



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP **news**

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT



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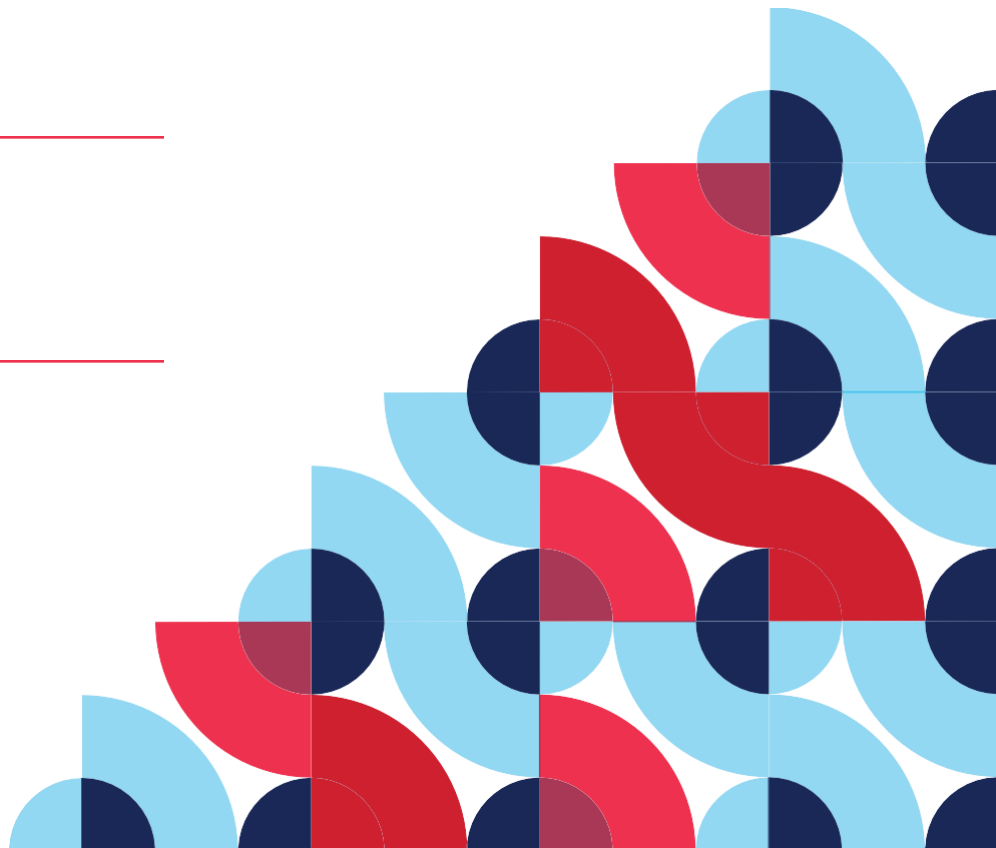
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The following pages summarize a few MECAP reports received by CPSC and selected for follow-up investigations. The entries include a brief description of the incident to illustrate the type and nature of the reported fatalities. This important information 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.

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This report has not been reviewed or approved by the Commission and may not reflect its views.

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

Asphyxiation/Suffocation

*A 1-month-old male was found unresponsive, lying supine, face forward, with the back of his head on a pillow. The decedent was with his 12-year-old female cousin, who fed him a bottle, burped him, and placed him on the bed on his right side. The cousin lay on the opposite side of the bed and fell asleep. Lifesaving attempts were unsuccessful, and he was pronounced dead at the hospital. The cause of death was suffocation.

A 3-month-old male was found unresponsive, lying prone under a pillow in a gap between the mattress and bassinet frame. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

*A 3-month-old male was found unresponsive on an adult bed. The mother had placed the decedent on his side, propped up on a pillow. He was later found face down in the bed and underneath the pillow. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

A 5-month-old male died from asphyxia. The decedent was in the care of his babysitter. The babysitter placed the decedent face down in the middle of an adult bed with a small blanket covering him up to his neck. A couple hours later, the babysitter found the decedent face down on the bed with the blanket wrapped around his head and his feet sticking out. The cause of death was mechanical asphyxia.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

A 46-year-old female and 49-year-old male died of carbon monoxide poisoning inside their residence. A generator was identified as the source of the CO. First responders detected high levels of carbon monoxide poisoning inside the home (600 PPM). The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

*A 77-year-old male turned on the oven in his home, which didn't ignite. The decedent went to bed for the evening. He was found deceased the next day with a 112 PPM reading in his bedroom. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

*A 62-year-old male died from carbon monoxide poisoning. The decedent was pressure cleaning the inside stairwells when a resident noticed water coming from the stairs and notified the property manager. The property manager discovered the decedent unresponsive and called emergency services. Fire Rescue arrived and pronounced the decedent dead on the scene. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Two teenagers, a 13-year-old male and a 14-year-old female, were found unresponsive from a running generator in a mobile home. The father came home to discover the decedent and his sister unresponsive, and the generator was still running. The house was without power and was heated by a gasoline-powered generator connected to a refrigerator. The female was transported to an area hospital, where she survived. The male was pronounced dead at the scene. The cause of death was carbon monoxide poisoning.

Submersion

A 1-year-old male was found unresponsive in a bathtub. The decedent was upstairs and was left under the supervision of his 6-year-old sibling while the parents were downstairs eating. The 6-year-old sibling alerted the parents that the decedent was not breathing. The decedent was transported to a local hospital, where he died. The cause of death was drowning.

A 1-year-old female drowned in a pool. The decedent was at home in the care of her aunt. The aunt was upstairs while the decedent was downstairs playing with her cousins. The decedent opened a sliding glass door that led directly to the in-ground pool. When she returned from folding the laundry, the aunt noticed the decedent was missing. The decedent was found floating face-up in her aunt's in-ground swimming pool. The pool had a fence, but the gate latch was broken. EMS transported the decedent to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

*An 18-month-old female died when she gained access to a fenced in-ground swimming pool in her backyard. The decedent entered the pool area through an unsecured entry gate. The decedent's 10-year-old brother found her submerged face at the bottom of the pool's deep end. CPR was initiated, and 9-1-1 was called. Emergency personnel transported her to the hospital, where she was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

Fire

*A 62-year-old male was found deceased by first responders at the scene of the trailer. The decedent was found on top of the remains of a mattress and metal cot frame. The cause of death was thermal burns and smoke inhalation.

ATV/UTV

A 17-year-old male was killed while riding an ATV. He ran off a single-lane paved road where he was ejected and hit his head on a metal fence post and tree. EMS transported him to the hospital where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries.

Electrocution

A 48-year-old male died from electrocution while replacing a dishwasher in his apartment. The power line was on in the apartment. Minutes later, the decedent was found on the floor turning blue. The cause of death was electrocution.

Fatalities Involving Other Hazards

A 33-year-old male died while using a chainsaw. The decedent was at work on a ladder when he slipped and fell onto the chainsaw while attempting to cut off a section of the tree. The decedent fell to the ground. EMS arrived on the scene, where they pronounced him dead on the scene. The cause of death was a chop wound to the neck.



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'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/IncidentReporting>

There are several ways you can report a MECAP case:

- ONLINE MECAP reporting at Internet portal SaferProducts.gov: <https://www.saferproducts.gov/>
- Phone: 1-800-638-8095

- Fax number: 301-504-0038
- E-mail to: 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
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.