



U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

MECAP news

MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS ALERT PROJECT

October 2024

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 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

A 1-month-old female was found prone on the couch while co-sleeping with her father. The father fed the decedent on the couch, burped her, and they both fell asleep while the father was cradling her. When the mother returned, she found the decedent prone and unresponsive on the couch. EMS transported the decedent to the medical center where she died. The cause of death was suffocation.

A 2-month-old male was found unresponsive in bed with his face pressed against a pillow. The parents had been co-sleeping with the infant and woke to discover him unresponsive in the morning. The mother discovered him nonresponsive, and the father-initiated CPR until the Fire Department arrived on the scene. The infant was transported to the hospital, but despite resuscitative efforts, the infant did not regain consciousness and passed away. The cause of death was suffocation.

Carbon Monoxide Poisoning

*A 42-year-old male was found non-responsive in a closed and unventilated camper. The male was near a propane tank with a heating attachment. The cause of death was the combined toxic effects of carbon monoxide and ethanol.

A 59-year-old male was in an unattached oversized garage next to his home. The decedent started a portable generator in the garage the evening prior when the electricity was off from a storm. The generator ran until the tank was empty. The decedent's mother found him in the garage with obvious signs of death. The CO readings were 1000 PPM. The cause of death was carbon monoxide toxicity with illicit substance abuse.

Fire

A 5-year-old male was killed in a house fire when he was playing with a lighter. The decedent was found in the basement of residence. The cause of death was smoke inhalation.

A 75-year-old female died in a residential fire when a candle accidentally fell onto a blanket and ignited the couch. The decedent died from complications of smoke inhalation.

Submersion

An 11-year-old male was at a birthday party at a private residence where an above-ground pool was present. Other children were present, along with adults. The decedent was last seen alive and well while swimming in the deep end of the pool without any signs of distress. Approximately 5-7 minutes later, the decedent was

found unresponsive on the bottom of the pool in the deep end. He was transported to the hospital where he was pronounced deceased five days later. The cause of death was drowning.

A 2-year-old male was left unsupervised at her home in an enclosed patio where an in-ground swimming pool was also located. His parents went to check on him and found him face down floating in the pool near the shallow end of the pool. Emergency rescue arrived on the scene and transported him to the hospital. Despite life-saving efforts, he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was drowning.

ATV/UTV

An 11-year-old male died from an ATV incident. The decedent was the sole operator of an ATV that rolled and landed on top of him in a deserted area. Emergency medical services responded to the scene where the decedent was pronounced. The cause of death was blunt impact injuries.

A 16-year-old male died from injuries on an ATV. He was riding an ATV on a steep hillside when he rolled 50 feet down landing next to the ATV. He was alert and oriented and complained of difficulty breathing. EMS transported him by ground to the hospital. Upon arrival, the decedent became unresponsive and lost pulse. Despite efforts to revive him, he later passed away. The cause of death was Multiple Blunt Force Injuries/ATV Rollover.

A 43-year-old male died when his ATV overturned off a rough terrain. The decedent was missing for two days. His stepfather found the decedent inside the overturned ATV at the bottom of the mountain. Paramedics arrived on the scene and confirmed the decedent's death. The cause of death was positional asphyxia.

An 8-year-old male was driving a Side-By-Side UTV with a 6-year-old passenger. The 8-year-old lost control, causing the UTV to flip. The 8-year-old didn't sustain any severe injuries. The 6-year-old was ejected and trapped under the UTV and died. The decedent's mother removed him from under the UTV. Emergency Rescue transported him to the hospital, where he succumbed to his injuries and was pronounced deceased.

Other Hazards

*An 8-year-old male was found by his mother unresponsive and entangled by the neck in a yoga swing at his residence. The yoga swing was attached to a yoga trapeze ceiling hook mounted on the living room ceiling. His mother called Emergency Rescue, and the family started CPR. Despite lifesaving efforts, the decedent died from his injuries. The cause of death was asphyxia.

A 79-year-old male died from a lawn mower incident. He was found unresponsive and not breathing, with a severe foot injury with large amounts of blood and part of his foot and toes removed. The cause of death was exsanguination due to severe foot injury of the left foot.

An 89-year-old male was struck by a vehicle while on an electric bike. The vehicle was attempting to turn into a roadway and struck the decedent. Emergency Rescue responded to the scene where he was pronounced dead. The cause of death was multiple blunt force injuries due to electric bike collision.



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](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
- 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.

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