



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER

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Happy New Year!

It's January, time for many of us to think about how to improve in the coming year. At CPSC, we too are making New Year's resolutions — all focused on making consumer products in American homes safer in 2009. Safety is everyone's responsibility, and in this issue of *The Safety Review*, we outline a plan for safety in your home. By following our tips each month, you can make your home a safer place for you and your family.

Unfortunately, sometimes good intentions (and numerous pieces of exercise equipment) fall by the wayside when we run out of motivation or time to make our resolutions a priority. It is our hope that the tips we are encouraging for the year are simple and easy enough that you won't think twice about implementing them. Safety is always our priority at CPSC; in 2009, we hope you will make it yours as well.

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman















What's Your New Year's Resolution?

Maybe you want to lose weight or learn a new activity. But there's another resolution you don't want to neglect this year, and that's the safety of your home and family. Whatever you resolve to do, put safety at the top of the list.

CPSC has tips to keep you and your family safe 12 months a year — **you can start by doing a few simple things every month.** Making a commitment to safety can make a huge difference in protecting your loved ones from hazards in and around the home.

 cut here and keep on the refrigerator for a year-round safety reminder.

JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH	APRIL
<p> Home Heating/Carbon Monoxide (CO) Safety</p> <p>Have your heating system and chimneys professionally checked every year. Install a CO alarm in your home.</p>	<p> Burn Awareness</p> <p>Store flammable liquids in containers with child-resistant caps.</p>	<p> Poison Prevention</p> <p>Use containers with child-resistant caps for your medicines and household chemicals. Keep them out of reach and out of sight of children, preferably in a locked cabinet.</p>	<p> Helmet Safety</p> <p>From bikes to scooters to ATVs, make sure you and your kids have the right helmet and know the safety rules.</p>
MAY	JUNE	JULY	AUGUST
<p> Electrical Safety</p> <p>Inspect cords for excessive wear before plugging them in, and don't use cords or equipment that have been damaged. Insert plastic safety caps into unused outlets within reach of young children.</p>	<p> Drowning Prevention</p> <p>If you have a pool or spa, make sure to have layers of protection (fences or other barriers, alarms, covers, etc.). Also, eliminate drowning hazards by emptying portable pools and buckets when not in use.</p>	<p> Fireworks Safety</p> <p>Never allow children to play with or ignite fireworks. Even sparklers can cause serious burns to children.</p>	<p> Back to School Safety</p> <p>Make sure children go to school with clothes that do not have drawstrings and with supplies that are non-toxic.</p>
SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p> Baby Safety</p> <p>Check your baby's sleeping area: remove all pillows; inspect cribs for instability or missing/broken parts; do not add extra padding or mattresses to play yards; and make sure children do not have access to the cords of blinds and shades.</p>	<p> Fire Safety</p> <p>Have smoke alarms in each bedroom, outside of sleeping areas and on each floor, and make sure they have fresh batteries. Prepare and practice family fire drills.</p>	<p> Toy Shopping Safety</p> <p>Shop with safety in mind: buy age appropriate toys and check CPSC's Web site for recalled products.</p>	<p> Holiday Decorating Safety</p> <p>Keep your tree fresh by watering daily, and check lights for exposed, frayed or discolored wires. Extinguish candles when you leave the room and keep them away from combustible materials.</p>



Treestand Safety

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) recently issued a Safety Alert warning hunters of the hazards related to treestands and harnesses. We spoke with CPSC safety engineer, Mike Karen, about this issue that affects hundreds of thousands of hunters.

TSR: Why is CPSC warning about treestands and harnesses?

Mike Karen: It's hunting season in many areas of the country. While that's a source of enjoyment and tradition for many, every year hunters are killed or seriously injured as a result of falls and other injuries related to the use of hunting treestands. We know of 41 treestand-related deaths from 2005 through 2007, and our estimates show about 19,000 E.R.-treated injuries during the same period.

TSR: How and why do these incidents occur?

MK: Most deaths and injuries occur as a result of hunters failing to wear a full-body safety harness at all times. Many incidents occur while hunters are stepping onto or from the treestand's platform. With all the gear and heavy clothing, balance can be an issue, and that's when a fall can occur.

TSR: Falls are an obvious hazard. You said "other injuries" – what does that mean?

MK: We have reports of hunters who were saved from a fall by their harness, only to die or be seriously injured while suspended without a means of getting back into their tree stand or to the ground. Deaths due to hanging or asphyxiation have also occurred from the use of single strap or waist-type harnesses.


TSR: How can hunters protect themselves?

MK: Most treestand-related incidents can be prevented with proper use of a full-body safety harness. The one I'm wearing in this photo shows a harness that incorporates chest, waist and leg straps. Hunters should never use a single-strap chest or waist-type harness.

TSR: Any other tips for hunters?

MK: Always carry a cell phone, walkie-talkie, or other means of contacting help should you fall. Never climb with anything which can affect your balance -- use a haul line to pull up and lower your gear. And hunt with a buddy if you can, and let others know your exact hunting location and when you plan to return.



 [Download the Treestand and Harness Safety Alert](#)



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What do these have in common?



The answer is surprising. **A single portable generator can produce as much poisonous carbon monoxide (CO) as hundreds of cars.** CO is an invisible, odorless gas that can incapacitate and kill you within minutes.

The death toll from carbon monoxide associated with generators has been steadily rising in recent years. Carbon monoxide from portable generators results in more than 60 unintentional deaths each year. Many of the deaths occurred after hurricanes, ice storms and blizzards, and involved first-time users of the product.

Tips that can save your life

- Never use portable generators indoors or in garages, basements or sheds – even with doors and windows open. They should always be used outside well away from windows, doors, vents or any other opening.
- Always have a working CO alarm in your house.
- Also, never burn charcoal grills indoors, even with ventilation. Charcoal quickly produces deadly CO.

**Want to learn more
about CO and how
to protect your family
from this Invisible Killer?**



View our Carbon
Monoxide PSA



RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Strangulation Death of a Child Prompts Recall of Roman Blinds; Sold Exclusively at IKEA

About 670,000 IRIS and ALVINE Roman Blinds sold exclusively by IKEA Home Furnishings, of Conshohocken, Pa., are being voluntarily recalled. Strangulations can occur when a child places his/her neck in an exposed inner cord on the backside of the Roman Blinds.

Consumers should immediately stop using the recalled Roman Blinds and return them to any IKEA store to obtain a full refund.

For additional information, contact IKEA toll-free at (888) 966-4532 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.ikea-usa.com.

CPSC reminds consumers to examine all Roman Blinds and shades in their homes. If looped pull cords are present or exposed inner cords are found on the back of blinds or shades and children are in the home or occasionally visit your home, consider replacing them with blinds or shades that do not have exposed pull cords or inner cords.



Alvine Blinds



SIGN UP for recalls



Sign up for this FREE resource! Signing up is easy, it's fast, and it could save your life or the life of a family member. Simply provide us with your e-mail address, and start receiving important information today. As soon as there's a recall, you'll know about it.

SIGN UP NOW



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CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Dive Sticks

Target, of Minneapolis, Minn., is recalling about 365,000 Dive Sticks. The recalled dive sticks could remain in an upright position, posing an impalement hazard to young children.



Wall Ovens

GE Consumer & Industrial, of Louisville, Ky., is recalling about 244,000 GE® GE Profile™, Monogram® and Kenmore® Wall Ovens. The extreme heat used in the self-clean cycle can escape, if the wall oven door is removed and incorrectly re-attached by the installer or the consumer. This can pose a fire and burn hazard to consumers.



Fabric Protector

The Sherwin-Williams Co., of Cleveland, Ohio, is recalling about 75,000 cans of Krylon “Outdoor Spaces” UV Fabric Protector. Overexposure to fumes, vapor or spray mist from the product can pose a serious respiratory hazard to consumers.



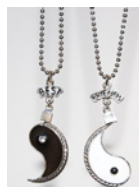
Newborn and Infant Pants

JCPenney Co., of Plano, Texas, is recalling about 24,000 Arizona® Newborn and Infant Denim Pants. The metal snap at the waist can detach posing a choking hazard to infants.



Heavy Duty Acidic Cleaner

DuPont, of Wilmington, Del., is recalling about 20,000 Heavy Duty Acidic Cleaner Bottles. Pressure can build up in a full or nearly full bottle of the acidic cleaner when it is stored in elevated temperatures over an extended period of time, which can result in the cleaner leaking from underneath the cap. If the product comes into contact with skin, it can cause severe skin irritation.



Children's Metal Necklaces

Claire's Boutiques Inc., of Hoffman Estates, Ill., is recalling about 67,000 Best Friends Yin Yang Necklaces Sets. The recalled necklaces contain high levels of lead.



Toy Trains

JA-RU Inc., of Jacksonville, Fla., is recalling about 18,000 My Little Train Classics Toy Trains. The recalled toy contains small parts which can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Children's Two-Way Radios

Cobra Electronics, of Chicago, Ill., is recalling about 8,000 Children's Two-Way Radios. The rechargeable batteries in the radios can leak electrolyte, posing a chemical burn hazard to consumers.



Stainless Steel Pots

Ocean State Jobbers Inc., of North Kingstown, R.I., is recalling about 7,000 Century Cookware Stainless Steel Stockpots. The stainless steel pots have metal handles that can detach during use, posing a serious burn hazard to consumers.



Toy TVs

OKK Trading, of Los Angeles, Calif., is recalling about 2,100 “Mini-Televisor” Toys. Surface coating on the toy television could contain excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.