



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



June 2020

MECAP Reports | [Page 2](#)

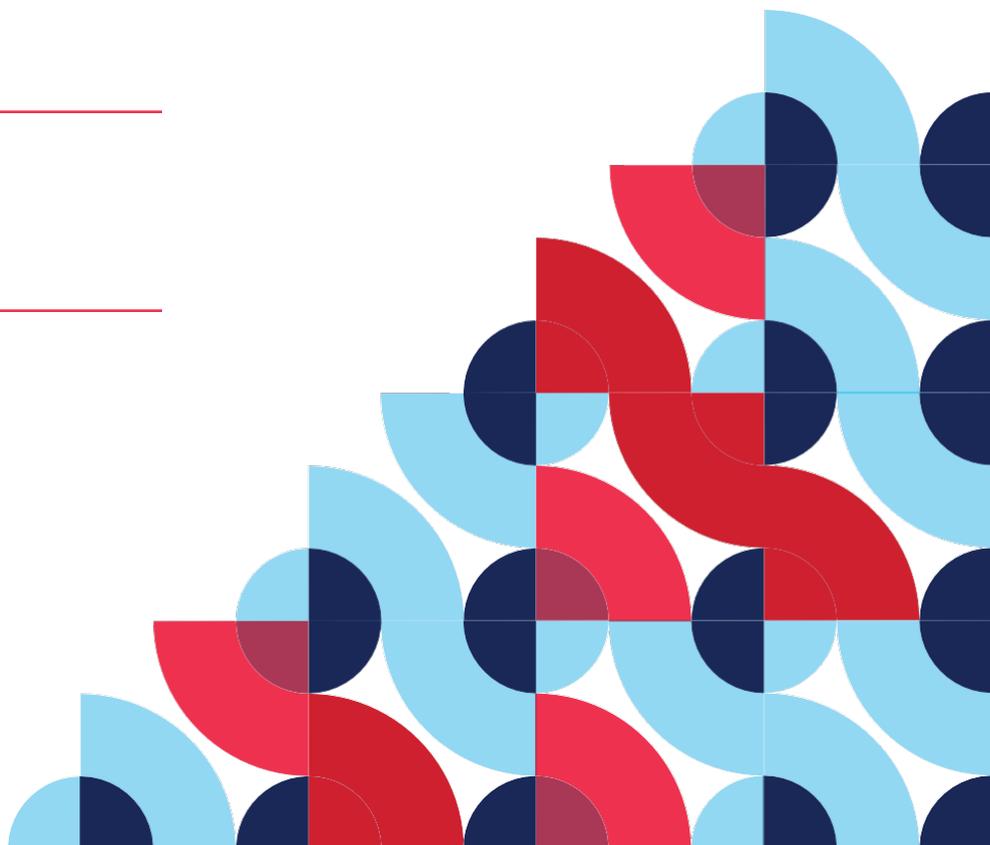
Asphyxia/Suffocation
Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

MECAP Reports | [Page 3](#)

Submersion
Fire
All-Terrain Vehicles (ATVs)

MECAP Contact | [Page 4](#)

Electrocution
Fatalities Involving Other Hazards



The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC from June 2019 through April 2020. 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

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

4330 East-West Highway

Bethesda, MD 20814

ynash@cpsc.gov

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

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

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A 3-year-old male decedent was put to bed for a nap. The decedent was found cold to touch and unresponsive in a supine position. The father detected a lump in his throat and with mucus in his nose. The decedent was pronounced dead on the scene. A gray plastic toy was found in the airway. The cause of death was asphyxiation due to suffocation.

A 4-month-old male was found face down on a king-size bed wedged between the mattress and wall on a pillow. The decedent's parents and 2-year-old sibling left the house to take the mother to work. The decedent was on the king-sized bed surrounded by pillows. The decedent's aunt and other family members were home with the decedent, but the infant was

sleeping alone. The aunt discovered the decedent unresponsive and face down on the bed and pillow wedged between the mattress and the wall. The aunt started CPR until emergency rescue arrived. The decedent was taken to the ER, and a pulse was restored. The decedent was admitted to the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU) and placed on a ventilator until he died a few days later. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

A 4-month-old female was found unresponsive on a bed with a body-length soft pillow by her side to keep her from falling off the bed. The decedent was found by her mother unresponsive underneath the soft pillow. Despite resuscitative efforts, the decedent was pronounced on the scene. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

*An 89-year-old male was found deceased in his home due to the exhaust from a portable generator running. Earlier during the day, the decedent had lost power at his residence due to a storm. The family used the generator to vent and heat the home and to service the decedent's air mattress. Emergency rescue measured environmental carbon monoxide levels to be extremely high at 800 ppm. The decedent was pronounced dead at the scene. Family members were taken to the hospital but were released later. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

*A 35-year-old male was exposed to lethal levels of carbon monoxide while running a gasoline generator in his basement without

ventilation. An extension cord was plugged into the generator to power appliances on the second floor of the house. The decedent was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

A 7-year-old female died in an above-ground swimming pool drowning incident. The decedent was in an above-ground swimming pool using an inflatable pool toy with leg slots. The decedent's younger sibling was cold, and her father took her inside the residence. The decedent's younger brother stayed outside with her and informed the father that the decedent would no longer respond to him and the decedent vomited. The father found the decedent in the pool face down and unresponsive. EMS transported her to the hospital, where she was pronounced. The cause of death was drowning.

A 71-year-old male died from drowning. The decedent was swimming at a high school pool when the lifeguard noticed the decedent was no longer swimming and was floating face down. Despite resuscitation efforts, he died

at the scene. The cause of death was drowning.

*A 9-month-old female was found unresponsive in the bathtub after she was left unattended in an infant seat. The grandmother strapped the decedent into the infant seat in the bathtub and turned on the faucet. The grandmother got distracted for several minutes and returned to discover the bathtub overflowing with water, and the decedent submerged in the seat with her head immersed. The grandmother called 911 and started CPR. The victim was transported to a local hospital, where they stabilized her, and then transferred her to a nearby children's hospital. The child died a few days later from complications of drowning in a bathtub.

Fire

A 55-year-old male decedent was found deceased in a house fire. The cause of the fire was determined to be an overloaded power strip. The cause of death was acute carbon monoxide poisoning due to inhalation of smoke and soot.

A 4-year-old male died from smoke inhalation from an electrical fire. The fire was caused by a light fixture in a closet at his home. The

cause of death was smoke inhalation due to electrical fire.

ATV/UTV

*A 53-year-old male was killed while riding as a passenger on a utility vehicle (UTV). The 50-year-old male driver was driving a UTV with the decedent on a private dirt trail in a recreational area. The driver attempted to negotiate a left-hand turn, and the vehicle rolled over, ejecting the decedent. The driver was not ejected or injured. However, the passenger was pronounced deceased at the scene. The cause of death was blunt head trauma.

A 68-year-old male was killed while riding an ATV. The decedent was traveling on a wet leaf-covered trail. He went to search for his family dog and experienced a rollover with entrapment. His wife found him and called emergency rescue. The decedent was pronounced on the scene. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

A 10-year-old male died when he rear-ended a truck at a high rate of speed while on an ATV. The decedent experienced a traumatic arrest and was pronounced dead on arrival at a local hospital. The cause of death was asphyxiation.

Electrocution

A 68-year-old male died from electrocution. The decedent was found at home on a pile of electrical equipment. The electrical equipment included a stereo and phone charger that had been plugged into the wall for an unknown amount of time. The decedent was transported to the hospital and died 20 days later. The cause of death was thermal burns due to electrocution.

A 21-year-old male died from electrocution. The decedent was in the attic, attempting to repair his air conditioner unit. He was communicating with his girlfriend via telephone while she was on the ground level. The decedent informed the girlfriend that he was shocked and stopped responding to her. Fire and Rescue transported the decedent to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was electrocution.

A 61-year-old male was found deceased from a house fire. The fire is thought to have been caused by a torch or faulty electrical wiring near the kitchen. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 5-year-old male died from a fireplace incident. The decedent was playing with his two siblings in the living room, and he attempted to swing from the fireplace causing the mantle to fall and collapse onto his chest. The cause of death was unspecified.

A 4-year-old male died after a large piece of broken glass from a picture frame pierced his abdomen. The family had a large glass picture frame sitting on the floor in an upstairs bedroom for a collage they were creating. The victim attempted to pick up the frame and dropped it causing the large glass picture to pierce his abdomen. The cause of death was a splenic laceration to the abdomen.