



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT
SAFETY COMMISSION

The SAFETY REVIEW

NOVEMBER 2008
EDITION

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ACTING CHAIRMAN

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COMMISSIONER

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One of my favorite pastimes is to work in the kitchen cooking and baking. I find it a great way to relax and the end result is (usually) edible! During the approaching holiday season, even people who may not cook much during the year are turning on their stoves to create treats and savory meals for their friends and families.

Whether you cook on a regular basis or just for special occasions, it's important to remember cooking-related fires are a leading cause of fires and injuries in the home. For example, many incidents are caused simply by leaving the cooking food unattended on the stove.

As kitchen activity increases, so do the chances for accidents. That's why at the CPSC, November means encouraging cooking safety in the home. While everyone is enjoying the results of your culinary efforts, be sure to keep safety as an essential ingredient for any recipe for the holidays.

Nancy Nord

Nancy Nord
Acting Chairman



Don't Be A Turkey!

Risk of Cooking-Related Fires Doubles on Thanksgiving Day

Thanksgiving Day brings to mind the enticing aroma of family favorites and the nerve-fraying marathon of cooking for the holiday feast. Yet, a cooking fire can turn a joyous celebration into a family tragedy. “In the hustle and bustle of the day, people can sometimes leave cooking food unattended which can cause fires,” said Acting Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Nancy Nord.

Cooking is by far the leading cause of residential structure fires on Thanksgiving Day – nearly double that of a normal day. According to the U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), each year nearly 4,300 fires in the United States occur on Thanksgiving Day causing an average of 15 deaths, about 50 injuries, and nearly \$27 million in property damage.

The CPSC staff urges people to remain vigilant in the kitchen when cooking this holiday season. To help prevent cooking fires, CPSC offers the following safety tips:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms. Never disable them.
- Never leave food cooking unattended; turn off the burner if you have to leave.
- Keep a fire extinguisher in the kitchen.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan.

Stay alert and follow CPSC’s safety tips to keep your holidays fun and festive.



Download our **Recipe for Safer Cooking** brochure





RECALL SPOTLIGHT

Regent Sports Recalls Soccer Goal Nets Following Strangulation Death of a Child

Name of Products: MacGregor Folding Soccer Goals, Mitre Folding Soccer Goals

Units: About 190,000 units

Distributor: Regent Sports Corporation, of Hauppauge, NY

Hazard: The fixed knot flexible openings in the soccer goal net can pose a head and neck entrapment or strangulation hazard to young children.

Incidents/Injuries: Regent Sports and CPSC have received two reports of head entanglement, including the strangulation death of a 20-month-old child who was found with his arm and neck tangled in the soccer goal net.

Description: Both soccer goals have a foldable white frame with a white net that is attached by Velcro strips. When upright, the MacGregor goal measures 6 feet wide by 3 feet high and the Mitre net measures 8 feet wide by 6 feet high. Each has a recalled net with squares measuring 5 inches on each side. The MacGregor soccer goal has model number 97236 printed on the assembly instructions and UPC code number 029807972365 printed on the net's packaging. The Mitre soccer goal has model number 89186 printed on the assembly instructions and UPC code number 029807891864 printed on the net's packaging. Nets manufactured after April 2007 with 4 inch by 4 inch square openings are not included in the recall.

Sold at: Wal-Mart, Ace Hardware and sports and toy stores nationwide from May 2002 through May 2008 for \$26.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled soccer goal nets immediately and return them to Regent Sports to receive a free replacement net.

For additional information, contact Regent Sports at (877) 516-9707 between 8 a.m. and 6 p.m. ET Monday through Friday.



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.

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CPSC Recall Hotline 800-638-2772

RECENT RECALLS



Children's Bobbie Socks

Target, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, is recalling about 330,000 pairs of Circo Rosette Bobbie Socks. The ribbon on the sock can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.



Notebook Computers

Sony Electronics Inc., of San Diego, California, is recalling about 73,000 VAIO TZ-series Notebook Computers. Irregularly positioned wires near the computer's hinge and/or a dislodged screw inside the hinge can cause a short circuit and overheating.



Dog Leashes

Worldwise Inc., of San Rafael, California, is recalling about 223,000 SlyDog™ Retractable Dog Leashes. The metal clasp connecting the leash to a dog's collar can bend or break while in use, causing the leash to recoil back unexpectedly.



Pendants and Candle Charms

Benjamin International, of Middlebury, Connecticut, is recalling about 57,000 Fairy Dust Pendants and Candle Charms. The recalled metal pendants and charms contain high levels of lead. Lead is toxic if ingested by young children and can cause adverse health effects.



Toasters

Wal-Mart Stores Inc., of Bentonville, Arkansas, is voluntarily recalling about 210,000 General Electric Toasters. An electrical short circuit can occur between the heating element and the bread cage, posing a fire and electrical shock hazard to consumers.



TV Stands

Studio RTA, of Pico Rivera, California, is recalling about 48,600 TV Stands. The stability of the stands does not meet industry standards to prevent TV tip-over, posing a risk of injury or death to consumers.



Three-Wheeled Scooters

Razor USA LLC, of Cerritos, California, is recalling about 103,000 Razor® PowerWing™ Three-Wheeled Scooters. The undersides of the foot platforms can have sharp edges, posing a laceration hazard to children.



Cordless Screwdrivers

Menards, of Eau Claire, Wisconsin, is recalling about 42,000 MasterForce 3.6-volt Cordless Screwdrivers. The battery can overheat and ignite during charging, posing a fire and burn hazard to consumers.



Remote-Controlled Helicopter Toys

Ashley Collection Inc., d.b.a. Protocol, of New York, New York, is recalling about 78,000 "Protocol" Remote-Controlled Mini Helicopter Toys. The rechargeable battery inside the helicopter can overheat. This can result in the helicopter's body melting, as well as a risk of fire or burns to consumers.



Bookends

Giftco Inc., of Vernon Hills, Illinois, is recalling about 36,000 Harry Potter Bookends. The paint on the bookends contains excessive levels of lead, violating the federal lead paint standard.



For the latest recalls from around the Federal Government.



Deep-Fried Disaster

A man trying to deep-fry a turkey instead wound up destroying his home in Washington, Pennsylvania last Thanksgiving Day.

The oil in the turkey fryer caught fire causing the propane tank that fueled the fryer to explode. The fire ignited the house's wood-framed back porch and then spread to the rest of the house.*

If you are one of the growing numbers of people now using a turkey fryer to cook your turkey for the Thanksgiving holiday, CPSC staff recommends the following safety guidelines:

- Make sure your fryer is certified by an independent testing lab to the following standard: *Outdoor Specialty Gas Cooking Appliances Standard, ANSI Z21.89/CSA 1.18*. Safety features should include maximum fill lines, accurate thermometers, temperature limiting devices to reduce potential for overheating oil, and a stable frame to reduce tip-over hazard.
- Follow manufacturer instructions for assembly and use.
- Keep fryer in FULL VIEW while burner is on and keep it in an open outdoor area AWAY from all walls, fences, or other structures.
- If a fire occurs, immediately call 911. DO NOT attempt to extinguish fire with water.

*Source: Associated Press



Photo courtesy of Montgomery County (MD) Fire & Rescue Service



Midnight Surfer

The Internet never sleeps. Michelle Grundy doesn't sleep much either. Her passion for safe Internet shopping is what's keeping her up, as she scans every corner of the Web searching for **DANGEROUS RECALLED PRODUCTS** — from potentially deadly cribs to magnetic toys and toys with hazardous chemicals. These are products that, without the sharp eyes and fast fingers of Michelle, might be sold to an unsuspecting shopper. And she wants to stop it before it happens.

Grundy is a 10 year veteran and Senior Investigator specializing in Internet surveillance. When she started her career, investigations took her to stores, bazaars and flea markets around the country. In recent years, she and the rest of CPSC's investigative team have widened their search to the Internet to find potentially hazardous products – both new and used. Now, Michelle spends her day looking at the big sites like eBay, Craigslist and Amazon, and small niche, community and local sites too.

Grundy loves her job. "If there's a recalled product out there on the Internet, I'll find it. That's my personal challenge," she says excitedly. "It means a child won't be playing with a dangerous recalled toy or sleeping in a potentially deadly crib. My reward is finding those products, so sellers don't sell them and consumers don't buy them."

How does she do it? Grundy uses all the usual auction sites, online retailers and major search engines. "**I HAVE SOME SECRETS TOO,**" she admits. "CPSC technologists created a highly-intelligent Internet search algorithm that goes way beyond any search engine. It gives me incredible ability to find those products that I'm interested in, then automate the search so I can move onto the next thing."

But don't let her modesty fool you. Human ingenuity and creativity play a huge role in her success. "Sometimes I wake up in the middle of the night, thinking about a new way to run a keyword search to possibly find a recalled product," Grundy says. "It gives me a thrill when it works and I find something I didn't before!"

Her work, and the efforts of others like her at the agency, pays dividends for consumers. The team recently went into action following the tragic death of a child in a bassinet due to a product design problem. Grundy explains, "We put special focus on scouring the Internet for those particular bassinets and cribs. I located dozens on various sites in just a few days. In many cases, I went undercover as an interested buyer to get additional information and photographs to make sure they were the affected models and serial numbers."

She continues to monitor the Internet for **recalled products like cribs and bassinets** long after the recall is announced. "You never know when one might show up," Grundy's experience tells her. "That's kind of the way it is, particularly with used or resold products. It might not even happen for a few months or even years, but **I'LL BE WATCHING AND WAITING** when it does."

For parents and kids across the country, that's good news for a good night's sleep.

