

# U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

## Reporting Guidelines for the Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project - MECAP

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\*This presentation was prepared by CPSC staff. It has not been reviewed or approved by, and may not necessarily reflect the views of, the Commission.



The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's mission is protecting the public against unreasonable risks of injury from consumer products through education, safety standards activities, regulation, and enforcement.

# CPSC'S Need for Death/Injury/ Incident Data

- Set priorities
- Support ban or recall of hazardous products
- Convince industry and others of need for product standard
- Support development of product standards
- Evaluate the effectiveness of product standards
- Develop information and education campaigns to raise public awareness of product safety

# Sources of Data

1. National Electronic Injury Surveillance System
2. Internet Complaints – SaferProducts.gov
3. Hotline Calls
4. News Clips
5. Death Certificates
6. MECAP (Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project)
7. Compliance Reports
8. Federal/State Agency Referrals
9. Other Incident Reports

# MECAP

Medical Examiners and Coroners Alert Project  
abbreviation is MECAP. It is pronounced as  
“MEE-CAP.”

# WHAT IS MECAP?

- MECAP is a program designed to collect timely reports from medical examiners and coroners about fatalities involving a consumer product.
- CPSC staff uses these reports to identify deaths related to the use of a hazardous product.
- CPSC staff reviews and screens each fatality report.

# MEDICAL EXAMINERS AND CORONERS, WE NEED YOUR HELP!

- We have found that medical examiners and coroners provide the most timely death information.



# Medical Examiners and Coroners Partnering with CPSC



**We can make a difference!**

# WHO PARTICIPATES?

Any medical examiner or coroner can participate in the MECAP Project.



Reporting unsafe products is easy!

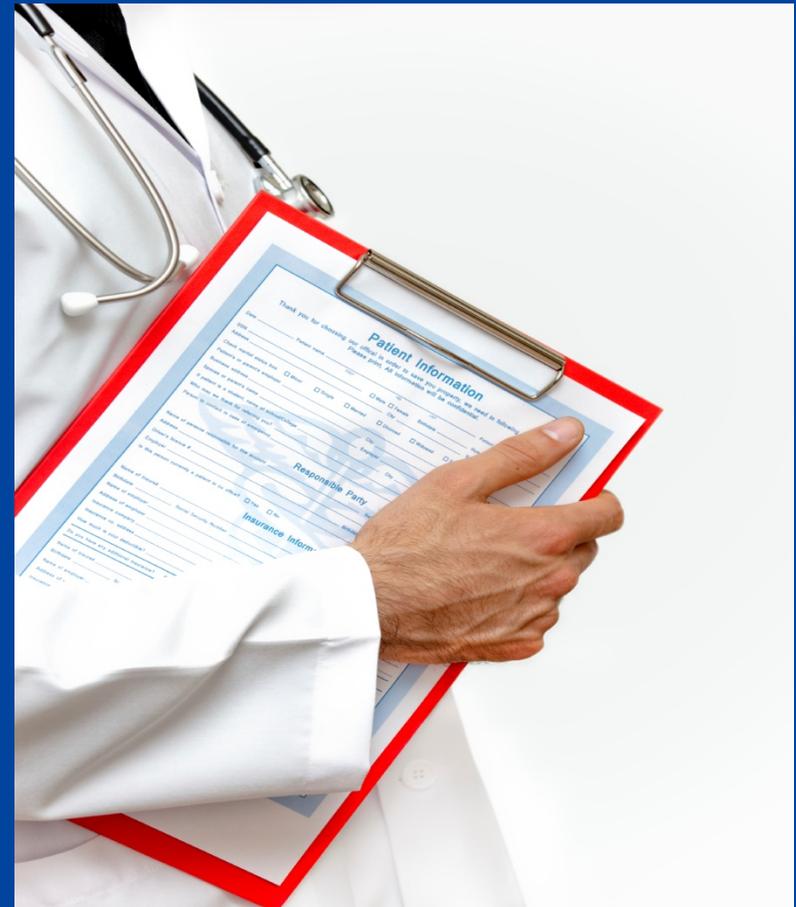
# WHY IS MECAP SO IMPORTANT?

MECAP is the most valuable reporting source that we have for collecting fatality reports.

1. Witness memories of details are fresh.
2. Products involved may still be intact and available for testing.
3. Prevention strategies can be implemented more quickly.

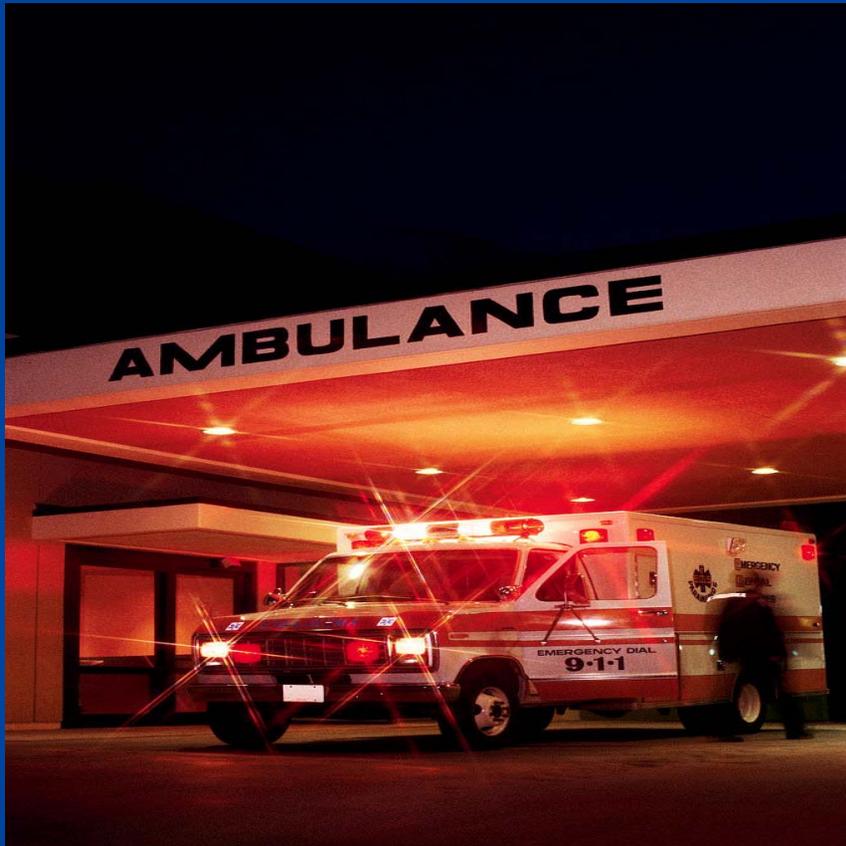
# WHY IS MECAP SO IMPORTANT (cont'd)?

- Additionally, the faster an incident is reported, the faster we can act to remove hazardous products from the marketplace. This translates into injuries prevented and lives saved.



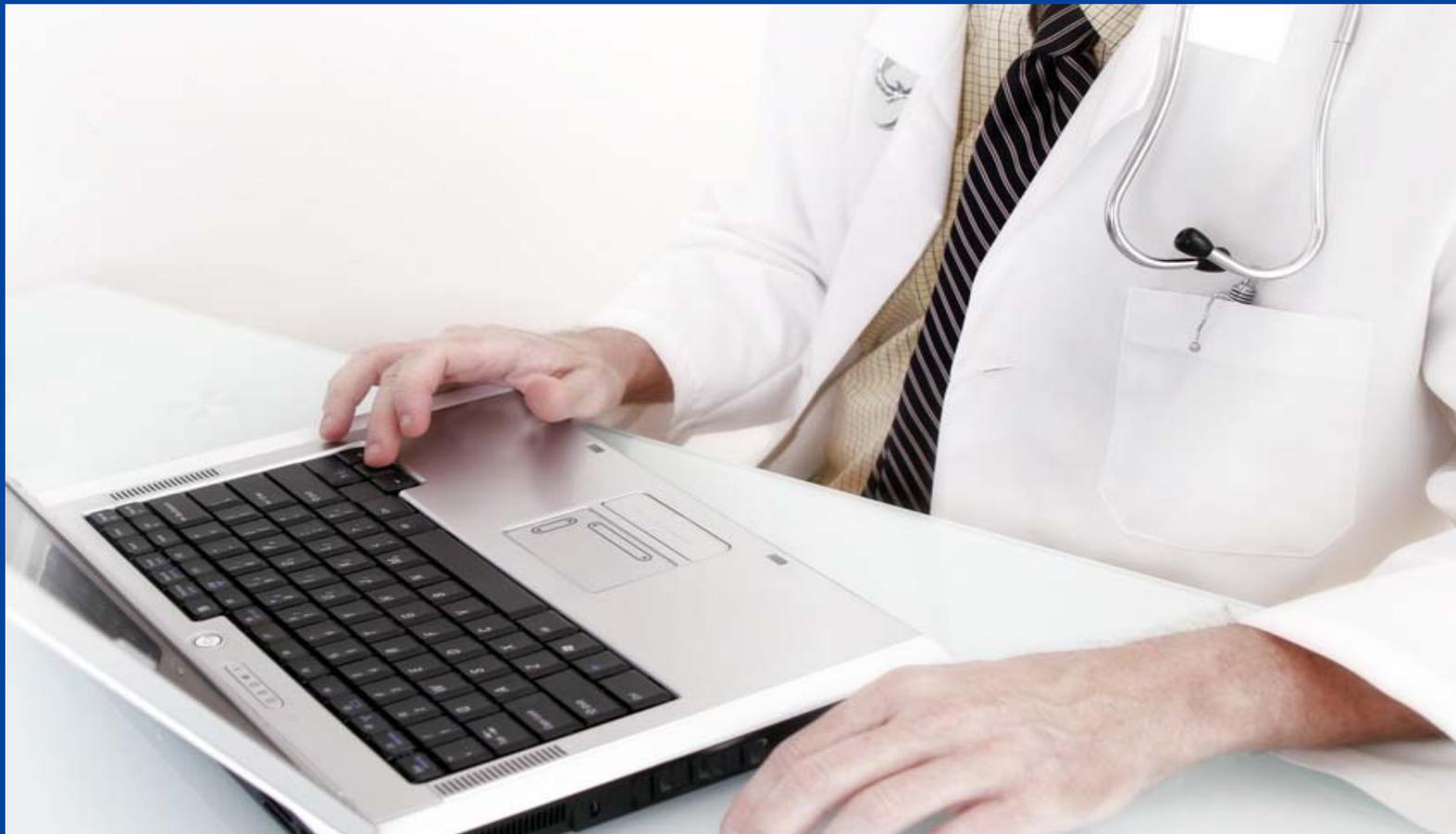
# Accidental Death

Is a leading cause of death in the nation, especially for those under 35.

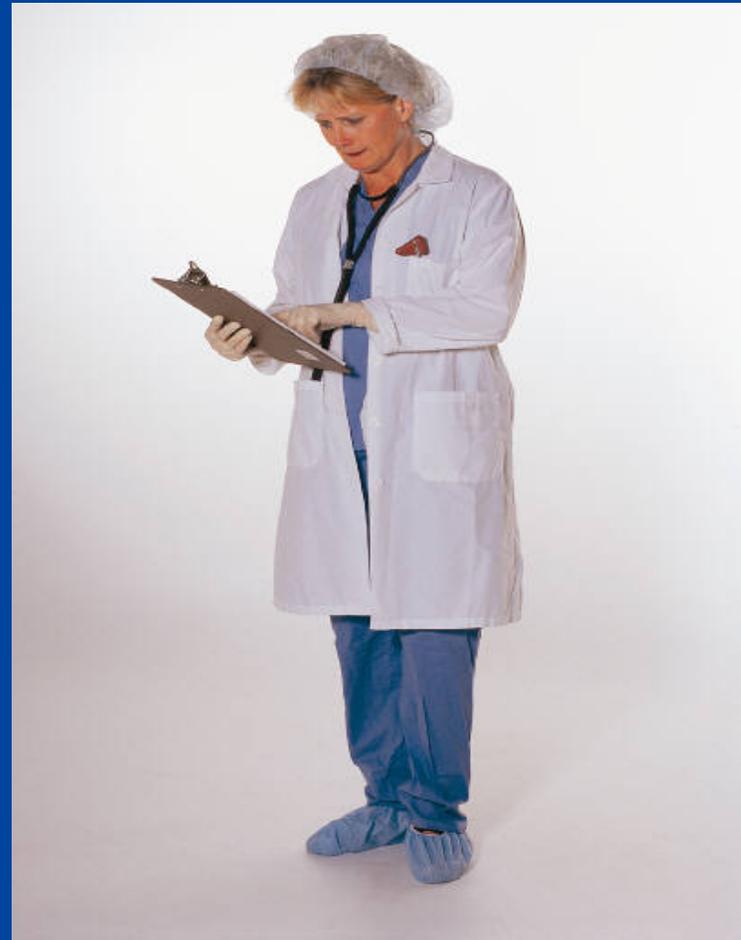


Each year, there are more than 37,200 accidental deaths and more than 38 million injuries related to consumer products .

What does participation involve?  
When should you file a report?  
How do you file reports?



- The simple act of filing a report may save lives.



## COLLECT JUST THE FACTS



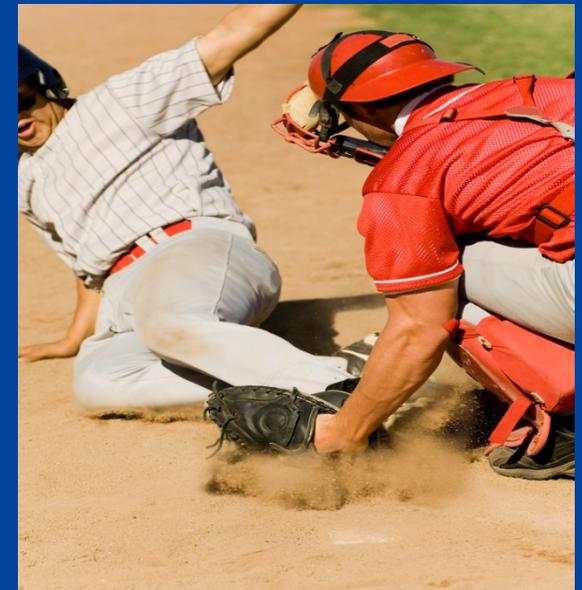
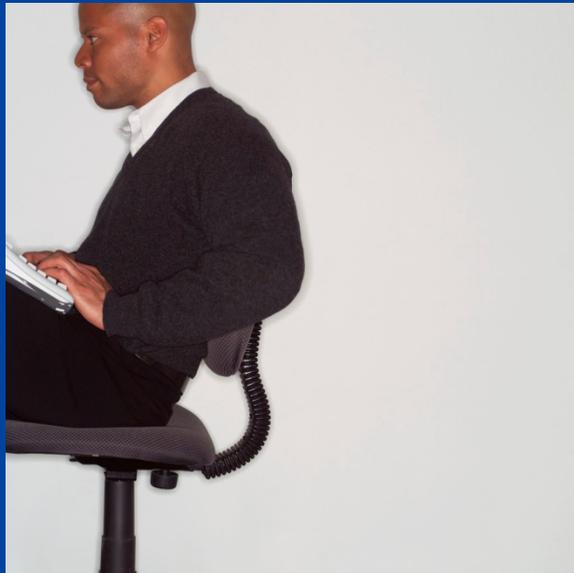
- Date of incident
- Cause of death
- Type of consumer product involved
- Location of the incident
- Description of the incident scenario
- Coroner or Medical Examiner case number
- Availability of the product for inspection
- Contact information for any state or local officials (e.g., police, fire department) who investigated the incident
- Your name, address, and phone number

# Details, Details, Details!

- Our main focus is to receive as much detail as possible about the incident.
- We are looking for any case involving an accidental death associated with a consumer product under the CPSC's jurisdiction.
- We are very interested in products that are defective or hazardous.

# WHAT IS A PRODUCT?

- A consumer product is any article produced or distributed for use by a consumer in or around a home, school, or recreational area.



## Examples of Product-Related Deaths Include

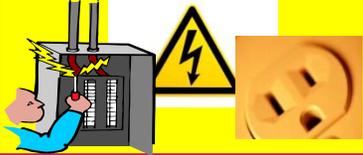
- Deaths related to poisonings (ingestions) and chemical burns to children under 5 associated with drugs, medications, or any other substance;
- Sports or recreational activities
- Stairs, ramps, floors or walls wherever available for use by consumers;
- Infant or nursery equipment
- Toys and games
- Burns or anoxia, which results from fires of fabrics, household goods and home heating and cooling equipment.

# EXAMPLES OF SPECIAL STUDIES



- ATVs
- ROVs
- UTVs

### Electrocutions



### Tip-over incidents

- Televisions
- Furniture
- Appliances




- CO Poisoning
- Portable Generators

### Novelty Lighters



### Submersions

- Pool & Spa
- At-home
- Drain Entrapments



### Safety Packaging (PPPA)



### Flammability

- Fires
- Upholstered Furniture
- Candles
- Mattresses & Bedding



### Toys



### Powered Equipment



### Safe Sleep



If in doubt,



...please report the case,



and we will make the final  
determination of whether the case  
is in scope.

# REPORTING OPTIONS

Reports of product-related deaths can be submitted in several ways:

- PHONE – 1-800-638-8095
- FAX – 301-504-0038
- INTERNET – <http://www.saferproducts.gov>
- E-mail (Excel, MS-Access, Scanned Reports, or Electronic Files of Database)



# SaferProducts.gov – Website

CPSC main site (www.cpsc.gov)

The screenshot shows the CPSC Home page with the following elements:

- Browser address bar: <http://www.cpsc.gov/>
- Navigation menu: Report an Unsafe Product, Contact CPSC, Website Design Feedback, Consumers: Español, Businesses: Español, 中文, Tiếng Việt
- Logo: UNITED STATES CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
- Search bar: Search CPSC.gov
- Menu: Home, Recalls, Safety Education, Regulations, Laws & Standards, Research & Statistics, Business & Manufacturing, Newsroom, About CPSC
- Main Content: Report an Unsafe Product (Are you aware of a potentially hazardous product?), Search Product Safety Reports on SaferProducts.gov, Business Portal on SaferProducts.gov, Connect with Us (On these networks: Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, LinkedIn, RSS, Dribbble, SoundCloud, Flickr, Instagram, Pinterest, Tumblr, Nextdoor), Join the Neighborhood Safety Network, Put CPSC Recalls on Your Website
- News Item: Adult Portable Bed Handles Recalled; 3 Deaths Reported. The bed handles sold by Bed Handles Inc. can shift out of place, creating a dangerous gap between the bed handle and the side of the mattress. Three women died after becoming trapped. Learn More, OnSafety Blog, En Español
- Business Education: Get Started, Testing and Certification
- Regulations, Laws & Standards: Read the Laws and regulations that affect you.

## SaferProducts.gov

The screenshot shows the SaferProducts.gov website with the following elements:

- Navigation menu: CPSC.gov, SaferProducts.gov, PoolSafely.gov, Recalls.gov, ATVsafely.gov
- Logo: SaferProducts.gov
- Buttons: Report An Unsafe Product, Business Register & Respond, Search Recalls & Reports, About, Questions
- Main Content: Welcome Consumers, Report your unsafe product on SaferProducts.gov. Tell CPSC. Then others will know. Get Started
- Search: Report An Unsafe Product, Business Sign In, Search Recalls & Reports, GO, Advanced Search
- Most Searched: Appliances, Clothes Dryers, Cribs, Fuel Gas, Strollers
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Connect with Us: Twitter, YouTube, Facebook, RSS
- Recent News: SaferProducts.gov, CPSC Launches New Consumer Product Safety Information Database, Mar 11, 2011, Public Database Web Conferences, Business Focused Web Conference, Jan 20, 2011, Consumer Focused Web Conference, Jan 11, 2011, Notice of Public Web Conferences, Federal Register, Jan 07, 2011

## Report an Unsafe Product

Questions? Call (800) 638-2772

OMB Control Number 3041-0146

What Happened

People & Injuries

Product

Case Details

Contact

Review

Consent & Submit

How will you use my Report?



### Tell Us What Happened

Please provide us with as many details as you can about your incident or safety concern. More details help CPSC understand what happened.

\* = Required

\* Incident Description:

Check Spelling

Done

Trusted sites

100%

MEDICAL EXAMINER'S/CORONER'S REPORTING FORM

To report a case by telephone, call (toll free) 1-800-638-8095. Say "THIS IS A MECAP REPORT." You will then be placed in contact with the MECAP Project Manager for your state, who will ask for the information noted below, or send by e-mail to [ynash@cpsc.gov](mailto:ynash@cpsc.gov), fax to 1-800-809-0924, or file a report at [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov).

Date of accident \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Death \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Accident: City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Type of consumer product involved \_\_\_\_\_

Manufacturer, Model, Brand name, and Serial No. of product \_\_\_\_\_

Is product available for examination? \_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_ No. If Yes, where? \_\_\_\_\_

Cause of Death: \_\_\_\_\_

Location of Death: City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

Brief description of accident sequence: (Please include the AGE and SEX of the VICTIM(S).)

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Contact Information: Please include the name, address and telephone number of any state/local personnel who investigated the accident.

Medical Examiner's/Coroner's Case No. \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone No. \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date Reported \_\_\_\_\_

Reporter's Off. (incl. City, county, & state) \_\_\_\_\_

Medical Examiner's/Coroner's Name \_\_\_\_\_

For processing at CPSC: Report received by: \_\_\_\_\_

Chief Med. Exam. Rpt ( ) Copy for MECAP News ( )

Regular MECAP ( ) Document No. \_\_\_\_\_

# WHAT CPSC CAN DO FOR YOU?

1. We can provide data on cases of hazards or special interest to you and your community.
2. We can provide press releases/other materials to help warn area consumers of hazards.
3. We can pay your office for providing product-related death information to CPSC.

# BENEFITS OF MECAP SUBSCRIPTION

1. Educates and alerts the public
2. Provides the opportunity to investigate the incident
3. Facilitates networking with colleagues on shared challenges.
4. Offers greater opportunity to remove hazardous products from the marketplace.
5. Provides multiple reporting options, including possibility for payment.
6. Free subscription.

Working together, we can all make a difference in reducing the unreasonable risk of injury and deaths from consumer products.

**You can help prevent injuries  
and save lives by participating  
in MECAP**

**... and help the CPSC  
make consumer  
products safer for  
everyone.**



Please join us in this  
worthwhile endeavor

Together, we can help America become a marketplace where consumer products are reasonably free from defects and hidden hazards.



# CPSC Stands For Safety

- Websites:

[www.cpsc.gov](http://www.cpsc.gov)

[www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov)

[www.recalls.gov](http://www.recalls.gov)

- Office of Communications

- Toll-free hotline 1-800-638-CPSC (1-800-638-2772)

- National Injury Information Clearinghouse

- Freedom of Information Act (FOIA)

- Additional links

[www.cpsc.gov/library/data.html](http://www.cpsc.gov/library/data.html) - Hazard Analysis reports for a variety of hazards

<http://www.youtube.com/uscpsc> - CPSC YouTube Channel

<https://twitter.com/USCPSC> - Twitter

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/uscpsc> - view photos of unsafe products

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cgi-bin/javascripts/widgetrss.html> - widget that can be added to your website

<http://www.cpsc.gov/onsafety/category/safety-blogs/> - CPSC safety blog

# QUESTIONS?

- YOLANDA NASH
- [ynash@cpsc.gov](mailto:ynash@cpsc.gov)
- 1-800-638-8095 ext. 7502
- [www.saferproducts.gov](http://www.saferproducts.gov)
- <http://www.cpsc.gov/en/research--statistics/mecap/>

**WE COULD NOT DO  
THIS WITHOUT YOUR  
HELP!**

**Thank You!**