



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP **news**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



November 2020

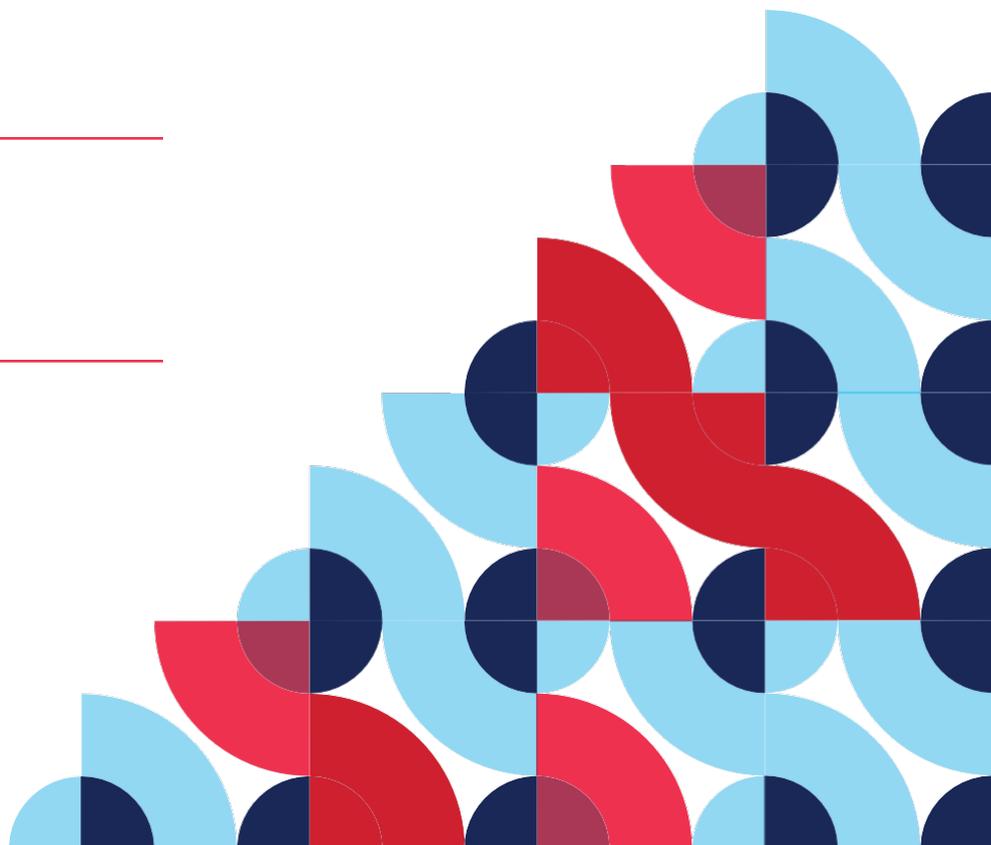
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The following pages summarize MECAP reports selected for follow-up investigation received by CPSC from May 2020 through September 2020. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. 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 1-month-old male was found unresponsive in an adult bed. The decedent and his mother were visiting friends. The mother fed the infant and placed him in an adult bed. The mother lay down beside the decedent and fell asleep. The mother awoke to find the infant under her shoulder and unresponsive. EMS transported the infant to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was suffocation.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 64-year-old male died from a house fire at his residence. Fire investigators discovered that a space heater and curtains were the ignition source. Firefighters found the decedent inside the house, and he was taken

to the hospital, where he later died. The cause of death was thermal trauma to 20%-30% BSA with inhalation of smoke and carbon monoxide.

Submersion

A 3-year-old male was found floating in a private in-ground swimming pool.

The decedent and his family were fishing at a stock pond, a short distance from the pool. The victim put down his fishing pole and played with the dog nearby. A short time later, they noticed he was missing, and they went searching for him. His father found him in the pool nearby. The pool had a four-foot fence. The family is unsure how he got inside the fence. The cause of death was drowning.

A 74-year-old male died from drowning in an in-ground swimming pool at his home. The decedent

could not swim. There was a surveillance video that recorded the occurrence. The decedent was near the steps when he accidentally fell in. He splashed around for a few minutes before becoming unresponsive. Despite resuscitation efforts, he died at the scene. The cause of death was drowning.

A 1-year-old male decedent died from drowning in a swimming pool. The video footage from the pool area showed the decedent splashing on the pool steps and falling forward and struggling to stay afloat. The decedent was in the water for 15 minutes. The video showed him sinking and later floating to the surface. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

A 73-year-old male died from thermal burns when he was standing next to a propane heater, and his clothes caught fire. The cause of death was complications of cutaneous thermal injuries.

A 76-year-old male died from a welding fire. The decedent was welding in his garage when his shirt caught fire due to an accelerant that was on his shirt. The decedent ran outside and rolled onto the ground to put out the flames. The decedent had thermal burn injuries to 22.5% of his chest, neck, chins, arms, and hands. The cause of death was multisystem organ failure due to thermal burn injury.

A 93-year-old male died in a house fire. Fire and rescue EMS discovered that a knob on the stove was turned to the “on” position and the burner was on as well. The decedent was found face-up in the kitchen area approximately 3-5 feet from where the fire had started. EMS administered life support; however, he was subsequently pronounced deceased on the scene. The cause of death was smoke and fire inhalation.

ATV/UTV

*A 60-year-old male attempted to stop an ATV from rolling backward and was killed. The decedent subsequently fell off the ATV and was run over. He underwent multiple spinal surgical procedures. His condition declined and he was later pronounced dead. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries of the spine.

A 6-year-old male died while riding as a passenger on an ATV when the vehicle flipped backward, falling onto him and his father, who was riding with him. The father did not sustain injuries. The cause of death was blunt impact injuries to the head.

Electrocution

An 11-year-old male died from electrocution in a swimming pool. The decedent and his family were at a swimming pool. He was swimming with others in the pool. Another swimmer in the pool felt a weird sensation in the water while the decedent was seen floating in the water in the same area. The decedent was pulled from the pool, and 911 was called. EMS initiated treatment and transported him to a local hospital, where he was pronounced dead. An

electrician tested several areas of the pool and found the voltage in the pool higher than normal where the decedent was found. The cause of death was freshwater drowning due to low-voltage electrocution.

A 34-year-old male suffered high-voltage electrocution while trimming trees in the backyard of a private residence using a trimming tree saw. The cause of death was high-voltage electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

*An 85-year-old male died when a fireworks mortar shell struck him in the head and back. Someone in the crowd inadvertently kicked over the explosives and launched the fireworks. EMS transported the decedent to the hospital, where he later died. The cause of death was blunt head trauma.



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.