



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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The work we do benefits everyone

In this month's *The Safety Review*, we highlight issues pertaining to young and old. For the young, we feature an interview with one of our child safety experts, and we take a look at the dangers of children's clothing with drawstrings. For older Americans, we highlight two of the greatest dangers to adults 65 and older: falls and fires.

Young or old, the work we do affects you and the ones you care about in many ways, whether it's by keeping store shelves free of dangerous products, by monitoring the marketplace for hazards, or by educating consumers with our many safety programs.

So, if you're a mom or dad, a grandparent, a teacher, or anyone who wants to keep their loved ones safe, take a few minutes today to search our Web site for life-saving information that's tailor-made for you.

Take care,

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Older Americans

For Americans 65 and older, falls and fires are the two leading causes of unintentional injuries and deaths.



FALLS

About 70% of all hospital emergency department visits by older adults involve falls. In 2007, nearly 700,000 people 65 and older were treated for injuries related to stairs, floors, landings and ramps.

To help prevent falls:

- When using stairs, always grip the handrails and make sure they are secure.
- Keep stairs well lighted.
- Keep floors cleared and slip resistant.
- Remove loose carpets, cords, and other items you could trip over. Be sure all rugs, mats, and other surfaces are non-skid.
- Install grab bars and slip-resistant surfaces in your bathroom.
- Use only stable step stools with a top handrail. Don't climb alone — have someone nearby to help you.
- Be sure your telephones and emergency numbers are easily accessible so you can get help if you fall.



Learn more in our Older Consumers Safety Checklist

FIRES

Decreased mobility, health, sight and hearing can limit older adults' ability to act quickly in the event of a fire. Adults 65 and older have a much higher death rate from fires — twice that of the general population.

#1 cause of death: Smoking
Never smoke in bed or while drowsy.

#2 cause of death: Heating
Keep space heaters away from flammable materials. Hire a professional to check all fuel-burning appliances, including fireplaces, every year.

#3 cause of death: Cooking
Never leave cooking food unattended. "Stand by your pan." Don't wear loose-fitting clothing with long sleeves near ranges or ovens.

To help prevent fire deaths and injuries:

- Install a smoke alarm in every bedroom, outside every sleeping area, and on every floor of your home.
- Practice an emergency fire escape plan.



Learn more in our Fire Safety Checklist for Older Americans



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When Work Becomes Personal

This month, *The Safety Review* spoke with Celestine Kiss about her role as engineering psychologist at CPSC.

TSR: How does safety fit into your role as a CPSC employee?

CK: As an Engineering Psychologist for the agency, I have the crucial role of determining the [age appropriateness](#) of children's products. It is critically important that children's products meet certain safety standards and are labeled according to a child's age and abilities. There are several factors that I consider during the age determination process: 1) how the product is promoted with its packaging and Web site, if known, 2) how children are supposed to interact with the product, 3) what the toy is promoting in terms of the physical and emotional appeal to children and 4) what age child is capable of playing with the product as it is intended. The end result can help a manufacturer create more accurate age-labeling for their products. My analysis can also assist in an investigation or when a questionable product is seized at a port.

TSR: As a parent, does your job affect your personal life?

CK: Working at the CPSC for over 20 years, I've developed a critical eye toward the safety of products. As at work, safety is first and foremost in my home, so I am very mindful when I make purchases. It may drive my boys crazy sometimes, but their safety comes first! I'm always examining products in my own home, and giving advice to family and friends about the products in their homes.

TSR: What is the most important thing people should look for in a product?

CK: Parents and grandparents, aunts and uncles need to look at the product and think about the child they are shopping for — the age labels make that process easier. Shoppers need to be label readers — the labels are there for the child's safety. We recognize that many children are exceptional and advanced for their age, but you really don't want to give the child a toy they are not going to use correctly. The idea is to give them something that is fun to play with and a little challenging to help them progress to the next stage in development.

TSR: Does age appropriateness pertain to just toys?

CK: No, it applies to a variety of children's products — for example, playground equipment. Other agency staff members and I recently revised the [Public Playground Safety Handbook](#) to issue guidelines to create a safer playground environment and reduce the more than 200,000 emergency department-treated injuries associated with playground equipment that occur each year. We highlight the need for distinct play areas and equipment for different age groups. Separation and buffer zones reduce the chance of injury from older, more active children running through areas filled with younger children with generally slower movement and reaction times.



Celestine Kiss, CPSC Engineering Psychologist, with her kids ages 9, 8 and 5

Follow the "K.I.S.S. List" When Buying Toys

- **Keep** in mind the child's age, interests and skill level.
- **Inspect** all toys for quality design and construction for all ages.
- **Study** safety labels. Look for and heed age recommendations, such as "Not recommended for children under three". Look for others including: "Flame retardant/Flame resistant" on apparel products and "Washable/hygienic materials" on stuffed toys and dolls.
- **Stop** smaller children from playing with toys designed for older siblings. Some toys are recommended for older children because they may be hazardous in the hands of a younger child.



No Strings Attached

Preventing Entanglement and Strangulation from Deadly Drawstrings

Drawstrings in the hoods and necks of children’s jackets and sweatshirts pose a deadly strangulation hazard to children. Playground slides and other play sets figure prominently in drawstring-related incidents. Deadly incidents of drawstrings getting caught on school bus doors, cribs, escalators, fences, branches and tricycles have also been reported.

In the last fifteen months, Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has issued 24 recalls of children’s sweatshirts, jackets, sweaters and ponchos with drawstrings in the hoods totaling more than 590,000 units.

In 1994, CPSC presented the industry with evidence that drawstrings on jackets, coats and sweatshirts (mostly located in the hoods of these garments) could kill children. At that time, manufacturers voluntarily agreed to remove neck and hood drawstrings from millions of children’s garments sold annually in this country. In 2008, CPSC reinforced these [guidelines](#) and advised manufacturers to eliminate drawstrings and to replace them with safer alternatives, such as snaps and Velcro.

Recent Recalls



300,000 Hill Sportswear Hooded Sweatshirts



1,200 Jerry Leigh of Calif. Hooded Jackets



55,000 Ms. Bubbles Denim Jackets



1,500 R&D International Hooded Jackets



1,300 Foursquare Hooded Jackets

Recently, a 3-year old boy in California was strangled when the drawstring of the sweatshirt he was wearing became stuck on a playground set. Parents are advised to remove drawstrings from the hoods and necks of jackets and sweatshirts, and to shorten drawstrings around the bottom of the garments.





RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Maytag Recalls Refrigerators Due to Fire Hazard

Name of product: Maytag®, Jenn-Air®, Amana®, Admiral®, Magic Chef®, Performa by Maytag® and Crosley® brand refrigerators

Units: About 1.6 million

Manufacturer: Maytag Corp., of Newton, Iowa

Hazard: An electrical failure in the relay, the component that turns on the refrigerator's compressor, can cause overheating and pose a serious fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: Maytag has received 41 reports of refrigerator relay ignition, including 16 reports of property damage ranging from smoke damage to extensive kitchen damage.

Description: The recall includes certain Maytag®, Jenn-Air®, Amana®, Admiral®, Magic Chef®, Performa by Maytag® and Crosley® brand side-by-side and top freezer refrigerators. The affected refrigerators were manufactured in black, bisque, white and stainless steel. They have model and serial numbers printed on a label located on the top middle or left upper side of the refrigerator liner and have the following model and serial number combinations:

	Serial Numbers ENDING with	AND Model Numbers BEGINNING with
Side by Side Refrigerators	AA, AC, AE, AG, AJ, AL, AN, AP, AR, AT, AV, AX, CA, CC, CE, CG, CJ, CL, ZB, ZD, ZF, ZH, ZK, ZM, ZQ, ZS, ZU, ZW, ZY, ZZ	ARS, CS, JC, JS, MS, MZ, PS
Top Freezer Refrigerators	AA, AC, AE, AG, AJ, AL, AN, AP, AR, AT, AV, AX, ZK, ZM, ZQ, ZS, ZU, ZW, ZY, ZZ	AT, CT, MT, PT

Refrigerators with freezers on the bottom are not included in this recall.

Sold at: Department and appliance stores and by home-builders nationwide from January 2001 through January 2004 for between about \$350 and \$1600.


Manufactured in: United States

Remedy: Consumers should immediately contact Maytag to determine if their refrigerator is included in the recall and to schedule a free in-home repair. Consumers should not return the refrigerator to the retailer where it was purchased.

For more information, contact Maytag toll-free at (866) 533-9817 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.repair.maytag.com.



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



Window Blinds

Cost Plus Inc., of Oakland, California, is recalling about 692,400 Roman Shades and Roll-up Blinds. Looped pull cords and exposed lifting loops on roll-up blinds present a strangulation hazard to young children.



Cribs

Stork Craft Manufacturing Inc., of British Columbia, Canada, is recalling about 535,000 Stork Craft Baby Cribs. The metal support brackets used to support the crib mattress and mattress board can crack and break. When one or more support brackets break, the mattress can collapse and create a dangerous gap between the mattress and crib rails, in which a child can become entrapped and suffocate.



Dishwashers

BSH Home Appliances Corp., of Huntington Beach, California, is recalling about 476,500 Bosch® and Siemens® Model Dishwashers. An electrical component in certain model dishwashers can overheat, posing a fire hazard to consumers.



Portable Play Yards

Fisher-Price is voluntarily recalling about 200,000 Rainforest™ Portable Play Yards manufactured by Simplicity Inc. and SFCA Inc. of Reading, Pennsylvania. One or more rails can collapse unexpectedly, posing a fall or entrapment hazard to young children.



Television Wall Mounts

Milestone AV Technologies, of Savage, Minnesota, is recalling about 140,000 LCD television wall mounts. The wall mount can crack when used with televisions 26 inches and larger or with televisions that include a DVD player. The television can then fall from the wall mount and pose a serious risk of injury to consumers standing nearby.



Infant Rattles

Infantino LLC, of San Diego, California, is recalling about 131,000 Infantino Lion and Lamb Grabby Rattles™ (20,000 units were previously recalled in March 2008). The tail-piece on the rattles can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Vanity Stools

Cheyenne Industries Inc., of Little Rock, Arkansas, is recalling about 89,000 Milan Vanity Stools. The stools can become unstable due to loose screws, which can cause the stool legs to separate or break, posing a fall hazard to consumers.



Lip Gloss Keychains

Markwins Beauty Products, of City of Industry, California, is recalling about 75,000 Lip Gloss Keychains. The metal clasp attached to the keychain contains high levels of lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.



Cribs

Jardine Enterprises, of Taipei, Taiwan, is recalling about 56,450 Jardine Cribs (320,000 units were previously recalled in June 2008). The wooden crib slats can break, creating a gap, which can pose an entrapment and strangulation hazard to infants and toddlers.



Flashing Pacifiers

Top Goods Trading, of Temple City, California, is recalling about 38,000 Flashing Pacifiers. The flashing pacifiers do not comply with federal safety standards for pacifiers. Although the pacifiers are marketed to older children and adults, they could be given to babies and cause serious injury or death. The pieces of the pacifier can separate, posing a choking hazard. The necklaces pose a strangulation hazard.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.