



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

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NANCY NORD
ACTING CHAIRMAN

THOMAS H. MOORE
COMMISSIONER

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Many of you have heard of the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act (CPSIA) and its far-reaching effects on American consumers and businesses. We are working hard to implement the CPSIA to further our goal of protecting American families. From manufacturers of children's products to the kids that use them, everyone is affected in some way—even those who make and donate products to hospitals and charities.

In these difficult economic times, thousands of small producers, home-crafters, thrift shops, and small retailers have told us of the startling effects the testing and certification requirements of the CPSIA will have on their livelihoods. These are not big faceless companies—these are real people who are the backbone of our economy. To provide some much-needed relief, the Commission passed a one-year delay (or “stay”) of the enforcement of certain testing and certification provisions of the CPSIA (that were scheduled to go into effect on February 10, 2009). This gives limited relief to small manufacturers and others who cannot comply with the law without incurring substantial testing costs.

CPSC is committed to implementing the CPSIA as fairly and as efficiently as possible, but we are limited in the scope of our authorities under the law. Including testing and certification, there are new rules to be understood and adopted by everyone from the largest global manufacturer to the crafter working in the family workshop, to the mom-and-pop shop on the corner. Indeed, all children's products including toys, books, child care articles and clothing are covered in different ways by this law; there are different rules for different products. To reduce some of the confusion and to simplify the complex elements of the new law, the staff at CPSC has addressed some of the more frequently asked questions that you have asked. We hope you'll download our user-friendly **Guide for Small Business, Resellers, Crafters and Charities**, and **sign up** to receive e-mail alerts as new information becomes available.

Nancy Nord

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Fire Deaths Prompt Urgent Warning to Families

3 kids, 4 adults killed by Philadelphia house fire

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Seven members of the community died in a fire that a survivor said started when a kerosene heater spilled fuel and exploded as it was being moved outdoors. The blaze broke out in a three-story brick duplex and killed four adults and three children.

Mother, 4 young sons among 8 dead in NY house fire

RICHLAND, N.Y. (AP) — A fast-moving house fire killed eight people, including four young brothers, despite the homeowner’s frantic attempts to save them. Investigators were looking at the possibility the blaze was touched off by a wood stove. The home had no smoke alarms.



 Hear More about Home Heating Safety

These tragedies in Philadelphia and Richland, New York were two of dozens of horrific and deadly fires in recent weeks. According to U.S. Fire Administration statistics, since Thanksgiving 2008, there have been more than 158 fatal fires in the U.S. resulting in over 200 fatalities, many of them children.

Chief Michael Love, Montgomery County, Maryland Fire Marshal and representative of the International Association of Fire Chiefs responded to these fires at a January 8th news conference. “In the two weeks since Christmas, we have noted 50 deaths from just seven fires. What is concerning about these fires is that there is a disproportionate number of children involved,” he said.

This winter is shaping up to be one of the worst in years for fatal fires. Power outages and heating demands have surged in the wake of bitter cold and powerful winter storms. Additionally, an ailing economy has forced families to find alternative sources of heat such as portable heaters, which when used improperly, can be deadly.

To address the issue, the CPSC issued the following warning to families:

- To survive a fire, families need working smoke alarms.
- Install and maintain 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.



CHILD POISONINGS

“Although fatal child poisonings have decreased in recent decades, unintentional child poisonings remain an important public health concern,” state Bob Franklin and Dr. Greg Rodgers of the Agency’s Office of Economic Analysis in a recent report published in *Pediatrics*, the official journal of The American Academy of Pediatrics.

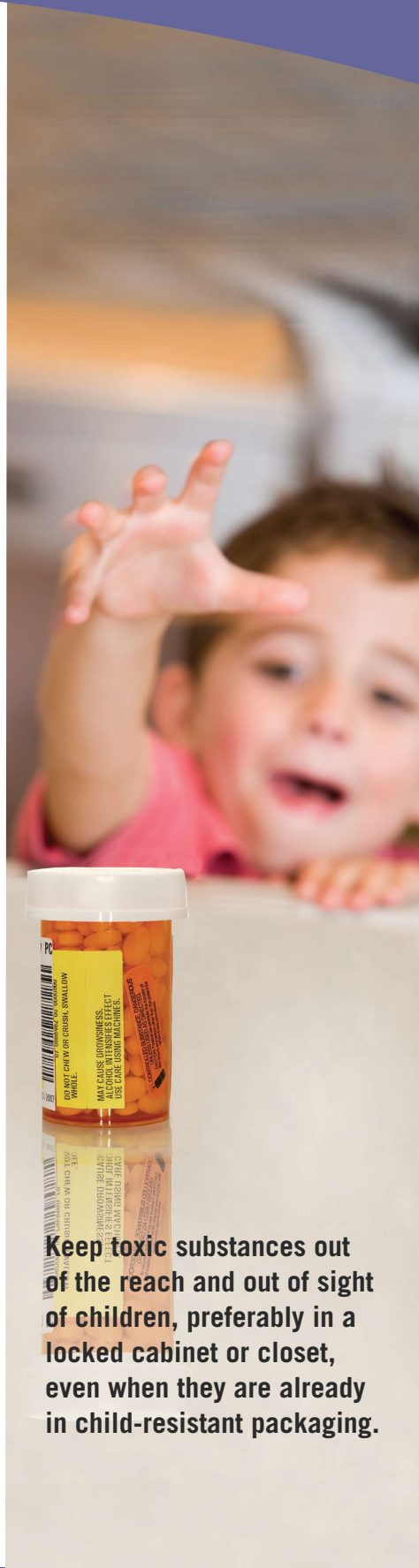
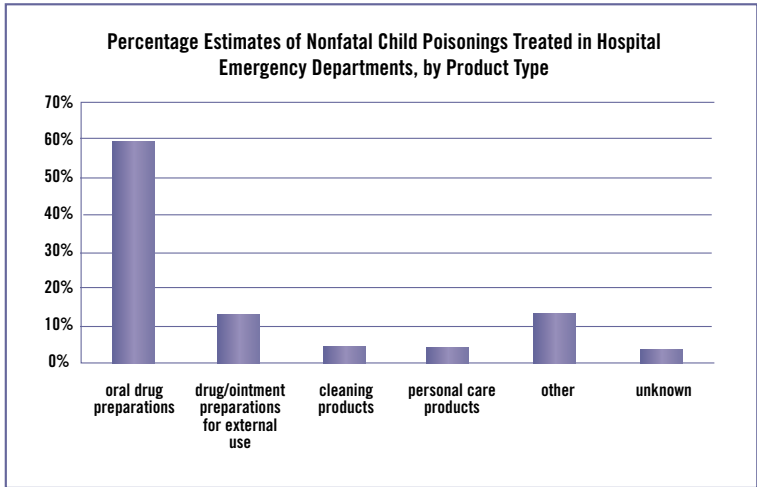
Their research reveals some striking findings. According to their study, about 86,000 children were treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments in 2004 after ingesting drugs, cleaning products, and other potentially toxic substances. Franklin and Rodgers reviewed data from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) involving unintentional poisonings in children ages 4 and younger, who were treated in hospital emergency rooms. Their review found about 70 percent of the poisonings involved children ages 1 or 2; more than half involved boys; and 13.3 percent resulted in hospital admission,

a rate 4 times higher than all NEISS-reported injuries.

Though nearly 55 percent of the incidents involved drugs and other products already subject to child-resistant packaging requirements,

many of the poisonings may have occurred when children were still able to open the packaging; products were left unsecured or moved to unsecure containers; through dosing errors; and other reasons.

Their advice to parents with small children: “Child-resistant packaging is an important safeguard, but limit to access is equally important.”



Keep toxic substances out of the reach and out of sight of children, preferably in a locked cabinet or closet, even when they are already in child-resistant packaging.



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A Mom, Federal Government Join Forces to Educate New Parents



Chances are, if you're a parent, you know the frustration many have felt in getting the most accurate answers to questions about baby products, safe sleeping environments, feeding time and a million other subjects. The often conflicting information from well-meaning friends, family and other parents can be daunting and confusing.

"That's why the **New Parents Network** was created 21 years ago," says Karen Storek, Founder and CEO. "So parents and soon-to-be parents could get vital information all in one place."

What started in Tucson with packets of information handed out to maternity patients in a local hospital, has expanded to a free, multi-lingual Internet resource that receives up to 4,000 page-views per hour from users all over the world. "Along with photos, audio tips, brochures, and posters in multiple languages," Storek adds, "parents, grandparents and other family members can visit our homepage for a free weekly e-mail parenting tip." Touch-screen kiosks have also been placed in low-income clinics to reach families who don't have Internet access.

One of the biggest challenges for parents is separating fact from fiction. Storek describes her partnership with the Agency and other well-known organizations as essential in debunking

popular myths about safe parenting. "The resources from CPSC are created by experts, so I know that my members can trust the information. Public health nurses serving low-income clinics, for example, have told me that the CPSC posters we have in their clinics have enlightened parents about safety issues such as window blind dangers and playground safety."

In fact, the New Parents Network is one of over 5,500 grass-roots organizations that partners with the Agency via its *Neighborhood Safety Network* to share critical, life-saving information, particularly with traditionally hard-to-reach populations. Around the country, non-profits, community organizations, libraries, daycares and other groups are using free recall information, posters, safety tips and brochures to help educate consumers and save lives.

What's next for Storek and the New Parents Network? "This is a small operation — I'm a one woman show with anywhere from 10 to 25 volunteers and a great board of directors, so we rely on companies and foundations donations to fund our work. We are in the process of creating a project, using technology in a very unique way to reach potentially millions of people worldwide. The more people that get our lifesaving information, the safer babies and kids will be."



NEIGHBORHOOD SAFETY NETWORK
A PROJECT OF THE U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

**Join the Neighborhood Safety Network
today and start saving lives**



RECALL SPOTLIGHT

The Toro Company Reannounces Recall of Electric Blowers Due to Projectile Hazards

Name of Product: Toro Power Sweep Electric Blowers

Units: About 900,000

Manufacturer: The Toro Company, of Bloomington, Minn.

Hazard: The blower’s impeller, which is a rotating component on the blower, can break, resulting in pieces of plastic flying out of the blower. This poses a risk of serious injury to the user or a bystander.

Incidents/Injuries: Toro has received 162 reports of broken impellers, including 28 reports of minor cuts and bruises resulting from projected impeller pieces.

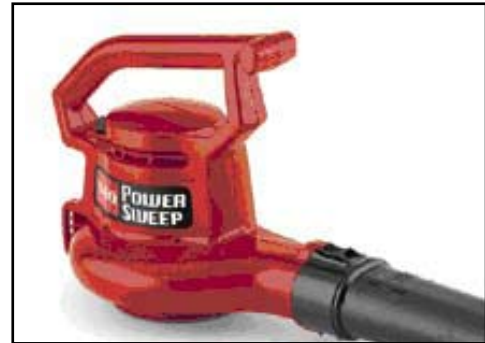
Description: The recall involves Toro Power Sweep electric blower model 51586 that was manufactured between 2000 and 2002. The recalled units have serial numbers that range between 000055100 and 220255609. There are two decals on the main housing of the blower. One decal reads, “TORO Power Sweep” and the decal on the opposite side of the blower contains the model number and serial number (shown by the letter “A” in the picture). The recalled units can be identified by a black impeller fan, which can be seen through the air inlet screen on the bottom of the unit.

Sold through: Toro dealers and various mass retailers nationwide including The Home Depot, Lowes, Target and K-Mart stores from January 2000 through late December 2002 for about \$32.

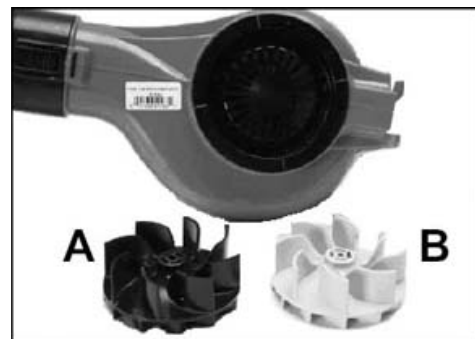
Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled blowers immediately and contact Toro to receive a replacement blower.

For more information, contact Toro at (888) 279-3191 or visit the firm’s web site at www.toro.com.



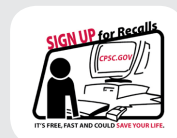
Model & Serial No.



A. Black – NOT OK

B. Beige – OK

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



Grease Removers

Fantastic Distributors, of Brooklyn, New York, is recalling about 245,000 “Bagi Shumanit” Super Cold Grease Removers. Direct contact with this substance can cause burns to consumers’ skin and eyes. The product lacks required special packaging and warning label.



Doll Clothing Sets

Manhattan Group, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is recalling about 9,200 Groovy Fashions™ Sassy Jammies™ Doll Clothing Sets. Surface paints on the pajama pants contain excessive levels of lead, which violates the federal lead paint standard.



Ski Bindings

Atomic Skis GmbH, of Austria, is recalling about 125,000 (an additional 1.0 million were sold outside the U.S.) Alpine Ski Bindings. The heel housing of the bindings can crack, causing the binding to release unexpectedly. This can cause the skier to lose control or fall and suffer injuries.



Jumbo Snow Globes

Hallmark Cards Inc., of Kansas City, Missouri, is recalling about 7,000 Jumbo Snowman Snow Globes. When exposed to sunlight, the snow globes can act as a magnifying glass and ignite nearby combustible materials, posing a fire hazard.



High Chairs

Evenflo Company Inc., of Miamisburg, Ohio, is recalling about 95,000 Evenflo Majestic™ High Chairs. Plastic caps and metal screws on both sides of the high chair can loosen and fall out, posing both fall and choking hazards to children.



Toy Army Figures

OKK Trading, of Los Angeles, California, is recalling about 5,400 Army Figures. Surface paint on the face of the Army figures contains excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.



Electrical Wiring How-to-Books

The Taunton Press, of Newtown, Connecticut, is recalling about 64,000 *Wiring a House, 3rd Edition* and *Wiring Complete, Expert Advice From Start to Finish* instructional books. The books contain several errors in the technical diagrams that could lead consumers to incorrectly install or repair electrical wiring.



Boys Reversible Vests

The Bon-Ton Department Stores Inc., of York, Pennsylvania, is recalling about 5,000 Boy’s Reversible Vests. The zipper tabs on these vests fail to meet the children’s torques test standards, posing a choking hazard to children.



Children’s Jewelry

Aloha 808 Trading, of Honolulu, Hawaii, is recalling about 12,800 pieces of Children’s Jewelry. The recalled jewelry contains high levels of lead, which is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.



Cribs and Matching Furniture

Munire Furniture Inc, of Piscataway, New Jersey, is recalling about 3,000 Cribs and 6,000 Matching Furniture Pieces. The red paint which is underneath the black finish paint on some of the cribs and matching furniture exceeds federal lead limits.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.