponsive. The caregiver was unable to dislodge the toy from his throat. EMS responded to the scene and found the child unresponsive. Despite resuscitative efforts, he was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was asphyxia from suffocation due to foreign body obstruction of the posterior oropharynx.

A 1-month-old female was discovered unresponsive after co-sleeping on the couch with her father. The father woke up to find the decedent underneath him and between the couch. EMS transported the decedent to the hospital where she died.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 69-year-old male was found on the floor unresponsive after a welfare check from his neighbor. The two front burners on the gas stove were on a low setting without any flames present. The cause of death was carbon monoxide toxicity.

Submersion

A 34-year-old male drowned at his residential swimming pool. The decedent's friend was unable to contact him for 2 days. He did a welfare check and found him floating prone, fully clothed, and unresponsive in the pool. The friend called 911, and EMS arrived at the scene and pronounced him dead. The cause of death was drowning and alcoholism.

A 56-year-old male died from a bathtub drowning. The decedent resided in an independent assisted living facility. The decedent's neighbors notified the owners that they heard the water running. The owners opened the door and discovered the decedent unresponsive submerged face down in the bathtub with running water. The cause of death was submersion.

FIRE

A 67-year-old male died in a house fire caused by a pan on the stove. The deceased was at his residence preparing to fry fish. The decedent's grandson was in the bedroom and heard a loud sound. He ran into the kitchen where he observed the decedent attempting to put the stove fire out with towels. However, the decedent was on fire from head to the lower portion of his body. Fire rescue responded and transported him to the hospital where his condition slowly deteriorated. He died a few days later. The cause of death was complication of thermal injuries.

ATV

A 23-year-old female died while riding as a passenger on an ATV in a desert area. A nearby resident heard the ATV driving erratically. The neighbor looked outside and saw the decedent, unresponsive, lying on the ground. He called 911 and began CPR as the male driver left the scene on the ATV. Paramedics arrived on the scene, and despite CPR efforts, the decedent died at the scene. The cause of death was blunt force head trauma.

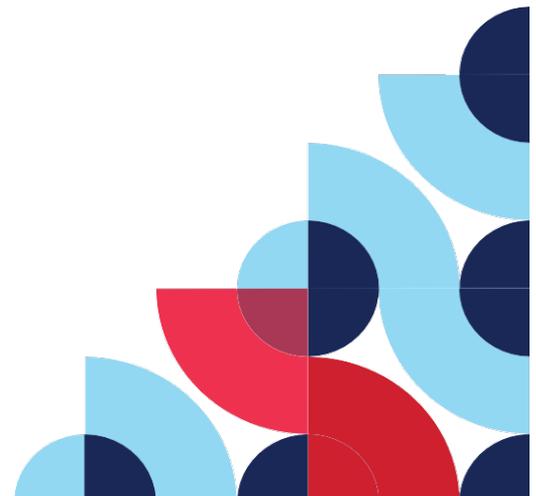
Electrocution

A 21-year-old male died from electrocution while repairing a microwave oven. The microwave oven was plugged into the power supply when the event occurred. The decedent was re-wiring the capacitor.

The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 77-year-old male died while riding his bicycle. The decedent was riding his bicycle at a high rate of speed on a neighborhood street and crashed into a parked van. He was transported to a hospital where he died. The bicycle was reportedly mangled around his neck. He was wearing a helmet at the time. The cause of death was blunt impact injuries of cervical spine.





The Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project (MECAP) is designed to collect timely information on fatalities associated with consumer products. There are thousands of types of consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Commission's (CPSC) jurisdiction, and the Commission staff need 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/IncidentReporting>

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal: <http://SaferProducts.gov>
- 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

Yolanda Nash: ynash@cpsc.gov,
1-800-638-8095 x7502, or 301-504-7502

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 to identify longstanding, hidden, and emerging product safety hazards. The data is crucial to reducing the risk of death and injury to consumers.