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CASE NO. CA060037

SUPERVISOR NOTIFIED
 COMMENTS: YES NO
 OVERRULED: ATTACHED
 EXCISIONS/FOIA Ex: ES
 Revisions
 DO NOT RE-NOTIFY RE-NOTIFY

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T. Tooka
COMPLIANCE OFFICER

Sportstuff Inc.
FIRM

Leroy Peterson owner
CONTACT

Bell
LEGAL DIVISION ATTORNEY

11213 E Circle #A
FIRM ADDRESS

CONTACT FIRM

Kite tube
PRODUCT

Omaha NE 68137
CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

CONTACT FIRM ADDRESS

impact/fall
HAZARD

sportstuff.com
FIRM WEBSITE ADDRESS

CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE

Release

402 592 9085
TEL. NO.

402 592 1354
FAX NO.

E-MAIL

\$ 4 Folders

07/04/2006 22:51:21

Name = [REDACTED]
Address = [REDACTED]

City = Davenport

State = Iowa

Zip = 52806

Email = [REDACTED]

Telephone = [REDACTED]
Name of Victim = [REDACTED]
Victim's Address = [REDACTED]

Victim's City = Bettendorf

Victim's State = Iowa

Victim's Zip = 52722

Victim's Telephone = [REDACTED]

Incident Description: My brother in law, Scott Olderog, was using a tube kite at approximately 25 ft above water when he lost control (the tube turned in the air) and lost grip. He fell to the water and was knocked unconscious for several minutes. Luckily, two nurses were watching and helped (along with several others) to stabilize him while we attempted to contact the ambulance. He is currently in the intensive care unit for observation of a broken blood vessel in his brain.

Victim's age at time of incident = 30

Victim's sex = Male

Date of incident = 7/4/06

Product involved = Tube kite

Product brand name/manufacturer = Wego

Manufacturer street address = unknown

Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = unknown

Product involved still available = Yes

Product model and serial number, manufacture date = unknown at this time

Date product purchased = on ebay, June 2006

Name Release = Release name to manufacturer only

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 9:39 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Lewis, Johnnie
Subject: FW: Recall of Sportsstuff Wego kite tubes

Just FYI

From: support@shootnhunt.com [mailto:support@shootnhunt.com]
Sent: Wed 7/26/2006 7:23 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Re: Recall of Sportsstuff Wego kite tubes

I have inactivated the item. This was an oversight. I apologize.

support@shootnhunt.com

At 05:18 PM 7/26/2006, you wrote:

Att:

J & M Hunting Supplies and Marine
2 Grady Williams Circle
Aiken, SC 29805

We have become aware that your firm is continuing to sell this Sportsstuff product, despite it being voluntarily recalled by the manufacturer on July 13, 2006.

http://www.shootnhunt.com/catalog/JM/wego_kite_tube/5405759e.html

Please see the full press release and immediately contact Sportstuff for additional information regarding how to proceed. If you have any questions feel free to contact me directly.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06210.html> <?xml:namespace prefix = o ns = "urn:schemas-microsoft-com:office:office" />

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this

e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do

7/27/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Wednesday, July 26, 2006 5:19 PM
To: support@shootnhunt.com
Subject: Recall of Sportsstuff Wego kite tubes

Att:
J & M Hunting Supplies and Marine
2 Grady Williams Circle
Aiken, SC 29805

We have become aware that your firm is continuing to sell this Sportsstuff product, despite it being voluntarily recalled by the manufacturer on July 13, 2006. http://www.shootnhunt.com/catalog/JM/wego_kite_tube/5405759e.html

Please see the full press release and immediately contact Sportstuff for additional information regarding how to proceed. If you have any questions feel free to contact me directly. <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml/06/06210.html>

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

7/27/2006

H

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Barton, Keven J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 11:59 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Non-Effective REC

The following REC is non-effective.

Investigator: Richard Loera
Recall Number: CA060037
Assign Number: 060714CRM1008

Firm Name:
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Product: Kite Tube

Firm Inspected:
Little Chapel of the Flowers
1717 Las Vegas Blvd., South
Las Vegas, NV 89104

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 12:05 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: kite tube incident count

Just to clarify, from my recent discussion with Marc Schoem:

We have 40 incidents associated with kite tubes. One is a Manta Ray; 39 are either Wego kite tubes or unknown brands.

Of the 39, two are deaths. At least 29 required medical attention, including those injuries listed below.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 10:43 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count

As of 10:30 am on July 12, CPSC staff is aware of 40 incidents associated with kite tubes, including 2 deaths.

Among the injuries resulting from kite tube incidents are:

Cracked vertebrae, broken vertebrae, punctured lungs, broken ribs, injured spleens, broken hips, splintered/broken femurs, head injuries, neck injuries, broken teeth, facial trauma, loss of consciousness in water, respiratory injuries, severed aortas, bruised chests, broken ankle, lung contusions, kidney contusions, other internal bruising, internal bleeding, torn muscles, strained muscles and death.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 9:28 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count
Importance: High

Has the count total changed? Just want the most accurate number. Also Marc wants me to list the types of injuries tell me if I would be correct in saying Fatalities, ruptured aortas, fractures to legs, arms, collar bones, hips, and ribs, concussions, neck fracture, broken noses, rib cartilage swelling, lacerated spleen, and bruised internal organs. Am I missing any types of injuries that you can think of?

7/12/2006

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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 2:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: kite tube incident count

As of 2:30 pm on July 11, CPSC staff is aware of 35 injury incidents involving kite tubes. Two of the 35 resulted in deaths.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:52 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: 7/05/06. Woman injured in kite tubing accident. Union Lake, MI.

I think a press release might be going out tomorrow on this if not Thursday from what Marc tells me. Can you get us an official count for the press release?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Porter, Diane R.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 1:04 PM
To: Kumagai, Mark E.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: PSA 0635.06 ATV - request for assignment

Attachments: 0635-06.doc



0635-06.doc (59
KB)

*Ms. Diane Porter, PSA Coordinator
US, CPSC
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

*phone: 301 424-6421 ext.122
fax: 301 413-7107*

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Staebell, Eugene E.
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2006 5:59 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Blasius, Dennis R.; Nava, Frank J.
Subject: Wego Kite Tube recall question

During the recall checks, one of my investigators contacted a firm that only sells over the Internet. The question arose, does an on-line retailer have to post the recall poster on their website? Is so what is acceptable, the whole poster or a note on the product indicating it was recalled. How visible does the recall announcement have to be on the firm's website?

gene

Eugene E. Staebell
Supervisory Investigator
Consumer Product Safety Commission
10842 SE 208th Street, #273
Kent, WA 98031
PN: 253-631-6806
FAX: 775-248-5792

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 10:54 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Stern, Richard L.; Vallese, Julie M.
Subject: FW: Wego Kite Tubes

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Cohn, Murray S.
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 9:19 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Wego Kite Tubes

FYI

-----Original Message-----

From: Christin, Jack [mailto:jchristin@ebay.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 9:17 AM
To: Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Re: Wego Kite Tubes

Hi Murray---we will remove this right away. Thanks, Jack

-----Original Message-----

From: Cohn, Murray S. <MCohn@cpsc.gov>
To: Christin, Jack
Sent: Wed Jul 19 07:03:58 2006
Subject: Wego Kite Tubes

Jack, could you please pull the auction at

http://cgi.ebay.com/WEGO-KITE-TUBE_W0QQitemZ260010315008QQihZ016QQcategoryZ71169QQssPageNameZWDVWQQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem

This item has been recalled
(<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06210.html>)

That is the only Wego Kite Tube I could find on eBay, but if other people try to sell them obviously they should be pulled. It is interesting that the "related guides" section is full of warnings about the hazards of kite tubes.

Thanks, Murray

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.

Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 2:09 PM

To: Bell, Belinda V.; Schoem, Marc J.; Blasius, Dennis R.

Subject: Kite Tube Class Action Law Suit Site

Kite Tube Class Action Law Suit Site <http://www.kitetubelawsuits.com/>

//

7/17/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 1:05 PM
To: EVERYONE
Subject: CPSC Newslog 06-125: Kite Tube Recall, TV Tipover, Civil Penalty, Recall

- 1. ABCNews.com: New Sport of Kite Tubing Suffers Blow After Major Consumer Recall**
<http://abcnews.go.com/Health/story?id=2192150&page=1>
- 2. WUSA TV (DC): Follow-Up: Tube Kite Recalled**
http://wusa9.com/consumer/consumer_article.aspx?storyid=50768
- 3. Associated Press (Columbus, OH): Kite Tubes Involved in Two Deaths Recalled (7/14/06)**
<http://www.duluthsuperior.com/mld/duluthsuperior/news/politics/15038551.htm>
- 4. Deseretnews.com (Utah): Kite Tubes Are Recalled (7/14/06)**
<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640194734,00.html>
- 5. KVUE TV (Austin): Houston Woman On Recently Recalled Water Sports Product (7/13/06)**
<http://www.kvue.com/news/state/stories/071306kvuewaterkitrecall-cb.c98db9a.html>
- 6. Milwaukee Journal Sentinel: Kite Tubes Pulled From The Market**
<http://www.jsonline.com/story/index.aspx?id=466973>
- 7. Houston Chronicle: Falling TVs pose a growing danger (7/14/06)**
<http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/front/4046204.html>
- 8. Google News: Family Dollar Fined**
<http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ned=us&ie=UTF-8&filter=0&q=%22family+dollar%22+and+%22fined%22>
- 9. Google News: Ryobi Recalling 145,000 Electric Saws (7/14/06)**
<http://news.google.com/news?hl=en&ned=us&ie=UTF-8&ncl=http://www.allheadlinenews.com/articles/7004209179>
- 10. The Northender (NY): Nassau Legislators Set Sight On BB Gun Sales (7/14/06)**
http://www.northender.com/northend_news_details.jsp?id=211
- 11. The Shreveport Times: Keep Your Child Out of the ER This Summer (7/13/06)**
<http://www.shreveporttimes.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=/20060713/LIVING/307140004/1004>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ault, Eric B.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 11:22 AM
To: Vallese, Julie M.; Schoem, Marc J.; Stern, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.; Cave, Carol J.; Beatty, Denise P
Cc: Kohen, Beverly J.; Gabriel, Susan S.
Subject: FW: Press Release
Attachments: cpsc recall 2006.wpd; cpsc recall 2006.doc

State of Florida issued the attached press release as follow-up to our Sportstuff kite tube recall announcement.

State Designee JR Kelly told me that they would visit the three Florida distributors listed in the distribution information provided by the firm (forwarded by March Schoem previously) and that they would let us know the results of those visits.

Eric Ault
 Director,
 CFIE

From: Kelly, J.R. [mailto:kellyjr@doacs.state.fl.us]
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 10:11 AM
To: Ault, Eric B.
Subject: FW: Press Release



J.R. Kelly
 Director, Division of Consumer Services
 2005 Apalachee Parkway
 Tallahassee, FL 32301
 (850) 922-2966
 (800) HELP-FLA
www.800helpfla.com

From: Mcelroy, Terry
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 4:51 PM
To: Land, Walt; Burke, Frost; _Web Help
Cc: Kelly, J.R.; Driggers, Paul; Compton, Liz
Subject: Press Release

Walt, Frost – Please issue the attached press release.

Webhelp – Please post the attached press release on the website.

JR, Paul, Liz – Your copies.

tmc

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7/17/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 11:48 AM
To: Ault, Eric B.; Kohen, Beverly J.; Nava, Frank J.; Ross, Robin M.; Vallese, Julie M.; Wolfson, Scott J.; 'Kelly, J.R.'
Cc: Stern, Richard L.; Beatty, Denise P; Smith, Judy H.; Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Mullan, John G.
Subject: Sportsstuff Website Registration and Poster

FYI,

Sportsstuff has now added the Recall Poster to its website so Investigators can download it and give it to stores if the store does not have the poster (or the store itself can download it and post it).

The firm has also put a consumer registration form on its website so consumers can go directly to the website (avoiding the 800 number) and find out how to return pieces of the kite tube and register to receive the replacement products being offered. Use of the firm's website is much easier then trying to get through on the 800 number.

www.sportsstuff.com

Marc J. Schoem

Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Suite 610
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

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Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 6:40 AM
To: Beatty, Denise P; Ault, Eric B.; Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.
Subject: RE: Emailing: 06210

Marc, is there a list available yet of the retailers so that FL can act on this recall?
JR Kelly is our designee.

From: Beatty, Denise P
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 6:18 AM
To: Kohen, Beverly J.; Ault, Eric B.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Bev and Eric:

See the email below about recall checks. Can you coordinate with JR/Sue Gabriel? Since these are very popular in Florida, please keep OIPA in the loop about any press in Florida. Thanks.

*Denise P. Beatty, Director
State and Local Programs
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
(301) 504-7676
dbeatty@cpsc.gov*

From: Kelly, J.R. [<mailto:kellyjr@doacs.state.fl.us>]
Sent: Thu 7/13/2006 4:21 PM
To: Gabriel, Susan S.
Cc: Beatty, Denise P
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Sue -- what do you think?.....if you want to discuss, please give me a call at 850-922-2966.....JR



J.R. Kelly
Director, Division of Consumer Services
2005 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 922-2966
(800) HELP-FLA
www.800helpfla.com

From: Driggers, Paul
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 2:48 PM
To: Kelly, J.R.
Cc: Mcelroy, Terry
Subject: RE: Emailing: 06210

JR---If we can find out what retailers may have been selling these tubes, do you think it is worth our inspectors in South Florida looking around for them? Paul

-----Original Message-----
From: Mcelroy, Terry

7/17/2006

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Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 2:38
To: Driggers, Paul
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Paul – By the way, this is the recall notice upon which the press release I sent you is based.
tmc

From: Mcelroy, Terry
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 1:07 PM
To: Kelly, J.R.
Cc: Salario, Mike; Steckler, Tom
Subject: Emailing: 06210

JR - Al Sunshine of CBS TV in Miami called about this today, and said it's a pretty big deal - that these things are really popular in South Florida. Do you think we should put out a press release on it, reinforcing the recall notice that the CPSC has issued?

Terry

NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 13, 2006
Release #06-210

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 831-5524
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 633-7267
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7000

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Sportsstuff, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska is voluntarily recalling about 19,000 Wego Kite Tubes.

CPSC staff is aware of 39 injury incidents with 29 of those resulting in medical treatment. Those injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries. Sportsstuff has received reports of two deaths in the United States and a variety of serious injuries. Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the cause of the incidents. Nevertheless, the company has withdrawn the kite tube from the market and is undertaking this voluntary recall out of an abundance of caution.

The Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube is a 10-foot-wide, circular, yellow inflatable watercraft designed to be towed behind a power boat. A rider in the tube becomes airborne by pulling on handles attached to the floor of the tube. Model 53-5000 is printed on the tube near the product valve. The floor of the tube has black caution warning stripes. The cover for the product bears a skull and crossbones and the statement "Never Kite higher than you are willing to fall." The tubes were imported and sold through marine distributors, mail order catalogs, and various retailers from approximately October 1, 2005 to July 11, 2006 for about \$500 to \$600.

Consumers should immediately stop using the kite tubes and contact Sportsstuff at (866) 831-5524 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday to learn how to obtain free replacement products. Consumers can also visit the firm's Web site at www.sportsstuff.com for more information.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Kerr, Marcia
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 6:42 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Sportsstuff kite tube recall

Early this morning I sent the kite tube recall announcement to the many contacts who were getting all the earlier "tube" info from me. The response has been great--people are very excited that CPSC was able to move so quickly on this.

Good work!!

Marcia Kerr, Product Safety Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
25422 Trabuco Rd, #105-394
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-829-8249
775-262-9611 Fax

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 10:43 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count

As of 10:30 am on July 12, CPSC staff is aware of 40 incidents associated with kite tubes, including 2 deaths.

Among the injuries resulting from kite tube incidents are:

Cracked vertebrae, broken vertebrae, punctured lungs, broken ribs, injured spleens, broken hips, splintered/broken femurs, head injuries, neck injuries, broken teeth, facial trauma, loss of consciousness in water, respiratory injuries, severed aortas, bruised chests, broken ankle, lung contusions, kidney contusions, other internal bruising, internal bleeding, torn muscles, strained muscles and death.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 9:28 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count
Importance: High

Has the count total changed? Just want the most accurate number. Also Marc wants me to list the types of injuries tell me if I would be correct in saying Fatalities, ruptured aortas, fractures to legs, arms, collar bones, hips, and ribs, concussions, neck fracture, broken noses, rib cartilage swelling, lacerated spleen, and bruised internal organs. Am I missing any types of injuries that you can think of?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 2:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: kite tube incident count

As of 2:30 pm on July 11, CPSC staff is aware of 35 injury incidents involving kite tubes. Two of the 35 resulted in deaths.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:52 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: 7/05/06. Woman injured in kite tubing accident. Union Lake, MI.

I think a press release might be going out tomorrow on this if not Thursday from what Marc tells me. Can you get us an official count for the press release?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Stern, Richard L.
Subject: RE: ES assessment

Tanya,

Speak to Richard on this.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:51 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: ES assessment

I spoke to Troy and he cannot make an assessment without some outside help from my understanding. I still think it would be beneficial to have the two tubes tests even if we had to use an outside contract aero dynamic tester. We have to be able to answer the question of why we are not recalling the Manta Ray. I don't see how I can close that case without an ES assessment. Let me know your thoughts. So I can get back to Engineering on the PSA request and let them know if they should be tested or if we are canceling those PSAs.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 3:28 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: kite tubing accidents

Does this generally match with what we have? the seven in Arkansas don't sound familiar. We can start contacting these states next week...

From: Tim Smalley [mailto:Tim.Smalley@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Fri 7/7/2006 8:54 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: kite tubing accidents

Hi Dennis - I did a quick survey of my counterparts in other states about who has kite tubing accidents on the books so far -

- 3 in AZ
- 1 CA (fatal)
- 1 Wisc (fatal)
- 4 NC
- 1 Tenn
- 1 Virginia - collapsed lung, torn liver
- 1 UT
- 7 AR
- 1 SD
- 1 OH
- 4 (maybe 5 if the one in Tower gets to us)

Tim

Timothy M. Smalley
MN DNR Boating Education Coordinator
(651) 259-5354
Take the official Minnesota boating safety course on-line at
<http://boat-ed.com/mn/>

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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7/10/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Vallese, Julie M.
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 11:02 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Kite Tubes

FYI. I have not responded yet to her. Basically the Army Corp of Engineers is wondering what to do, and wants to know CPSC next steps.

From: Nutt, Lynda G NWW [mailto:Lynda.G.Nutt@nww01.usace.army.mil]
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 10:55 AM
To: Vallese, Julie M.
Subject: Kite Tubes

Julie:

As a public safety program manager for the Corps, I wanted to touch base with you to share the immense amount of concern my agency is having over the appearance of kite tubes on our nation's waters. I have recently been asked to further research these devices and make recommendations to our leadership on whether the Corps imposes a nationwide ban in our management areas. Just to update you, we now have several regional Corps offices that have temporarily banned kite tubes from lakes and waterways within their jurisdiction, including the Tulsa, Little Rock, and Vicksburg Districts (basically Mississippi to Texas and north to Missouri and Kansas), but to date we have not moved to ban them unilaterally.

Through my discussions with other agencies (including National Park Service, National Assn of State Boating Law Administrators and US Coast Guard), I've learned that some actions have been taken (NPS limited ban) while most agencies are watching each other to see how they respond.

Our concerns are soundly based: we're trying to protect the public from their own recklessness. As the nation's largest provider of outdoor recreation (primarily water-based), we deal almost daily with issues related to recreational accidents and fatalities. We realize that every time a new type of extreme recreation activity or equipment is introduced, we're bound to see an increase in related accidents. While stepping up our educational outreach works in some situations, there are other situations that require control. I know that CPSC knows and understands this.

It would help me to know if CPSC has any intention of controlling these particular devices further (outside of the news release that warns of their inherent risk). Has further information been gathered by your agency? For instance, I understand that the manufacturers are claiming that they can be operated safely and that the control is up to the boat operator. With the goal being to get the device airborne, I suspect that the control goes out the door once they do get up in the air. The injuries we've learned about resulted when the kite took a sudden nose-dive or the rider fell off the airborne device. The more research I do, the more videos I watch, the less

7/10/2006

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convinced I am that these can be operated safely. I also see a side issue with these related to the boat operator – the amusement of seeing these devices airborne is distracting boat operators' attention from driving the boat.

I would appreciate any insight you can provide us as we move through this review.

Lynda Nutt
Manager
US Army Corps of Engineers
National Operations Center for Water Safety
(208) 773-8442 Office
(208) 699-5944 Cell

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155-4046

July 10, 2006

For immediate release

For more information contact:
Tim Smalley DNR boating safety
(651) 259-5354

Safety advisory issued on tube kiting

In the wake of a number of accidents this summer, the Minnesota DNR is cooperating with the Consumer Product Safety Commission in advising extreme care in the use of so-called "tube kites". Tube kites are large, wide, sometimes saucer or delta-shaped inflatable tubes that are towed behind boats at speeds between 25 to 35 MPH. The speed of the boat causes the tube to lift into the air with its passenger(s), at times to 30 or more feet.

"To date, we have seen a half a dozen personal injury accidents in Minnesota this summer where the riders have either fallen or been thrown off tube kite type devices. A plunge from 15 or more feet while the boat is moving at 30 miles per hour can cause severe injury or even death," said Tim Smalley, MN DNR boating safety specialist.

In a tube kite accident on Eagle Lake in Kandiyohi County Minnesota on July 4th, the boat operator thought the tube kite he was towing was going too high. As he slowed down hoping to lower the tube, it dove 15 feet into the water with the victim. The victim was seen floating face down in the water kept afloat only by his life jacket. He was unconscious for about 30 seconds. He was eventually taken to the hospital by his wife and treated for a perforated eardrum.

On June 25, on Fish Trap Lake in Morrison County Minnesota on June 25, a 19 year old fell 20 or 25 feet from a tube kite towed by his father and landed face down in the water. He complained of chest pains and was eventually

transported to Hennepin County Medical Center in Minneapolis in critical condition.

In a Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) warning on tube kites released on June 30, they noted that possible reasons for incidents and injuries include a rider's difficulty in controlling the tube, boat operator inexperience, and how the tube reacts in certain weather conditions. Conditions of highest concern to the CPSC are wind gusts that can cause the tube to spin out of control, or sudden stopping or slowing by the boat operator. According to the CPSC, slowing can cause the tube to nose dive and hit the water or allow the tube rider to continue past the top of the boat and hit either the towing boat, another watercraft or other objects such as a bridge.

At least three tube kite fatalities have occurred this summer in the US, as well as at least two-dozen personal injury accidents. Injuries noted by the CPSC include heart and lung trauma, broken neck, back injury, jaw fracture, concussion, cracked ribs, perforated eardrum and broken limbs.

"We want to help the Consumer Product Safety Commission alert Minnesota water recreation enthusiasts to the danger of falling into the water at dangerous heights from one of these water toys," Smalley said. "Just because you're coming down into the water, doesn't necessarily make for a soft, cushy landing; especially when you can be going 30 miles an hour face first."

###

Note to editor – the Consumer Products Safety Commission warning on tube kiting may be viewed at <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06202.html>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 2:14 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: From the Daily Oklahoman

just FYI

From: Tim Smalley [mailto:Tim.Smalley@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Mon 7/10/2006 1:12 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: From the Daily Oklahoman

Publication:The Oklahoman;**Date:**Jun 30, 2006;**Section:**Weather;**Page Number:**22

Corps bans kite tubing on state lakes

Uncontrollable water sport blamed for serious injuries, two fatalities

By Chad Previch, Staff Writer Chad Previch: 475-3465, cprevich@oklahoman.com

TULSA — The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has issued a ban at all its Oklahoma lakes on a new water sport called kite tubing.

A large tube is pulled by a speedboat and as wind catches the tube, it soars into the air. If anything goes wrong, such as a wind shift, the tubes can crash into the water at speeds in excess of 50 mph, said Ross Adkins, corps spokesman.

"They're just towed by a single rope and when they get airborne, there is no controlling them," Adkins said. "You've seen how a kite will just take a dive to the ground, and that's what they're doing."

There have been two serious kite tubing accidents in Oklahoma, three in Arkansas and one in Texas. There have been two deaths, Adkins said. Neither of those was in Oklahoma.

The ban covers all of Oklahoma, the southern half of Kansas and northern Texas. The Corps oversees 28 lakes in Oklahoma.

Adkins said this is the first year kite tubes have been spotted in Oklahoma. "It's just so dangerous that we feel ... we can't do anything else but ban them from our lakes," he said.

Victim wants sales stopped

Ryan Ecker, 30, said he's glad the ban has occurred. He works at David's Sport Center in Oklahoma City and racked up \$8,000 in medical bills after crashing a kite tube into the water. He broke two ribs, bruised his legs and suffered a concussion. "It about sent me to my death," he said. "I mean, it destroyed me. It's why we quit selling them. It's insane. It's just ridiculous." He was injured while kite tubing May 31 at Northwood Lake in Piedmont. His store stopped selling the tubes in the spring. The kite tubes cost about \$500 and are about 10 feet in diameter, Ecker said. Since his crash, Ecker called the president of the company that manufactures them and asked that it stop selling the tubes. Mark Brown of the Oklahoma Lake Patrol said his department supports the ban. "There's something that needs to be looked into so the public doesn't get injured more than they already have," he said.

Timothy M. Smalley
MN DNR Boating Education Coordinator
(651) 259-5354
Take the official Minnesota boating safety course on-line at
<http://boat-ed.com/mn/>

>>> "Blasius, Dennis R." <DBlasius@cpsc.gov> 7/8/2006 10:25 AM >>>

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thanks Tim

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Tim Smalley [mailto:Tim.Smalley@dnr.state.mn.us]
Sent: Sat 7/8/2006 9:28 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Fwd: Re: [Education] Kite tubing question

Iowa reports one kite tube accident with broken leg and ankle.
Tim

Timothy M. Smalley
MN DNR Boating Education Coordinator
(651) 259-5354
Take the official Minnesota boating safety course on-line at
<http://boat-ed.com/mn/>

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this
e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do
not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety
Commission.

Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent
to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by
CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following
web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 2:06 PM
To: Bernstein, Marc M.
Subject: 060614HCC3603 CONFIDENTIAL AND PRIVLEDGED
Importance: High

Marc,
Did you complete this IDI? You mention that the consumer is considering joining a class action suit. Can you elaborate on this? Whose attorney is doing a class action? From what I have heard the TX fatality attorney is not doing a class action is it someone else or did he not disclose this suit to us?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

Brown & Gidding, P.C.

3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.

St. 242

Washington, DC 20016

Telephone: 202-237-6008

Fax: 202-237-5259

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 9:49 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Stern, Richard L.
Subject: FW: kite tube incident count
Importance: High

Here is what I have. I have Robin Ingle verifying this but I don't know if she will be able to get back to me this morning. See her count listed below and my email below outlining types of injuries. We have two fatalities (TX, WI) there is an unrelated hazard fatality in CA. Outside the US: one death and one injury we are aware of in Canada and one injury in the Bahamas but have not verified those incidents outside the US. I think I got most of the confirmed types of injuries we are seeing but I would not rely on just my word as I may have missed something and Robin would be a checker of my information.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 9:28 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count
Importance: High

Has the count total changed? Just want the most accurate number. Also Marc wants me to list the types of injuries tell me if I would be correct in saying Fatalities, ruptured aortas, fractures to legs, arms, collar bones, hips, and ribs, concussions, neck fracture, broken noses, rib cartilage swelling, lacerated spleen, and bruised internal organs. Am I missing any types of injuries that you can think of?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 2:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: kite tube incident count

As of 2:30 pm on July 11, CPSC staff is aware of 35 injury incidents involving kite tubes. Two of the 35 resulted in deaths.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:52 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: 7/05/06. Woman injured in kite tubing accident. Union Lake, MI.

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I think a press release might be going out tomorrow on this if not Thursday from what Marc told me. Can you get us an official count for the press release?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 7:15 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: MANTA RAY Kite tube FW: H0670082A -- 132" water tube

I can see how this would happen very easily with the Wego Kite Tube. The configuration on the Manta Ray is so different I would have a hard time seeing how someone could get stuck in it but I don't doubt anything in this job so I will send this to Engineering for their consideration in case they haven't thought of that.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 10:25 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: MANTA RAY Kite tube FW: H0670082A -- 132" water tube

Something to consider-- The Pewaukee Lake, WI incident suggests a secondary danger besides hitting the water at speed from height-- are riders also getting their feet trapped in the footholds and then having their legs twisted when they hit the water, causing the broken femurs? That victim described something like this to Christina Fredrick, and it must be more than coincidence that we're seeing so many broken femurs. Might relate to both brands...

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tue 7/11/2006 3:25 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: MANTA RAY Kite tube FW: H0670082A -- 132" water tube

Will assign as HBB unless you two tell me there's some reason not to.

-----Original Message-----

From: Spitler, Virginia R.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 4:21 PM
To: EH-FER; Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: FW: H0670082A -- 132" water tube

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Virginia Spitler
Management & Program Analyst
US Consumer Product Safety Commission
Division of Hazard Analysis
301-504-7301

-----Original Message-----

From: Information Center
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 10:25 AM
To: Emerging Hazards
Subject: H0670082A -- 132" water tube

Product description: 132" water tube
Brand: Mantaray Kite Tube
Model, serial #s, date of mfr: M# ST3950 DOM unknown
Manufacturer: Sevylor Inc.
Distributor: unknown
Dealer: West Marina
State of incident: MI
Injury description: see narrative.

Consumer is concerned tube kiting water sport presents a serious risk of injury.

67 lb., 4'5" tall, son was riding the tube kite while being pulled by a jet ski, at 20 mph. Consumer said the tube did not reach no more than 3 or 4' off the water, which he noticed started to go back and forth and going out of control. As he proceeded to reduce the speed to 15 mph., to land the tube kite, the tube suddenly came down on its side, throwing son off the tube and

hitting the water at full force.

Son was transported by ambulance to Genesis Hospital in Grand Blanc, MI where an x-ray was conducted and determined that son had sustained a broken femur. Physician recommended son be transported to another hospital for operation.

Son was transported to Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak, MI where ER staff re-reviewed x-ray and scheduled son for surgery to be conducted on 7/8/2006 (following day).

7/8/2006 ER physician, Dr. Zelto, conducted surgery where he inserted flex rods into one, on each side, of son's femur. Son was released 7/10/2006. Physician expects full recovery.

If you wish to view the entire document, click on the link: <file://P:\CPSCPRIV\PDFDOCS\IPII\2006\q3\H70082.pdf>

7/12/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Mele, Stephen V.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 1:27 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Ault, Eric B.
Cc: Kohen, Beverly J.
Subject: FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting
Importance: High

These kite tube incidents keep popping up in NC. Chris at NCWRC has requested information on a kite tube incident on Lake Norman, NC (near Charlotte). The only information so far is that the incident is recent and the victim suffered back fractures. I've sent him an email asking for more details.

Stephen V. Mele
U.S. CPSC
Raleigh/Durham Field Office
P.O. Box 52054
Durham, NC 27717
PH: (919) 403-0281
Fax: (775) 908-8050
email: smele@cpsc.gov

From: Mele, Stephen V.
Sent: Thu 7/6/2006 1:17 PM
To: Huebner, Chris A.
Subject: RE: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

Thanks Chris.

We are interested in this case as well.
Could you provide me with the incident date, victim's age, name, address, & phone number, any contact info. you may hav for the boat operator or owner, a synopsis of the incident and any product brand info. on teh kite tube i.e was it Wego or some other brand). Then I can request this ot be assigned for follow-up.

Stephen V. Mele
U.S. CPSC
Raleigh/Durham Field Office
P.O. Box 52054
Durham, NC 27717
PH: (919) 403-0281
Fax: (775) 908-8050
email: smele@cpsc.gov

From: Huebner, Chris A. [<mailto:chris.huebner@ncwildlife.org>]
Sent: Thu 7/6/2006 12:36 PM
To: Townsend, Bill
Cc: Hunter, Russell W.; Mele, Stephen V.
Subject: FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

Captain,
Could you have Dennis Mehl or the investigating officer, if different contact me about this accident on Lake Norman that involved a Tube Kite. We are looking into the dangers of these things and the Consumer Product Safety Commission is looking at taking some kind of action.

7/7/2006

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We are also going to send out a press release to warn the public of this tube.

Thanks

Captain Chris Huebner
Hunter and Boating Safety Coordinator
NCWRC
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh NC 27699-1717
919-707-0030

-----Original Message-----

From: Mark H. Bruton [mailto:lukejack@earthlink.net]
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 11:04 AM
To: Chris Huebner
Subject: Fw: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

----- Original Message -----

From: "Templeton, Keith F." <keith.templeton@ncwildlife.org>
To: "Bruton, Mark H." <lukejack@earthlink.net>
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 4:08 PM
Subject: RE: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> Sgt. Mehl told me today of a recent incident on Lake Norman where a person
> suffered multiple back fractures while tube kiting.

> -----Original Message-----

> From: Mark H. Bruton [mailto:lukejack@earthlink.net]
> Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 3:56 PM
> To: Keith Templeton
> Cc: David Stokes; Kenneth Everhart
> Subject: Fw: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> Don't mean to send so many emails re: to this so if you don't have time to
> read just delete. Pretty informative and something we will be facing
shortly
> I'm sure.

> ----- Original Message -----

> From: Freeman, Thomas E SAW <mailto:Thomas.E.Freeman@saw02.usace.army.mil>
> To: csnow@co.wake.nc.us <mailto:csnow@co.wake.nc.us> ;
> scott.kershner@ncmail.net <mailto:scott.kershner@ncmail.net> ; Mark
> <mailto:lukejack@earthlink.net> H. Bruton
> Cc: DLL-SAW-Falls <mailto:DLL-SAW-Falls@eis01.usace.army.mil>
> Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 2:32 PM
> Subject: FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

- >
- >
- > More on Kite Tubing.
- >
- > Comments from Commander of Little Rock District.
- > Note the comments near the bottom of the first message on enforcement by the
- > varous states.
- >
- > Please share as you see fit. This is an extremely important safety issue
- at
- > Falls.
- >
- > Tom
- >

> -----Original Message-----

- > From: Walters, Wally Z Col SWL
- > Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 1:59 PM
- > To: Minahan, John R COL SWF; Fleeeger, Thomas W SWF
- > Cc: Mocek, Michael J SWF; Church, Clayton A SWF; Marsicano, Judy C SWF;
- > Gibson, Timothy C SWF; Collins, William H SWF; Bass, Lee E SWL;
- > Pellicciotto,
- > Elisa D SWD; Banks, Billy SWT; Rozsypal, Johnny SWG; Haustein, Steven COL
- > SWG; Slockbower, Robert SWD; Fallon, Michael P SWD; Dvoracek, John C LTC
- > SWF;
- > Morgan, Madeline SWF; Crosswhite, Rex SWF; Tanner, Morris A HQatSWD;
- > Zeltner,
- > Stephen R SWT; Roberts, John SWT; Groves, Earl SWT; Burger, Charles L SWF;
- > Craig, Kevin L SWD; Jordan, Michael SWD; Conley, Lee SWD; Knox, Tommy J
- SWD;
- > Aguilar, Carlos C SWD; DuBose, Emmett COL SWD; Janecka, Arthur J SWG;
- > Rozsypal, Johnny SWG; Perrin, Douglas R SWF; Watford, Edward R SWL;
- Holman,
- > Kristina SWD; Hathaway, Randy J SWL; Rogers, R E SWL; Spaul, P J SWL;
- > Fancher, Tracy N SWL; Barnes, Gerald W HQ02; Lang, Lawrence A HQ02; Smith,
- > Janice A HQ02; White, Denise Y HQ02; Toplisek, Timothy R HQ02; Stokes,
- Debra
- > J HQ02; Stout, Robert E HQ02; Warren, Brenda A HQ02; Cohen, Martin R HQ02;
- > Petit, Russell W HQ02; Fournier, Suzanne M HQ02; CDL-MSO-Operations
- Chiefs;
- > CDL-District Operations Chief; CDL-NRM-MSO; CDL-NRM-DISTRICTS;
- > CDL-Operations-Project-Managers; Nutt, Lynda G NWW; Smith, Chris L SWL;
- > Tichy, Scott C MVP; Hodapp, Corrine K MVP; Gunter, Consuela A SAM; Archer,
- > Douglas P LRL; Austin, Stephen B HQ02; Balzano, Josephine M LRB; Cooper,
- > Barbara A SPK; Barkley, Ron G LRE; Bauer, Carolyn J LRN; Bengel, Phil E
- NWW;
- > Berg, Kevin F MVP; Bogue, Larry E SWD; Whitt, William R NAO; Brown, Cori A
- > NAB02; Brown, Karl B SWG; Burke, Heather D SAJ; Carper, Paula W SAW;
- Daoust,
- > Robert J LRH; Dixon, (Chip) Larry E SAS; Foster, Gary L NWK; Freed, Wayne
- M
- > NWO; Garren, Rachel J MVS; Grim, Kathleen J NAP; Keshlear, Brad J SAD;
- > Loesch, Michael A LRDOR; Nutt, Lynda G NWW; Moore, Richard H NWO;
- Odegaard,
- > Steven D MVP; Punkiewicz, John W MVR; Saucier, Michael H MVN; Spirlock,
- > Stanley SWT; Toman, Paul F LRP; Turner, Philip R SPD; Goff, R Eugene NWP;
- > Rinehart, Melissa J NWP; Garren, Rachel J MVS; Carter, Annette N NWP;
- > Austin,
- > Stephen B HQ02; DLL-Districts & Labs Commanders; Dorko, Jeffrey J BG SWD
- > Subject: RE: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

- >
- > All,
- > FYI. A bit more reference and thoughts for you as you consider
- > whether to ban the use of tube kites, as Tulsa, Little Rock and Vicksburg
- > districts have now done. While I acted quickly to preempt more of their

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use
 > and their sales, I weighed the trade-offs carefully before deciding.
 >
 > - The only HQ policy I've seen is the one below that basically allows us to act and leaves it up to us whether to do so. It is also clear that HQ will not act quickly, so any action will have to come from the field.
 >
 > - Kudos to SWT for being the first to identify this problem this week and to decide that they were going to ban them.
 >
 > - The National Park Service has had bad experiences with these and has banned them at one of their major lakes. See attachment. There are some good video reports as part of the NPS notice.
 >
 > - The Consumer Product Safety Commission is now looking into the product and had unusually strong words about its hazards. See attachment.
 >
 > - The following website has some interesting critiques about the hazards and some good video of kite tubing. (Lots of people being thrown off at high speeds.)
 >
 > <http://ozreport.com/forum/viewtopic.php?t=2821&sid=711ae1fd5f3a89f692b10f543>
 > c
 > 251ad1
 > The fourth blogger from the top, named "Fynlcut," includes a link you can click to view video clips of kite tubing in action. The videos pretty well illustrate the hazards.
 >
 > - One of the manufacturers offers this product for two person use (age 10 and up) with a tongue-in-cheek safety warning, "never kite higher than you're willing to fall."
 >
 > - As a glider and commercial pilot I can give you some evaluation of these crafts' aerodynamic stability. They don't appear to have any real lateral stability in the air, something it took years of work to design into aircraft, gliders and hang gliders. That means that once airborne, these things are almost guaranteed to frequently turn over in normal use, and especially if there are transient conditions (wind, moving passengers, rope failure, significant boat turns). One hang glider pilot suggests it is flying a "limp potato chip." He's right, although my image is of an airborne kiddy pool dragged by a rope. The "Manta Ray" design also appears to lack the critical stability. Until better designed and tested these things are analogous to experimental aircraft. They don't belong in use by those whose mantra is "Hold my beer. Watch this."
 >
 > - My Ops Project Managers already report some local sales and problems with them, including some injuries (not yet fatal) at Clearwater Lake. They wanted me to ban them.
 >
 > I acknowledge some of the difficulties in defining these things and also support the public's desire to have some adventurous fun. I think extreme sports done safely can make for extreme fun. (I just got back from taking

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> my
> family SCUBA diving and even took my daughter skydiving last week -- with
> proper training, certification, well tested equipment, and expert
> supervision.) It is possible that kite tubes could be designed and proved
> safe under the right conditions, but they are not yet. This is why I
> described the ban as temporary. See attached press release.

>
> The enforcement issue is also a reasonable concern, but should not be an
> overwhelming one, given that we do not allow lots of things we have
limited

> ability to enforce with the few rangers we have per miles of shoreline or
> acres of water. We did consult with the staffs of the respective agencies
> of

> Arkansas and Missouri. Missouri officials did not believe they could act
to

> enforce our rule on this. Arkansas officials suggested they could since
> their law incorporates enforcement of whatever we act upon in Title 36.

> This
> was not an overwhelming issue for me, as the ban will do much not only to
> prevent their use but to deter their sales until this product is safer.

On
> the legal side, these things are a hazard for which lawsuits are probably
> even more likely if we don't ban them. (Doing nothing is worse than not
> doing

> everything. Fewer deaths and injuries means fewer plaintiffs too.)

>
> Hope you find this discussion and the attachments useful. I did not think
> this was an especially "hard" call.

>
> All best,
> Wally

>
> Colonel Wally Walters
> District Engineer/Commander
> Little Rock
> (501) 324-5531

>
> -----Original Message-----

> From: Minahan, John R COL SWF
> Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 7:12 PM
> To: Dorko, Jeffrey J BG SWD
> Cc: Mocek, Michael J SWF; Church, Clayton A SWF; Marsicano, Judy C SWF;
> Gibson, Timothy C SWF; Collins, William H SWF; Bass, Lee E SWL;
> Pellicciotto,
> Elisa D SWD; Banks, Billy SWT; Rozsypal, Johnny SWG; Kurka, Miroslav COL
> SWT;
> Haustein, Steven COL SWG; Walters, Wally Z Col SWL; Slockbower, Robert
SWD;
> Fallon, Michael P SWD; Fleeger, Thomas W SWF; Dvoracek, John C LTC SWF;
> Morgan, Madeline SWF; Crosswhite, Rex SWF; Tanner, Morris A HQatSWD
> Subject: Re: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

>
> Sir,
> I'll again review the possibility of a ban with my ops folks this week.

We
> had been reviewing this possibility and had some valid
reservations/concerns

> on instituting a ban for the reasons listed in Tom Fleeger's forwarded
> e-mail. Obviously, some pro's and con's on either way we go.
> Understand the need for consistency across our regional lakes and would be
> interested in HQ's position as well.

>
> VR, John

> -----
> Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

7/7/2006

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> -----Original Message-----

> From: Fleeger, Thomas W SWF

> To: Dvoracek, John C LTC SWF; Morgan, Madeline SWF; Burger, Charles L SWF

> CC: Mocek, Michael J SWF; Minahan, John R COL SWF; Church, Clayton A SWF;

> Marsicano, Judy C SWF; Gibson, Timothy C SWF; Collins, William H SWF;

Bass,

> Lee E SWL; Pellicciotto, Elisa D SWD; Banks, Billy SWT; Rozsypal, Johnny

SWG

> Sent: Mon Jul 03 13:44:25 2006

> Subject: RE: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> Yes, Sir. We have been addressing this issue with the DE via e-mail for a
> week or so. Here's a synopsis of OD's feelings. We are not in favor of a
> ban.

> * There are all sorts of unsafe water toys out there. This website
> <http://www.sportsstuff.com/towables/index.shtml> has quite a number in
> addition to the tube kite. If we begin to ban selected ones how will we
> know
> we've gotten the right ones? Where do we stop? New toys hit the market
> daily.

> * We recognized in the past that teak surfing was dangerous (several
> carbon monoxide deaths occurred from the activity) and yet we've let our
> partner agencies handle enforcement under their reckless operation rules.

> * Title 36 already gives our rangers great latitude regarding unsafe
> operation. Title 36, 327.3 (g) says, "Water skis, parasails, ski-kites
> and

> similar devices are permitted in non-restricted areas except that they may
> not be used in a careless, negligent, or reckless manner so as to endanger
> any person, property, or environmental feature."

> * Most importantly I don't think we should establish rules we can't
> enforce. We have little enforcement effort left on our waters. Most is
> done

> by partner agencies and Law Enforcement Cooperative Agreements. These
> folks

> can't enforce Corps restrictions, only their own. In this litigious
> society

> I'd be afraid we'd lose a suit if we: 1) recognized a toy was unsafe; 2)
> banned it from our waters; then 3) did nothing to enforce our own rule due
> to

> insufficient staff.

> * IF HQUSACE decides to do something nationwide it's their call
> (although I believe they are leaning in the opposite direction). In the
> meantime I hate to see the public forced to obey different rules at
> different

> Corps lakes.

> Tom Fleeger

> Chief, Operations Division

> Fort Worth District

> 817-886-1525

> cell 817-307-3986

FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> From: Dvoracek, John C LTC SWF
> Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 1:32 PM
> To: Morgan, Madeline SWF; Fleeger, Thomas W SWF; Burger, Charles L SWF
> Cc: Mocek, Michael J SWF; Minahan, John R COL SWF; Church, Clayton A SWF;
> Marsicano, Judy C SWF
> Subject: FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

>
>
>
> Tom and Madeline, Any recommendations for COL Minahan reference issuing a
> ban
> at our projects?

> VR, LTC D

> JOHN C. DVORACEK

> Lieutenant Colonel, Corps of Engineers

> Deputy Commander

> Fort Worth Engineer District

> -----
> U.S. Army Engineer District, Fort Worth

> ATTN: CESWF-DD

> P. O. Box 17300

> Fort Worth, TX 76102-0300

> Office: 817-886-1515

> Fax: 817-886-6451

> E-Mail: John.C.Dvoracek.LTC@swf02.usace.army.mil

> -----
> From: Walters, Wally Z Col SWL

> Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 1:02 PM

> To: Bass, Lee E SWL; Wootten, Gil H SWL; Leggett, Dale SWL; Sandberg,
James

> D
> SWL; Beard, James D SWL; Park, Thomas S SWL; Price, Mobie L SWL; Young,
John

> L SWL; Hendricks, Michael G SWL; Milholland, Mark A SWL; Foersterling,
> Kenneth R SWL; Moore, Mark W SWL

> Cc: Zeltner, Stephen R SWT; Dvoracek, John C LTC SWF; Mocek, Michael J
SWF;

> Roberts, John SWT; Banks, Billy SWT; Groves, Earl SWT; Fallon, Michael P
> SWD;

> Slockbower, Robert SWD; Burger, Charles L SWF; Haustein, Steven COL SWG;
> Craig, Kevin L SWD; Jordan, Michael SWD; Conley, Lee SWD; Knox, Tommy J
SWD;

> Aguilar, Carlos C SWD; Pellicciotto, Elisa D SWD; Kurka, Miroslav COL SWT;
> Dorko, Jeffrey J BG SWD; DuBose, Emmett COL SWD; Janecka, Arthur J SWG;

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FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> Rozsypal, Johnny SWG; Fleeger, Thomas W SWF; Perrin, Douglas R SWF; Watford,
 > Edward R SWL; Holman, Kristina SWD; Hathaway, Randy J SWL; Rogers, R E SWL;
 > Spaul, P J SWL; Hausteин, Steven COL SWG; Minahan, John R COL SWF; Fancher,
 > Tracy N SWL; Stout, Robert E HQ02; Warren, Brenda A HQ02; Nutt, Lynda G NWW
 > Subject: FW: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> All,

> I am prepared to consider issuing a Little Rock District-wide
 > ban
 > on tube kiting, based upon the concerns expressed by the CPSC, the recent
 > deaths, and the decision of the Tulsa District Commander to ban their use.
 > Given the public value in having any such restrictions before the purchase
 > and use of tube kites becomes more common, I would like to make this
 > decision
 > quickly. I welcome any and all advice on the matter, and welcome your
 > e-mail
 > response.

Thanks.

Colonel Wally Walters

District Engineer, Little Rock

> From: Pellicciotto, Elisa D SWD
 > Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 12:43 PM
 > To: Kurka, Miroslav COL SWT; Walters, Wally Z Col SWL; Dorko, Jeffrey J BG
 > SWD; DuBose, Emmett COL SWD; Janecka, Arthur J SWG; Rozsypal, Johnny SWG;
 > Fleeger, Thomas W SWF; Perrin, Douglas R SWF; Bass, Lee E SWL; Watford,
 > Edward R SWL; Zeltner, Stephen R SWT; Dvoracek, John C LTC SWF; Mocek,
 > Michael J SWF; Patterson, Trina C MAJ SWL; Roberts, John SWT; Banks, Billy
 > SWT; Groves, Earl SWT; Fallon, Michael P SWD; Slockbower, Robert SWD;
 > Burger,
 > Charles L SWF; Hausteин, Steven COL SWG; Craig, Kevin L SWD; Jordan,
 > Michael
 > SWD; Conley, Lee SWD; Knox, Tommy J SWD; Aguilar, Carlos C SWD; Holman,
 > Kristina SWD
 > Subject: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> For your information and situational awareness - tube kiting has been
 > receiving considerable attention recently.

> Elisa D. Pellicciotto

> From: Austin, Stephen B HQ02
 > Sent: Monday, July 03, 2006 12:00 PM
 > To: CDL-MSO-Operations Chiefs; CDL-District Operations Chief; CDL-NRM-MSO;
 > CDL-NRM-DISTRICTS; CDL-Operations-Project-Managers; Nutt, Lynda G NWW;

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> Smith,
 > Chris L SWL; Tichy, Scott C MVP; Hodapp, Corrine K MVP; Gunter, Consuela A
 > SAM; Archer, Douglas P LRL; Austin, Stephen B HQ02; Balzano, Josephine M
 > LRB;
 > Cooper, Barbara A SPK; Barkley, Ron G LRE; Bauer, Carolyn J LRN; Benge,
 Phil
 > E NWW; Berg, Kevin F MVP; Bogue, Larry E SWD; Whitt, William R NAO; Brown,
 > Cori A NAB02; Brown, Karl B SWG; Burke, Heather D SAJ; Carper, Paula W
 SAW;
 > Daoust, Robert J LRH; Dixon, (Chip) Larry E SAS; Foster, Gary L NWK;
 Freed,
 > Wayne M NWO; Garren, Rachel J MVS; Gibson, Timothy C SWF; Grim, Kathleen J
 > NAP; Keshlear, Brad J SAD; Loesch, Michael A LRDOR; Nutt, Lynda G NWW;
 > Moore,
 > Richard H NWO; Odegaard, Steven D MVP; Punkiewicz, John W MVR; Saucier,
 > Michael H MVN; Spirlock, Stanley SWT; Toman, Paul F LRP; Turner, Philip R
 > SPD; Goff, R Eugene NWP; Rinehart, Melissa J NWP; Garren, Rachel J MVS;
 > Carter, Annette N NWP
 > Cc: Barnes, Gerald W HQ02; Lang, Lawrence A HQ02; Smith, Janice A HQ02;
 > White, Denise Y HQ02; Toplisek, Timothy R HQ02; Stokes, Debra J HQ02;
 Stout,
 > Robert E HQ02; Warren, Brenda A HQ02; Cohen, Martin R HQ02; Petit, Russell
 W
 > HQ02; Fournier, Suzanne M HQ02
 > Subject: Corps of Engineers Policy on Tube Kiting

> TO: MSC/DISTRICT OPERATIONS AND NATURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT OFFICES;
 > DISTRICT WATER SAFETY POCS; OPERATIONS PROJECT MANAGERS; NATIONAL
 OPERATION
 > CENTER FOR WATER SAFETY

> FROM: CECW-CO-N (STEPHEN AUSTIN)

> Note: This message has been approved by Gerald Barnes, P.E., Chief of
 > Operations, Directorate of Civil Works, HQUSACE

> 1. There has been considerable discussion regarding the sport of tube
 > kiting
 > on USACE Civil Works projects. The attached newsletter from the U.S.
 > Consumer Product Safety Commission reviews the issues and dangers of this
 > activity.

> 2. HQ Operations is working with the USACE National Operation Center for
 > Water Safety and other HQ offices regarding a Corps-wide decision on this
 > sport. A nation-wide ban on this public activity, if imposed, would
 > ultimately require a revision to 36 USC Chapter III, Part 327 (Title 36) -
 a
 > lengthy process.

> 3. Each MSC is reminded that regional/local restrictions are authorized
 > under paragraph 327.12 (a) of Title 36 which states:

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- >
- > The District Commander may establish and post a schedule of visiting hours
- > and/or restrictions on the public use of a project or portion of a
- > project.
- > The District Commander may close or restrict the use of a project or
- > portion
- > of a project when necessitated by reason of public health, public safety,
- > maintenance, resources protection or other reasons in the public interest.
- > Entering or using a project in a manner which is contrary to the schedule
- > of
- > visiting hours, closures or restrictions is prohibited.

- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > 3. As of this writing, Tulsa has implemented a district-wide ban and
- > other
- > districts/offices are contemplating similar restrictions. A national
- > Corps-wide ban on the use of tube kites on USACE Civil Works projects has
- > not
- > been issued.

- >
- >
- >
- >
- > 4. MSCs are encouraged to review their regional and local conditions and
- > take appropriate action where necessary.

- >
- >
- >
- >
- >
- > Stephen Austin
- >
- > Acting Chief, Natural Resources Management CoP
- >
- > Operations
- >
- > HQUSACE

- >
- >
- >

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ochsman, Robert B.
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 9:32 AM
To: PSA Coordinator
Cc: White, Sharon R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Confirmation of PSA 611

Attachments: 0611-06R.doc



0611-06R.doc (54
KB)

Bob Ochsman, Ph.D., CPE
Division Director - Human Factors
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Porter, Diane R.
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 10:48 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Stern, Richard L.; White, Sharon R.; Ochsman, Robert B.; McLaurin, Hugh M.; Nava, Frank J.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Cave, Carol J.
Subject: PSA 0592.06 Water tube - draft report
Attachments: 0592d06.pdf



0592d06.pdf (64
KB)

*Ms. Diane Porter, PSA Coordinator
U.S. CPSC
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

*phone: 301 424-6421 ext.122
fax: 301 413-7107*

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Vallese, Julie M.
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 5:57 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Re: tube kites

I received a call this afternoon from a "consumer" named Steve. While he may very well be just a consumer, I have a feeling he may have more of an agenda. The questions he was asking and the fact that he didn't take a super strong stance on the product just left me a bit suspicious.

I answered his questions in very general terms and when he asked me about sport stuff, I simply said while we are aware that they are one manufacturer, we are at the early stage of our investigation and no one company is being identified or investigated.

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Topka, Tanya L.
To: Vallese, Julie M.
CC: Schoem, Marc J.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Wed Jul 05 15:28:04 2006
Subject: RE: tube kites

Sevylor, Inc. manufacturers/distributes the Manta Ray

West Marine, Inc. distributes the West Marine distributes the Raptor Blaster Tube

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Vallese, Julie M.
Sent: Wednesday, July 05, 2006 3:02 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: tube kites

What is the name of the other leading manufacturer of tube kites? I only can find Wego/Sportsstuff.

Julie Vallese

Director

CPSC Office of Public Affairs

4330 East West Hwy

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-504-7783

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 12:55 PM
To: Vallese, Julie M.; Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Re: tube kite/Minn Dept. Natural Resources

I will call him shortly

Sent from my Blackberry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Vallese, Julie M.
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
CC: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thu Jul 06 12:50:03 2006
Subject: tube kite/Minn Dept. Natural Resources

Tim Smalley from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources just called in about tube kites. He is the boating safety specialist for the state. He was calling for two reasons, one for some guidance on tube kites and two, to offer his assistance in anyway to our investigation. He has the reports of incidents in his area, two in hand and two on the way. They are the reports done by the county Sheriffs office. One thing he told me is they have one incident that occurred on June 25 with the victim in critical condition.

I said the best thing for me to do is to forward his name and number and have the investigator in the region contact him. So that is what I am doing. Again his name is Tim Smalley his number is 651-259-5354.

Hope this helps.

Julie Vallese

Director

CPSC Office of Public Affairs

4330 East West Hwy

Bethesda, MD 20814

301-504-7783

240-676-1885 (cell)

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 8:11 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.
Subject: RE: Incidents

The official count currently stands at 30 incidents.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 5:33 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Incidents

Sorry kite tube incidents!

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 5:17 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Incidents

37 what?

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 5:02 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Incidents

Can OIPA use 37?????

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Vallese, Julie M.
Sent: Thursday, July 06, 2006 4:30 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Incidents

You just left a message siting 37 incidents - I had 28. Can I use 37 ?

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Perrizo, Rosemary
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2006 10:27 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Ross, Robin M.
Subject: RE: Kite Tube - Nebraska

I talked with the Director of the National Association of Boating Law Administrators in Lexington, KY.

Ron Sarber, Director

National Association of State Boating Law Administrators

1500 Leestown Road, Suite 330

Lexington, KY 40511

(859) 225-9487

www.nasbla.org

They had a meeting last week in Kentucky with all of the boating law administrators from each state and kite tubes were discussed. They are currently aware of incidents in the following states:

Utah - 2-3 incidents - The National Parks Service has banned kite tubes on Lake Powell, Utah. Contact person: Dave Harris, State Parks of Utah, (801) 538-7341

Arizona - A couple of incidents - Contact person: Kevin Bergersen, Game & Fish - (602) 789-3383

North Carolina - One incident - Contact person: Chris Huebner, NC Wide Life Resources Commission - (919) 707-0010

In addition, the U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Boating Safety in Washington, D.C. oversees all of the boating accident reports nationwide. They may be able to provide additional incidents. Contact person: Bruce Schmitz - (202) 267-0955.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Tue 6/20/2006 8:42 AM
To: Perrizo, Rosemary
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Ross, Robin M.
Subject: RE: Kite Tube - Nebraska

yes, I'd also do that

From: Perrizo, Rosemary
Sent: Tue 6/20/2006 7:38 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Ross, Robin M.
Subject: RE: Kite Tube - Nebraska

How about I contact the Marine Center who was quoted in the news article and is a current seller of the kite tube? There was not a reporter noted in the news release, but I will try to find out who it was.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Mon 6/19/2006 9:26 PM

6/20/2006

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To: Perrizo, Rosemary
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.; Ross, Robin M.
Subject: FW: Kite Tube - Nebraska

Don't contact the manufacturer unless Tanya gives the go ahead. I'd contact the news reporter that wrote the story and see what they can do for you.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Perrizo, Rosemary
Sent: Mon 6/19/2006 8:10 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Ross, Robin M.
Subject: Kite Tube - Nebraska

I have one more address to check out for the owner of the boat and if that does not pan out my final choices are to call the news station, marine center that commented in the article or the manufacturer which is located in Omaha. But, if I do that, the cat's out of the bag that we are investigating. Let me know if any of you have an objection to my next steps. If I don't hear from anyone by 9:30 AM tomorrow (6/20) when I have to leave for an appointment, I am planning on stopping at the marine center tomorrow afternoon.

Also, I have contacted or met in person with the following agencies.

Omaha PD
Omaha FD
Douglas County Sheriff
Douglas County Treasurer - (Boat registration)
U.S. Coast Guard
Nebraska State Police
Game & Parks - Boating Law Administration

None of them had a report on the incident, or had even heard that it happened. It is possible that the consumers took the child to the medical center on their own and phoned the media about the product.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 3:45 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Ohio kite tube accident

FYI, see below

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Gogle, Nancy [mailto:Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]
Sent: Mon 6/19/2006 2:40 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Ohio kite tube accident

Dennis,
The injury that occurred on 5/20/2006 involved a Wego tube from Sports Stuff.
Let me know if there is anything else I can help you with.

Nancy M. Gogle

Data Analyst
ODNR Div. of Watercraft
2045 Morse Rd., Bldg. A
Columbus, OH 43229-6605
(614) 265-6615
Fax (614) 267-8883

Don't be a statistic...Wear your life jacket!

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Bernstein, Marc M.
Sent: Monday, June 19, 2006 2:29 PM
To: Rizzitello, Joy M.; Wilson, Barbara B.; Topka, Tanya L.; Vallese, Julie M.
Subject: Kite Tube Incident related information
Attachments: Owner's Manual--wegoManual[1].pdf; Photographs of Sevylor.pdf; Photographs of Wego Kite Tube.pdf

Hello,

I was able to obtain packaging photographs (exemplar products) of both the Wego and "Manta Ray" kite tubes as well as the Owner's Manual for the Wego kite tube, which is available on the internet. I have requested from Sevylor the Owner's Manual for the "Manta Ray" tube, but have not heard back from them (it is not available as a download). All attachments are in PDF format; however, if anyone wishes to further edit the photographs and wishes them in a word document, please let me know. I will relay all pertinent subsequent information to the respective parties as it becomes available. Please contact me if you have any questions.

Thank you,

Marc Bernstein
Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
1212-H El Camino Real, PMB 582
San Bruno, CA 94066
Tel: 650-871-0995
Fax: 775-278-5863

6/22/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 5:38 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: latest KT incident
Attachments: KiteTubelIncidents.xls

Okay, here you go!

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 5:14 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: latest KT incident

keep those updates coming! Have a good weekend.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 3:35 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: latest KT incident

Dennis and Tanya,

Done. It is doc number X0660452A. I requested the assignment, and hopefully it will go through to IFS on Monday. I now have requested an assignment on every incident that has been reported.

Do you want me to send an updated spreadsheet every time, or do you just want one every few days or so? Either is fine with me. I just don't want to clog your inboxes.

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 3:53 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here is the lake Mead incident report. Severe injuries... Robin please assign and update spreadsheet? Thanks.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 12:59 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here's the spreadsheet.

6/19/2006

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From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:44 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Yes, I will have the Ohio incident assigned. Yes, I will add it to the spreadsheet, and once I have the doc number for it, I'll send the spreadsheet in another email and actually attach the spreadsheet to it (not like last time, when I forgot to attach it).

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

I just got the reports from the Ohio incident -- report attached. Robin do you want to have the IDI assigned from there? Can you add this incident to the last update of the spreadsheet?

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 11:22 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here is my version of the latest spreadsheet with a few things added from the version Dennis sent out yesterday. This has all incidents we've received to date, not counting complaints that don't report an incident. There are a few holes (like victim ID) in a few cases that will only be filled in when we know more from the investigators.

Errors? Additions? Please let me know.

Robin

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 4:36 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: latest KT incident

Dennis and Tanya,

Done. It is doc number X0660452A. I requested the assignment, and hopefully it will go through to IFS on Monday. I now have requested an assignment on every incident that has been reported.

Do you want me to send an updated spreadsheet every time, or do you just want one every few days or so? Either is fine with me. I just don't want to clog your inboxes.

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Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
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Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 12:59 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here's the spreadsheet.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:44 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Yes, I will have the Ohio incident assigned. Yes, I will add it to the spreadsheet, and once I have the doc number for it, I'll send the spreadsheet in another email and actually attach the spreadsheet to it (not like last time, when I forgot to attach it).

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.

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6/19/2006

Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

I just got the reports from the Ohio incident -- report attached. Robin do you want to have the IDI assigned from there? Can you add this incident to the last update of the spreadsheet?

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 11:22 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here is my version of the latest spreadsheet with a few things added from the version Dennis sent out yesterday. This has all incidents we've received to date, not counting complaints that don't report an incident. There are a few holes (like victim ID) in a few cases that will only be filled in when we know more from the investigators.

Errors? Additions? Please let me know.

Robin

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 3:53 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated
Attachments: tube kite incident Lake Mead AZ.pdf

Here is the lake Mead incident report. Severe injuries... Robin please assign and update spreadsheet? Thanks

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 12:59 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Here's the spreadsheet.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:44 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

Yes, I will have the Ohio incident assigned. Yes, I will add it to the spreadsheet, and once I have the doc number for it, I'll send the spreadsheet in another email and actually attach the spreadsheet to it (not like last time, when I forgot to attach it).

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

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Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
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From: Ingle, Robin L.

Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 11:22 AM

To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Spitler, Virginia R.

Subject: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 1:00 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Kite tubing spreadsheet, updated
Attachments: kite tube Ohio.pdf

I just got the reports from the Ohio incident -- report attached. Robin do you want to have the IDI assigned from there? Can you add this incident to the last update of the spreadsheet?

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
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Errors? Additions? Please let me know.

Robin

GO

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 12:34 PM
To: Barton, Keven J.; Nava, Frank J.; Ross, Robin M.
Cc: Ault, Eric B.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Kite tube investigations
Importance: High

This issue is front and center at Hqs. We need some critical information regarding the six incidents that have been assigned so far in TX, UT and AZ (Eric, we may assign some IDIs in OH but aren't there yet so just FYI for now):

Can we contact the consumers or family by telephone and obtain the following:

- What model were they on (Wego Kite Tube or the Manta Ray from Sevylor?)
- Where they purchased the product?
- When it was purchased?
- Photographs or documentation of all warning labels/information provided on and with the product if you can get very quickly (emailed photos perhaps)

Confirm reporting regarding the following:

- Age of victim and how much experience they had with product before injury
- Location of incident
- Speed of boat at time of incident

Please email Tanya Topka with these details as soon as you can. Provide the completed IDI as quickly as is practical, but the above information will give Tanya enough to make some preliminary progress.

A little more background: There are two known manufacturers we are currently aware of. The Wego Kite Tube sells for approximately \$500 and is made by Sportstuff Inc., 11213 E. Circle, #A, Omaha, NE, ph. #402-592-9085. It is a circular red, yellow and black tube.

The Manta Ray tube sells for \$400-500 and is made by Sevylor, Inc., 4398 Corporate Center Drive, Los Alamitos, CA 9-720, ph. #714-503-6300. It is the bat wing looking design.

Call or email me if you have any questions and thanks for all your help.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Weaver, Zannie E.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 9:50 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: FW: Kite tubing banned at Glen Canyon Recreation Area due to injuries - Page, AZ June 2006
Attachments: kite tubing is banned at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area due to 4 injuries - Page, AZ June 2006.pdf

FYI:

Kite tubing has been banned at Glen Canyon Recreation Area because of the injuries at Lake Powell.

Please see the attached story.

Zannie Weaver, Investigator
United States Government
Consumer Product Safety Commission
14175 W. Indian School Road
Suite B4 PMB 410
Goodyear, Arizona 85338
Phone # 623-877-3924
Fax # 623-877-3971

From: Weaver, Zannie E.
Sent: Fri 6/16/2006 6:44 AM
To: Allen, Gregory S.
Subject: Kite tubing banned at Glen Canyon Recreation Area due to injuries - Page, AZ June 2006

The folks at Gen Canyon became concerned about the kite tubing injuries at Lake Powel and have banned this activity.

Please see the attached news story.

Zannie Weaver, Investigator
United States Government
Consumer Product Safety Commission
14175 W. Indian School Road
Suite B4 PMB 410
Goodyear, Arizona 85338
Phone # 623-877-3924
Fax # 623-877-3971

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 12:01 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Stern, Richard L.; Mullan, John G.; Yelenik, Ronald G.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Wolfson, Scott J.; Vallese, Julie M.
Subject: FW: NPS Prohibits "Kite Tubing"

Marc J. Schoem
 Deputy Director
 Office of Compliance and
 Field Operations
 301-504-7520 - phone
 240-638-6955 - cell

From: PCappel@comdt.uscg.mil [mailto:PCappel@comdt.uscg.mil]
Sent: Friday, June 16, 2006 11:12 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: NPS Prohibits "Kite Tubing"

Marc,
 The ban on kite tubes at Lake Powell was signed on Wednesday with an immediate implementation.

Phil Cappel

Chief, Recreational Boating Product Assurance Division (G-PCB-3)
 Office of Boating Safety, United States Coast Guard
 Phone: (202) 267-0988 Fax: (202) 267-4285
 E-Mail: pcappel@comdt.uscg.mil
www.uscgboating.org



National Park Service Prohibits "Kite Tubing" at Glen Canyon Glen Canyon News Release

Necessary after Evaluation of Recent Accidents

Page, Ariz. -The National Park Service has prohibited "kite tubing" at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, after careful evaluation of recent accidents involving this new activity. The restriction is effective immediately and applies to the entire park, including Lake Powell.

"Kite tubing has proven itself to be extremely dangerous," said Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Kitty Roberts. "Ensuring the safety of our visitors is always the top priority of the National Park Service. There are many other, far safer ways to enjoy Glen Canyon - from waterskiing, to fishing, to exploring narrow side canyons"

Kite tubes are large, round inflated tubes towed by a boat at 20-40 mph. The user holds onto the kite

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tube as it rises into the air, 15-60 feet from the surface of the water. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging, and the slightest upset in its balance causes the kite tube to violently fall into the water. The fall can be particularly traumatic, due to the height (often 30 feet or higher), forward speed (35-40 mph), and the unusual position at which victims may hit the water.

Park rangers first observed kite tubes at Glen Canyon in April of this year. Since that time, four individuals have been airlifted from the park with serious injuries, and there have been reports of additional minor injuries.

The restriction applies to any device which is towed by a boat and allows the user to take flight. This includes the Wego Kite Tube, manufactured by SportsStuff, Inc., and the Manta, manufactured by Sevylor. The restriction also applies to parasailing and kite boarding.

The kite tubing restriction was instituted using the Superintendent's Compendium, which allows the park superintendent to establish regulations to provide for public health and safety, protect park resources, and to avoid conflicts among visitor uses. The Superintendent's Compendium is updated on an annual basis or more frequently when necessary. The complete 2006 Superintendent's Compendium is located on Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's website at: www.nps.gov/glca by clicking "Management Docs."

- www.nps.gov/glca -

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 3:06 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

I have it in the Sect. 15 system but that is not transferable outside of the case so if you would like go ahead but please share. Thanks

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:59 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Ok. The incidents are starting to blur. Has anyone started a spreadsheet so we can track these incidents and tell one from the next. If not, I'll do it now.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Thu 6/15/2006 1:53 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Dennis,

We don't monitor IFS, and actually, most of my people in Emerging Hazards don't even have access to it. We'll request an assignment today, but you're on your own for the IFS part.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:38 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Use this msg to originate an IDI, and let Frank nava know when it is in IFS.

Dennis Blasius

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Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Thu 6/15/2006 1:37 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: kite tubing

This message from Kevin Bergersen doesn't appear to have happened on lake powell can we have an investigator contact Kevin and get more details? Any objection Robin?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: KBergersen@azgfd.gov [mailto:KBergersen@azgfd.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 2:03 PM
To: Gogle, Nancy; thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: RE: kite tubing

FYI - Arizona just had one of these "Kite Tube" accidents on Lake Mead. Apparently the "kite tube" rider's boat wasn't fast enough to get his contrivance airborne, so he found a passing faster boat to help him (the operator on new boat was possibly impaired).....with his new found buddy accelerating the tow boat to 45 mph, the rider was finally able to get his "kite tube" airborne just long enough to attain an altitude of 25 feet whereby he immediately plunged straight down into the lake at the aforementioned 45 mph (plus gravity).

End result, air-evac for treatment of a punctured lung, broken ribs, cracked vertebrae and a bleeding spleen.....also, the tow buddy left the scene and never returned.

Kevin Bergersen
Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator
Boating Law Administrator
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023
Office (602) 789-3383
FAX (602) 789-3945

Life Jackets Save Lives.....Always Wear a PFD While on the Water

Keep a Good Day Good.....Boating Safety is the Key!

6/15/2006

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-----Original Message-----

From: Gogle, Nancy [mailto:Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:27 AM

To: thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; Kevin Bergersen; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Bruce Schmidt

Subject: kite tubing

Fellow BIFAC Members,

Ohio has just started to experience 'kite tubing' (vessels towing an oversized tube until it becomes airborne) accidents. These devices are very new to Ohio but they seem to have attracted a lot of attention. Bruce Schmidt is just starting to get a flurry of reports involving these devices. Has your state received accident reports involving these devices? I notice from the report below that they are in use in the western states but, I would like to know an estimate of how many accidents have been reported in the last year or so. Any of these fatalities?

Nancy M. Gogle

phone: 614-265-6615

fax: 614-267-8883

-----Original Message-----

From: Cates, Richard J

Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

In addition to Dan's information. One of our officers completed a program at Bass Pro Shops this past weekend during their annual Boating and Camping Weekend. He had occasion to discuss this product with the store manager. The manager informed him that the product had been pulled from the shelves at the request of the manufacturer. No further information was available.

Rich

Original Message-----

From: Fuller, Dan

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:26 AM

Subject: A little more on kite tubing

Dan Fuller, Supervisor
Division Of Watercraft
1150 E. 49th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-361-1212
Fax: 216-361-0604
E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

This is from a ranger at Glen Canyon. Several National Park Service locations are trying to ban them.

In the past three weeks we have had to Airvac four serious injured people from Lake Powell that were engaged in a new water activity called Kite Tubing. This activity involves a large round inflated tube that is towed behind a boat at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air to a height of 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the slightest upset in its balance cause the tub to dive down into

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the water high rate of speed. The individual on the tubes impacted the water at both the forward low speed of the vessel and then at the downward accelerated speed, which can be as high as 70 MPH. As a medic I have responded to three of these calls in a one week period and my Kite Tubing patients all had to be Airvac to Level I Trauma Centers. A 29-year-old male who suffered a broken neck (double Fx of C-2) and a 26-year-old male with a hemopneumothorax produced by broken ribs. My third patient a 14-year old female suffered a whiplash injury and was released from the hospital. Several weeks' earlier another Medic had a similar case at Lake Powell involving a young man with a severely punctured lung. Several local hospitals have reported recently seeing Kite Tube patients with similar injuries from people that have self transported to their facilities. Taking with other water enforcement agencies they are seeing Kite Tubing injuries and I have heard of one fatality in Texas. This death was due to a transected aortic commonly seen in deceleration auto and airplane type accidents. Interviews with friends and family members of patients have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, multiple minor Kite Tubing injuries occurred with other members of the boating party prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims stated they were using the kite tubes as directed when they suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable, and plunged up side down into the water. Friends of the victims that did not immediately report their injuries advised that they had coughing up blood, had torn muscles, whiplash type injuries and broken ribs.

Go to the following Internet link and then click on the video section in the upper right hand corner. These clips show graphically what can happen with these devices.

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.break.com/index/tubingtakeoff.html>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:56 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

I'll call this one also

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Thu 6/15/2006 1:53 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Dennis,

We don't monitor IFS, and actually, most of my people in Emerging Hazards don't even have access to it. We'll request an assignment today, but you're on your own for the IFS part.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
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To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Use this msg to originate an IDI, and let Frank nava know when it is in IFS.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
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Fax # 262-650-1217
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dblasius@cpsc.gov

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Subject: FW: kite tubing

This message from Kevin Bergersen doesn't appear to have happened on lake powell can we have an

6/15/2006

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investigator contact Kevin and ignore details? Any objection Robin?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: KBergersen@azgfd.gov [mailto:KBergersen@azgfd.gov]
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Kevin Bergersen

*Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator
Boating Law Administrator
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023
Office (602) 789-3383
FAX (602) 789-3945*

Life Jackets Save Lives.....Always Wear a PFD While on the Water

Keep a Good Day Good.....Boating Safety is the Key!

-----Original Message-----

From: Gogle, Nancy [mailto:Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:27 AM
To: thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; Kevin.Bergersen; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Bruce Schmidt
Subject: kite tubing

Fellow BIRAC Members,
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6/15/2006

MD

Nancy M. Gogle

phone: 614-265-6615

fax: 614-267-8883

-----Original Message-----

From: Cates, Richard J

Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

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Rich

Original Message-----

From: Fuller, Dan

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:26 AM

Subject: A little more on kite tubing

Dan Fuller, Supervisor
Division Of Watercraft
1150 E. 49th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-361-1212
Fax: 216-361-0604
E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

This is from a ranger at Glen Canyon. Several National Park Service locations are trying to ban them.

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6/15/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:38 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tubing

Use this msg to originate an IDI, and let Frank nava know when it is in IFS.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
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To: Gogle, Nancy; thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: RE: kite tubing

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End result, air-evac for treatment of a punctured lung, broken ribs, cracked vertebrae and a bleeding spleen.....also, the tow buddy left the scene and never returned.

Kevin Bergersen
Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator

6/15/2006.

73

Boating Law Administrator
Arizona Game and Fish Department
2221 West Greenway Road
Phoenix, Arizona 85023
Office (602) 789-3383
FAX (602) 789-3945

Life Jackets Save Lives.....Always Wear a PFD While on the Water

Keep a Good Day Good.....Boating Safety is the Key!

-----Original Message-----

From: Gogle, Nancy [mailto:Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:27 AM

To: thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; Kevin Bergersen; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Bruce Schmidt

Subject: kite tubing

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Nancy M. Gogle

phone: 614-265-6615

fax: 614-267-8883

-----Original Message-----

From: Cates, Richard J

Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

In addition to Dan's information. One of our officers completed a program at Bass Pro Shops this past weekend during their annual Boating and Camping Weekend. He had occasion to discuss this product with the store manager. The manager informed him that the product had been pulled from the shelves at the request of the manufacturer. No further information was available.

Rich

Original Message-----

From: Fuller, Dan

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:26 AM

Subject: A little more on kite tubing

Dan Fuller, Supervisor
Division Of Watercraft
1150 E. 49th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114

6/15/2006

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Phone: 216-361-1212
Fax: 216-361-0604
E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

This is from a ranger at Glen Canyon. Several National Park Service locations are trying to ban them.

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<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.break.com/index/tubingtakeoff.html>

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:35 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: kite tubing

Can you make sure the investigator looking into this one has this video clip

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us [mailto:skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 10:14 AM
To: Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: FW: kite tubing

Bruce,

This is a video clip that mentions the fatality accident in Texas involving kite tubing.

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

Steph

6/15/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:24 PM
To: 'Tanya.Beckman'
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Also, I forgot in the last message. Marc Schoem would like a sample of this product. Does Target have one available they can provide to us?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:17 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Thanks Tanya... Jennifer said that the Park Ranger who reported the incident was going to have a press release/notify the media? If that's the case, I'd like to give a "heads up" to our contact center to ensure they're equipped with the knowledge/have the ability to respond to guest concerns. Did we misinterpret this?

Tanya

Thanks for your phone #... I added it to my contacts list for future reference!

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:14 PM
To: Tanya.Beckman
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

This is not in the stage of recall at this point. This is early in the investigation stage. I will make sure Target is notified if and when a recall is conducted. BTW My number is 301-504-7594

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:26 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

6/19/2006

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You spoke to Jennifer Yelle from Target yesterday regarding a safety issue associated with a National brand item - SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube - that we sell on Target.com. I'm the Safety Specialist assigned to research this product.

I tried calling the # Jennifer left for you...301-504-7494, but got an "Allen Salyers" voice message, so am sending you an e-mail in hopes of reaching you.

I'm in the process of gathering the information you requested (sales info, etc), but am curious to know if you have an idea if/when a press release regarding this item is expected to be released? Target would appreciate knowing in advance so that we can communicate to our internal partners.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to talk to me about this matter.

Thank you -

Tanya M. Beckman
612.761.7906

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 5:29 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

From: Nava, Frank J.
Sent: Wed 6/14/2006 4:06 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

I'll change the priority and get them done ASAP.....

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 12:53 PM
To: Nava, Frank J.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon
Importance: High

Frank, how quickly can you turn these IDIs around?

Dennis

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wed 6/14/2006 11:54 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

Just an FYI. The Chairman's Office has been briefed by Gib and Marc on kite tubes. They are very interested in this product and requested quick investigations by both the field and Compliance. Anything we can do to get these IDI's completed quickly would be appreciated. If I would have known his interest I would have had them assigned as CBB.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

Tanya,

The Glen Canyon, Arizona kite tube incident doc and task numbers for you:

X0660350A has task number 060614HCC3606

6/15/2006

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RE: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

Page 2 of 2

X0660350B has task number 060614HCC3605

X0660350C has task number 060614HCC3604

X0660350D has task number 060614HCC3603

Robin

6/15/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Kerr, Marcia

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 4:26 PM

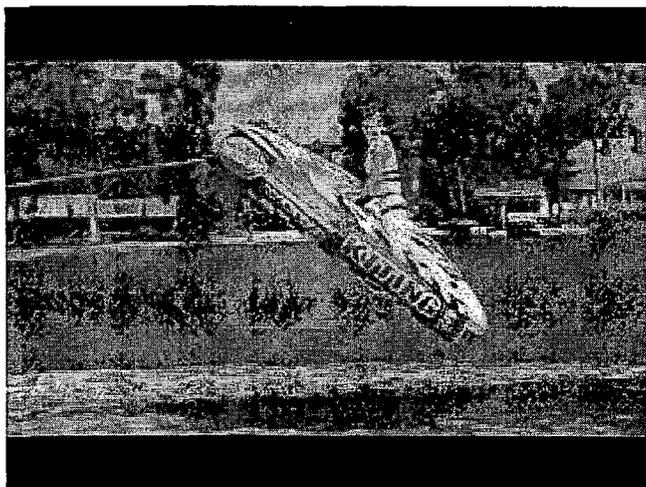
To: Topka, Tanya L.

Subject: Is this message OK to send out? "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Does this say too much or is it OK to go out? In the message, do you want your name and email as a contact or mine? Our NDPA board member in New Hampshire already said his lifeguard group is aware of these products and will try to help. Let me know if you approve the message below and I will have this sent out ASAP.

NDPA Board Members

CPSC is interested in receiving reports of incidents involving inflatable rafts/ toys that are pulled behind motor boats. The product is generically called a "kite tube" (a popular manufacturer's brand name.) The product is a nylon covered inflatable raft, designed in various wing-like shapes. Some you lay down on top of; others have seat/ footrest areas. 1-3 people can ride on them. When towed behind a boat quickly enough, the inflatable lifts off the water and hovers like a kite. In theory, the rider would stay close to the water; however, the rider apparently has limited ability to control the raft, and like a kite the flight can be erratic and take the rider very high.



Reports suggest that the inflatable can fly quite high, and that a wind gust or other change in direction can cause the rider to topple from significant height. CPSC would like to take a look at these incidents.

Please report incidents to CPSC via a reporting form link on the Commission's website: www.cpsc.gov, by calling the CPSC hotline 800-638-2772 or by contacting Marcia Kerr at mkerr@cpsc.gov.

Additionally, please let CPSC know about any water safety groups who might assist in spreading the word about incident information on this emerging hazard.

Thanks

Marcia Kerr, Product Safety Investigator

6/15/2006

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23422 Trabuco Rd, #105-394

Lake Forest, CA 92630

949-829-8249

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6/15/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: KBergersen@azgfd.gov on behalf of Kevin Bergersen [KBergersen@azgfd.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 2:03 PM
To: Gogle, Nancy; thomas.santaguida@maine.gov; arigby@dbw.ca.gov; dick_snyder@mercmarine.com; DonnieP@SCDNR.STATE.SC.US; fmessman@ndow.org; jadey@abyc.org; ken.ripley@state.tn.us; larry.migliozzi@oprhp.state.ny.us; edanoles@verison.net; pdillon@acanet.org; richard.moore@fwc.state.fl.us; skweatherington@agfc.state.ar.us; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: RE: kite tubing

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End result, air-evac for treatment of a punctured lung, broken ribs, cracked vertebrae and a bleeding spleen.....also, the tow buddy left the scene and never returned.

Kevin Bergersen

*Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator
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Arizona Game and Fish Department
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Office (602) 789-3383
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Nancy M. Gogle
phone: 614-265-6615
fax: 614-267-8883

83

-----Original Message-----

From: Cates, Richard J

Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

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Rich

Original Message-----

From: Fuller, Dan

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:26 AM

Subject: A little more on kite tubing

Dan Fuller, Supervisor
Division Of Watercraft
1150 E. 49th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-361-1212
Fax: 216-361-0604
E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

This is from a ranger at Glen Canyon. Several National Park Service locations are trying to ban them.

In the past three weeks we have had to Airvac four serious injured people from Lake Powell that were engaged in a new water activity called Kite Tubing. This activity involves a large round inflated tube that is towed behind a boat at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air to a height of 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the slightest upset in its balance cause the tub to dive down into the water at a high rate of speed. The individual on these tubes impacted the water at both the forward tow speed of the vessel and then at the downward accelerated speed, which can be as high as 70 MPH. As a medic I have responded to three of these calls in a one week period and my Kite Tubing patients all had to be Airvac to Level I Trauma Centers. A 29-year-old male who suffered a broken neck (double Fx of C-2) and a 26-year-old male with a hemopneumothorax produced by broken ribs. My third patient a 14-year old female suffered a whiplash injury and was released from the hospital. Several weeks' earlier another Medic had a similar case at Lake Powell involving a young man with a severely punctured lung. Several local hospitals have reported recently seeing Kite Tube patients with similar injuries from people that have self transported to their facilities. Taking with other water enforcement agencies they are seeing Kite Tubing injuries and I have heard of one fatality in Texas. This death was due to a transected aortic commonly seen in deceleration auto and airplane type accidents. Interviews with friends and family members of patients have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, multiple minor Kite Tubing injuries occurred with other members of the boating party prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims stated they were using the kite tubes as directed when they suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable, and plunged up side down into the water. Friends of the victims that did not immediately report their injuries advised that they had coughing up blood, had torn muscles, whiplash type injuries and broken ribs.

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E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

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<http://www.break.com/index/tubingtakeoff.html>

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: More kite tube task numbers -- Glen Canyon

Tanya,

The Glen Canyon, Arizona kite tube incident doc and task numbers for you:

X0660350A has task number 060614HCC3606
X0660350B has task number 060614HCC3605
X0660350C has task number 060614HCC3604
X0660350D has task number 060614HCC3603

Robin

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us on behalf of Gogle, Nancy [Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:40 AM
To: Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

Nancy M. Gogle

phone: 614-265-6615
fax: 614-267-8883

-----Original Message-----

From: Wisse, John
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:10 AM
To: Beathard, Jane
Cc: Gogle, Nancy
Subject: RE: A little more on kite tubing

Interesting – I may have Nancy Gogle track this down a bit more to see what substance might exist on that.

JW

NANCY – can you check on this notation from Jane B regards the National Park Service.....oh and we do have one national park in NE Ohio (Cuyahoga Valley NP). Would also like to know if this alleged action might also extend into the National Forest system (i.e. Wayne NF). Thanks

-----Original Message-----

From: Beathard, Jane
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:59 AM
To: Wisse, John
Subject: RE: A little more on kite tubing

Did you also know that the National Park Service is considering withholding incident reports - not making them public record. I got something from Dennis Evans on it last week. Boy, would that be controversial.

-----Original Message-----

From: Wisse, John
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:26 AM
To: Cates, Richard J; Prokop, Adam; Staiger, Bill; Sams, Brenda; Trump, Brett; Fuller, Dan; Roseler, Dave; Palmer, Dean; DeLong, TJ; Bird, John; Muench, Karen; Simonetti, Larry; Hinderer, Marilyn; Nehls, Jeff
Cc: Beathard, Jane
Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

This seems like a fairly new water recreation medium and could become a potential issue for us in Ohio.

If we were in the future to take a new safety message out into the public sector, the first questions I must be able to answer:

1. Is this really an issue for Ohio?; and
2. Can we document injuries resulting from such activity.

So the point here would be for each of you to remain vigilant on this topic and provide precise documentation/incident information on any such accidents that may occur on our waterways with regard to kite-tubing. I assure you that if I were to mention this to any media folks, this will their

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very first question – how dangerous is it and who can we interview (injury victims) who have participated in this activity safely and/or who sustained an injury?

Please keep watch on this as it may be a developing concern and certainly one that we want to watch Department-wide should something develop. Thanks.

J Wisse

-----Original Message-----

From: Cates, Richard J

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:09 AM

To: Dauner, Chris; dnrwapak@Bright.net; Watercraft, Alum Creek; Zlocki, Matt; McGarity, William; Staiger, Bill; Sams, Brenda; Nnadi, Cheryl; Carter, Daisy; Fuller, Dan; Roseler, Dave; Palmer, Dean; Green, Deborah; King, Emily; Meravy, Frank; Nehls, Jeff; Bird, John; Wisse, John; Muench, Karen; Simonetti, Larry; Thompson, Lu; Hinderer, Marilyn; Quinn, Mike; Watercraft, Portsmouth; Barrera, Rick; Watercraft, Sandusky; Watercraft, Springfield; DeLong, TJ; Doncyson, Todd; Crace, Teri; Trump, Brett; Terry, Tamara; Brown, Patrick; Chedester, Robert; Cramlet, Elizabeth; Elliott, Linda; Harless, Jaime; Hopkins, Lance; Johnson, Travens; Kruse, Matthew; Newman, Troy; Rymarczyk, Tom; Stapleton, Kenneth; Thompson, Robert

Subject: FW: A little more on kite tubing

In addition to Dan's information. One of our officers completed a program at Bass Pro Shops this past weekend during their annual Boating and Camping Weekend. He had occasion to discuss this product with the store manager. The manager informed him that the product had been pulled from the shelves at the request of the manufacturer. No further information was available.

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From: Fuller, Dan

Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 9:26 AM

To: allieknish@sbcglobal.net; darcyegan@adelphia.net; debbiebs@attbi.com; Debbie Skellenger; logalbo@netzero.net; EileenRickard@adelphia.net; Paul Ertel; Frank Jennings; Jay Onacila; Jerry Henginius (wwycbreeze@comcast.net); Jim Pressler; Joe Gleason (Joseph.J.Gleason@USCG.mil); readyedi284@nls.net; John Onacila; John Lind (Painesville PS); jjpopo@hotmail.com; yanuzzi@vi1.net; Kenny, Mark; Feller, Lee; dmromano@adelphia.net; Starr, Nicole LT; pbeale@adaweb.net; patmcilwee@cox.net; rtinge@nowonline.net; Russ Koscica; S.haver@csuohio.edu; sjrothacker@aol.com; Doncyson, Todd; Tom Bernardi; Virginia Suda (Div 7 Sec.); Battista, Randal; Simonetti, Larry; Staiger, Bill; Nehls, Jeff; DeWalt, Sam; Zlocki, Matt; Quinn, Mike; McGarity, William; Husted, Sherrie; DeLong, TJ; Sams, Brenda; Cates, Richard J

Subject: A little more on kite tubing

Dan Fuller, Supervisor
Division Of Watercraft
1150 E. 49th St.
Cleveland, Ohio 44114
Phone: 216-361-1212
Fax: 216-361-0604
E-Mail: Dan.Fuller@dnr.state.oh.us

This is from a ranger at Glen Canyon. Several National Park Service locations are trying to ban them.

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In the past three weeks we have had to Airvac four serious injured people from Lake Powell that were engaged in a new water activity called Kite Tubing. This activity involves a large round inflated tube that is towed behind a boat at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air to a height of 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the slightest upset in its balance cause the tub to dive down into the water at a high rate of speed. The individual on these tubes impacted the water at both the forward tow speed of the vessel and then at the downward accelerated speed, which can be as high as 70 MPH. As a medic I have responded to three of these calls in a one week period and my Kite Tubing patients all had to be Airvac to Level I Trauma Centers. A 29-year-old male who suffered a broken neck (double Fx of C-2) and a 26-year-old male with a hemopneumothorax produced by broken ribs. My third patient a 14-year old female suffered a whiplash injury and was released from the hospital. Several weeks' earlier another Medic had a similar case at Lake Powell involving a young man with a severely punctured lung. Several local hospitals have reported recently seeing Kite Tube patients with similar injuries from people that have self transported to their facilities. Taking with other water enforcement agencies they are seeing Kite Tubing injuries and I have heard of one fatality in Texas. This death was due to a transected aortic commonly seen in deceleration auto and airplane type accidents. Interviews with friends and family members of patients have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, multiple minor Kite Tubing injuries occurred with other members of the boating party prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims stated they were using the kite tubes as directed when they suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable, and plunged up side down into the water. Friends of the victims that did not immediately report their injuries advised that they had coughing up blood, had torn muscles, whiplash type injuries and broken ribs.

Go to the following Internet link and then click on the video section in the upper right hand corner. These clips show graphically what can happen with these devices.

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.break.com/index/tubingtakeoff.html>

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Hoedt, Jeff [JHoedt@comdt.uscg.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:37 AM
To: Cappel, Philip; Timmons, Jeanne; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: FW: [Blas] Kite Tubing Accidents

FYI.

Jeffrey N. Hoedt

Jeffrey N. Hoedt
 U. S. Coast Guard
 Chief, Office of Boating Safety
 G-PCB
 Ph: (202) 267-0950
 Fax: (202) 267-4285
 Jhoedt@comdt.uscg.mil

From: KBergersen@azgfd.gov [mailto:KBergersen@azgfd.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:33 AM
To: Ron Sarver; blas@nasbla.org; education@nasbla.org
Cc: Hoedt, Jeff; staff@nasbla.org; nsbcdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org; Calkin, Jo; Malatak, John; Cindy Wall
Subject: RE: [Blas] Kite Tubing Accidents

FYI - Arizona just had one of these "Kite Tube" accidents on Lake Mead. Apparently the "kite tube" rider's boat wasn't fast enough to get his contrivance airborne, so he found a passing faster boat to help him (the operator on new boat was possibly impaired).....with his new found buddy accelerating the tow boat to 45 mph, the rider was finally able to get his "kite tube" airborne just long enough to attain an altitude of 25 feet whereby he immediately plunged straight down into the lake at the aforementioned 45 mph (plus gravity).

End result, air-evac for treatment of a punctured lung, broken ribs, cracked vertebrae and a bleeding spleen.....also, the tow buddy left the scene and never returned.

Kevin Bergersen

Law Enforcement Programs Coordinator
 Boating Law Administrator
 Arizona Game and Fish Department
 2221 West Greenway Road
 Phoenix, Arizona 85023
 Office (602) 789-3383
 FAX (602) 789-3945

Life Jackets Save Lives.....Always Wear a PFD While on the Water

Keep a Good Day Good.....Boating Safety is the Key!

-----Original Message-----

From: Ron Sarver [mailto:ron@nasbla.org]

6/15/2006

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Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 7:23 AM
To: blas@nasbla.org; education@nasbla.org
Cc: 'Hoedt, Jeff'; staff@nasbla.org; nsbcdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org; JCalkin@comdt.uscg.mil; JMalatak@comdt.uscg.mil
Subject: [Blas] Kite Tubing Accidents

Dave Harris, BLA for Utah, passed along [at the request of the National Park Service at Lake Powell] the attached release on kite tubing accidents.

Dave reports that they have had at least one additional accident with this type of watertoy.

Attached is the webpage for the manufacturer. A video clip is available on the site just below the large picture of the tube.

<http://www.sportsstuff.com/towables/wego/index.shtml#>

If you have any questions, please contact Dave directly at:

Dave Harris
Boating Program Coordinator
Utah State Parks and Recreation
801-538-7341

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Hoedt, Jeff [JHoedt@comdt.uscg.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:34 AM
To: Malatak, John; Timmons, Jeanne; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: FW: kite tube

FYI. This issue came up hotly a few days ago. Phil was checking into who had jurisdiction on these devices. See below.

Jeffrey N. Hoedt

Jeffrey N. Hoedt
U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Boating Safety
G-PCB
Ph: (202) 267-0950
Fax: (202) 267-4285
Jhoedt@comdt.uscg.mil

-----Original Message-----

From: Cappel, Philip
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:53 PM
To: 'Parisi, Barbara E'
Cc: Hoedt, Jeff
Subject: RE: kite tube

Barbara,

Your e-mail could not have been more timely as I was just about to contact CPSC regarding kite tubes. We have recently received several reports of serious injuries involving these towables and I was going to ask your agency to look into them and possibly recall them. As you noted, kite tubes are towed behind boats just as other inflatable tubes are and therefore fall under your jurisdiction and not ours. If you need more info on the injuries being reported through their use I would be glad to put you in touch with the appropriate individuals.

-----Original Message-----

From: Parisi, Barbara E [<mailto:BParisi@cpsc.gov>]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 02:16 PM Eastern Standard Time
To: Cappel, Philip
Subject: kite tube

I don't know if you recall, but you assisted me with a jurisdictional inquiry regarding an inflatable boat which was to be towed behind a regular boat and was intended for children.

I have another jurisdictional question-this one involves a "kite tube," which is an inflatable boat which is to be towed behind a regular boat. The idea is that the regular boat gains enough speed so that the inflatable boat (with a rider on top of it) is lifted in the air. If you would like to see a picture of the product, it can be viewed at www.sportsstuff.com. Applying your rationale for the towable toy boat to this product, I am assuming that since it is not permanently attached to the boat as associated equipment it should be treated as an inflatable recreational product under the CPSC jurisdiction. I wanted to check with you to see if you agreed.

Thanks in advance for your help.
Barbara Parisi

6/15/2006

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Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following

web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Hoedt, Jeff [JHoedt@comdt.uscg.mil]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 11:32 AM
To: Cappel, Philip; Timmons, Jeanne; Schmidt, Bruce
Subject: FW: [Education] Kite Tubing Accidents

FYI.

Jeffrey N. Hoedt

Jeffrey N. Hoedt
U. S. Coast Guard
Chief, Office of Boating Safety
G-PCB
Ph: (202) 267-0950
Fax: (202) 267-4285
Jhoedt@comdt.uscg.mil

From: ron@nasbla.org [mailto:ron@nasbla.org]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:47 AM
To: blas@nasbla.org; Hoedt, Jeff; nsbcdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org; Malatak, John; Calkin, Jo
Cc: staff@nasbla.org
Subject: FW: [Education] Kite Tubing Accidents

Mike Fields, BLA for Kentucky, passes along the link [see below] to a TV news report on the kite tubes. It includes video from one of the accidents.

From: Fields, Mike (FW) [mailto:Mike.Fields@ky.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:26 AM
To: Ron Sarver
Subject: RE: [Education] Kite Tubing Accidents

a good news piece on these things

<http://kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

Lieutenant Mike Fields
Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources
Division of Law Enforcement
#1 Sportsman's Lane
Frankfort, Kentucky 40601
502-564-3400
502-564-3178 (fax)

6/15/2006

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From: Education-bounces@nasbla.org [mailto:Education-bounces@nasbla.org] **On Behalf Of** Ron Sarver
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:23 AM
To: blas@nasbla.org; education@nasbla.org
Cc: 'Hoedt, Jeff'; staff@nasbla.org; nsbcdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org; JCalkin@comdt.uscg.mil;
JMalatak@comdt.uscg.mil
Subject: [Education] Kite Tubing Accidents

Dave Harris, BLA for Utah, passed along [at the request of the National Park Service at Lake Powell] the attached release on kite tubing accidents.

Dave reports that they have had at least one additional accident with this type of watertoy.

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<http://www.sportsstuff.com/towables/wego/index.shtml#>

If you have any questions, please contact Dave directly at:

Dave Harris
Boating Program Coordinator
Utah State Parks and Recreation
801-538-7341

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 10:39 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Kite tube task number

Tanya,

Kite tube doc number X0660349A has task number 060614HCC3602. Just assigned by Data Systems two minutes ago.

Robin

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Kerr, Marcia
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 8:35 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Kite Tubing
Attachments: Kite Tubing Stuff.doc

From Tim Robinson, New Hampshire

This is probably some of the information CPSC wasn't going to share with anyone. It seems to be on the web so its either available to the public or its from a website that is open to Tim. I hope he was allowed to share this with everyone. Anyway it did go out to the NDPA board members (but it didn't come from CPSC).

I still want to send out the message I sent you to review. I think the product description and the photos really tell the story. I'll be in most of Thursday so let me know.

Marcia Kerr, Product Safety Investigator
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 25422 Trabuco Rd, #105-394
 Lake Forest, CA 92630
 949-829-8249
 775-262-9611 Fax

From: Robinson, Timothy [mailto:TRobinson@onconcord.com]

Sent: Wed 6/14/2006 8:07 PM

To: nriggsbee@comcast.net; Maureen Williams; Christine Branche; Cindy Johnson; David Calabria; Diane Holm (E-mail); Jim Paterson; John Harrington (E-mail); Johnny Johnson; Julie Gilchrist; Kim Patrick (E-mail); Kim Tyson; Kristin Goffman home; Linda Kirby - work; Linda Kirby hm (E-mail); Lisa Clark; Kerr, Marcia; Mary Ellen Britt; Maureen Williams; Michelle Feczko (E-mail); Rosalie Mendez Arguelles (E-mail); Tim Flood; Tim Robinson home; Tina Lyons; Whitfield, Troy W.

Subject: Kite Tubing

To all esteemed members of the board.

As requested of me, I did a web search of kite tubing accidents and fatalities this afternoon. I have attached a word document of the excerpted articles. Several of them focus around the same incidents at Lake Powell. Here is a break down of incidents that I could find for this year. As a Marine Patrol Officer, I can see that this device will contribute to more accidents in the future. Please use the information in the word document to create links or some kind of safety alert that we can put out to other media outlets and agencies. If necessary I can help author something from the NDPA.

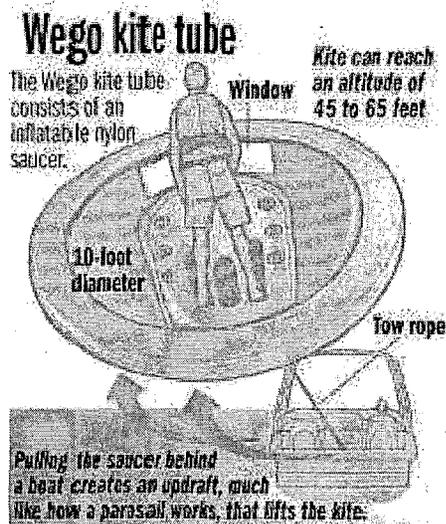
Date	State	Body of Water	
4/7/2006	AZ/UT	Lake Powell	"Lung Puncture"
5/3/2006	Texas	Neches River	Fatal
5/22/2006	AZ/UT	Lake Powell	Chest and Back injuries
6/2/2006	AZ/UT	Lake Powell	Neck Fracture
6/3/2006	AZ/UT	Lake Powell	Concussion

Keep it safe.

Tim Robinson

6/15/2006

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Thursday June 8th 2006

**(From today's NPS Morning Report)
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (AZ,UT)
Two Injured in Kite Tubing Accidents**

Two people were injured in separate, unrelated "kite tubing" accidents in the park last weekend. In both cases, the victims were riding kite tubes towed by boats when they lost control of the device. Each then fell into Lake Powell from heights of between 10 and 40 feet. Kite tubes are large, round inflated tubes that are towed by boats at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air from 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the slightest upset in its balance causes it to fall into the water. The first incident occurred on Friday, June 2nd, at approximately 2:30 p.m. near the Bullfrog area. A 29-year-old man from St. George, Utah, was riding a kite tube when he lost control and fell from a height of 35 to 40 feet while moving at approximately 35 to 40 mph. He suffered a broken neck and was flown by helicopter from the Bullfrog Medical Clinic to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was the third person in his party that day to be injured while kite tubing, but the other two sustained only minor injuries and were not treated. On the afternoon of Saturday, June 3rd, a 14-year-old girl from Houston, Texas, fell from 10 to 15 feet from her kite tube while being towed at 20 to 25 mph. She lost consciousness when she struck the water. Park rangers immediately responded to the incident and she was flown by helicopter from Iceberg Canyon to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. After further examination at the hospital, she was released without serious injuries. These were the third and fourth accidents this year involving kite tubes. The first accident occurred on April 7th and resulted in a punctured lung caused by broken ribs; the second was on May 22nd, when another person sustained injuries to the chest and back while using a kite tube. Both of these incidents involved kite tube riders losing control of the device and falling into the water while moving at a high rate of speed. The individuals involved in these accidents were also transported by helicopter to the hospital. This is the first season that park rangers at Glen Canyon have seen kite tubes on the lake. Please see the related safety alert on kite tubing in this issue for additional information and for links to two TV news videos on kite tubing accidents. [Submitted by Kevin Schneider, Management Assistant]

Re: [SwiftH2O-News] Glen Canyon Kite Tubing Accidents

In developing and researching quick release mechanisms to minimize risk for dynamic in water belays for the Reach system I reviewed all the technologies involved in Kite surfing safety. This is a very interesting sport that has developed many innovative strategies for risk management. These include impact protection, PPE, and de-power mechanisms. These have been crucial in the growth of the sport. Sounds like this industry needs to take a step back and review its liability prior to sales. Biggest risk in kite surfing is impact both on land and water post crash, and depower mechanisms and training on how to fall. They now have impact suits that look like a cross between wet suits and dirtbike armor that have some extension and flexion protection for the neck, along with a helmet. Seems like common sense that the same wing that takes

you up can flip and send you down at the same speed + the acceleration of gravity to boot. Same problem in the learning curve in kite surfing. The learning curve is gradual going up with control, yet very steep and fast and fatal going down with the smallest error or cross wind. Its the responsibility of the manufacturer to research this stuff and provide PPE and training prior to sales. Just an opinion.

Michael Croslin

Re: [SwiftH2O-News] Glen Canyon Kite Tubing Accidents

Really scary. I saw these things being sold at Bass Pro Shops with a promotional video. It looks awesome. I think the only thing that kept so many more people from buying one is the price -- \$500. I truly doubt most people realize the danger involved until its too late.

John Boy

***** WARNING ***** I'm so sorry to report this but all of you who care about your body (specifically your spinal area) need to read this story that happened to my brother in law yesterday afternoon at Lake Powell.

He was on this kite tube that incidentally I had ordered last week , and was going along fine being towed at 30-35 MPH, and approx 15' in the air when a gust of wind took him for the ride of his life (literally). He spiraled downward hitting the water neck first.

Bottomline it is a miracle (doctors words) that he is alive. He BROKE his C2 (remember Christopher Reeve)in his neck and currently has a cage around his head called a halo to prevent movement that he will have to wear for at least 3 months. His mobility will never be the same and all of you dummys that think your too tough to have this happen to him think about how it will feel to have the Doctor standing over you with a Cordless Drill and a 1/4" drill bit that you would normally use to fix the house up but instead he is drilling into your all important brain. (huh makes you think about it a little more.....) THIS IS REAL PEOPLE AND THIS COMPANY WILL GO DOWN FOR THIS. WE LIVE IN A COUNTRY THAT LITAGATION PROVIDES NEGATIVE RESULTS FOR COMPANIES THAT MANUFACTUR ITEMS THAT HURT PEOPLE.

Dave

801-548-6309 if you have any questions

Dave Young

http://boards.trailerboats.com/cgi-bin/trailerboats/ubb/ultimatebb.cgi?ubb=get_topic:f=9:t=000266

A link to this story was posted as a comment to an earlier post I made about the Kite Tube. Based on this story and a number of the comments to the last kite tube post it's not safe! Please don't take your life into your own hands with one of these. The constantly changing angle-of-attack, combined with weight shifts from the rider and the lack of drag make this an extremely unpredictable "kite".

KFDM-TV Channel Six News writes...

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a man who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neches River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Advertisers say buy a kite tube, and you'll reach 'incredible heights.'

Water sports enthusiast Don Burnett says, "As wind gets underneath it, you just start to fly."

Three weeks ago Burnett of Lumberton ordered a kite tube.

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Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave danger in its wake. On Sunday 33-year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after falling off a kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Waterway.

Game Warden Robbie Smith says, "Common sense is really an oxymoron. People don't use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 feet in the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in the air and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and he died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more control over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all directly associated with the boat driver."

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he hasn't been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a ride on his tube when it arrives.

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the options as far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so they're not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube, 'Never kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, and we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this story contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com.

This entry was posted on Thursday, May 4th, 2006 at 11:13 pm and is filed under [In the news](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0 feed](#). You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

<http://www.steadywinds.com/archives/2006/05/04/kite-tube-claims-life/>

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Kite Tubing Safety Alert

Over the past month, the park has experienced a sharp upswing in visitor accidents and injuries due to kite tubing on the lake.

Kite tubes were introduced into the market this past winter and have proven to be extremely dangerous. During the past three weeks, Glen Canyon staff have airlifted four people from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Kite tubes are large, round, ten-foot tubes with a solid fabric floor in the bottom. As the tube is pulled forward, the front of the tube is lifted and air catches the floor of the tube and lifts it out of the water with the rider on top of the tube.

In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, the riders were being pulled at 25 to 35 mph with a head on or quartering wind. The tubes would rise uncontrollably 15 to 25 feet into the air and immediately invert and accelerate back to the water. The combined forward speed of the boat, plus the additional accelerated downward speed is driving these victims into the water at speeds near 50+ mph. For additional details on the accidents, see the related incident report in today's edition.

Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the kite tubes as directed when they suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable, and plunged down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with deceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries, broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures.

Glen Canyon NRA has initiated discussion and contact with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and will be providing a national safety alert through their organization very soon. In addition, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has been notified regarding this emerging threat and efforts are being made to disseminate more information on this activity through them.

One of the park's weekend accidents resulted in a major neck injury. A news video from KUTV in Salt Lake City and a second KUTV video clip on an incident at Lake Mead can be viewed by clicking on the links listed below (a flash player is needed to view them):

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

A prohibition on cliff jumping was put in place at Glen Canyon last year after an increase in injuries and fatalities associated with this activity. Although controversial in the beginning, it has been widely accepted and the park has received many positive comments back on this prohibition. A review of the data indicated that a significant increase in injury and death occurred at jumps higher than 15 feet. The last cliff jumping fatality occurred from 70 feet, with a calculated speed of about 50 mph when the victim impacted the water.

Similar circumstances apply in this case. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15 to 20 feet in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed, so the victims are hitting the water at 45 to 55 mph. These accidents are therefore the equivalent of a 70 foot cliff jump, with the added component of the victims having no control over how they enter or impact the water.

[More Information...](#)

Contact Information

Name: Mike Mayer, Chief Ranger

<http://www.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Announcements&id=4523>

New water-toy injuries alarm Powell rangers

By Jens Dana

Deseret Morning News

Park rangers at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area are alarmed at the number of injuries they've already seen at Lake Powell as a new water toy makes its debut on lakes across the nation this summer.

The Wego Kite Tube, manufactured by SportsStuff Inc., is the latest sporting product to offer boating enthusiasts an adrenaline rush. Kevin Schneider, management assistant at Glen Canyon, said park rangers are still relatively unfamiliar with kite tubes, but they've already seen what happens when riders lose control of them.

A speedboat tows a rider on a 10-foot-diameter inflatable tube, and the rider can glide in the air to heights of 10 to 60 feet, depending on the tow rope's length, Schneider said. When a rider falls from those heights, the results can be traumatic.

"This is the first summer we've seen kite tubes," he said. "But we've already had four significant accidents."

Just last weekend, two people suffered injuries in separate kite-tubing accidents. In the first and more severe incident, a 29-year-old man from St. George lost control of his kite tube June 2 and fell about 40 feet to the water's surface while moving at approximately 40 mph, Schneider said.

Park rangers arrived and found the man had suffered a broken neck. They placed him on a backboard to stabilize him before calling for an emergency helicopter from Page, Ariz. A helicopter ambulance flew the man to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo. Two other members of the man's party reported they also "got banged around on the kite tube" earlier that day.

The next day, a 14-year-old girl from Houston fell about 15 feet and lost consciousness when she hit the lake surface. She was also airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital. Doctors released her from the hospital after finding she was not seriously injured, Schneider said.

Rangers airlifted two other individuals in April and May for kite-tube-related injuries that included a punctured lung,

broken ribs, chest injuries and back injuries, Schneider said.

Mike Mayer, chief ranger for Glen Canyon, last week sent a safety alert regarding the accidents to nearly 400 parks across the nation. Mayer said the victims had been using the kite tubes as directed when the tubes suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable and plunged down to the water surface.

"Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash-type injuries, broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures," he wrote.

Mayer also noted that cliff jumping was banned at Glen Canyon last year after a spate of injuries and fatalities related to the activity. Schneider said the park management is not contemplating a similar ban on kite tubes at this time, but they will evaluate the accidents to determine how to prevent future mishaps.

"Our first concern at Glen Canyon is obviously the safety of our guests," he said. "We want to make sure that they do have a safe time while they are here."

Jay Schneider, spokesman for SportsStuff Inc., said his company worked closely with the Water Sports Industry Association on the kite tube, which won Sports Product of the Year Award in 2006 from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. He said SportsStuff includes with the kite tubes an extensive system of warnings and instructions, including an instructional DVD and many warning patches printed on the surface of the tube.

"The Wego kite tube has been extensively tested and has been found to be a safe item when properly used under the recommended guidelines," he said.

E-mail: jdana@desnews.com

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640186042,00.html>

Two injured on Kite Tubes at Lake Powell

The Salt Lake Tribune

Two people were treated for injuries they suffered over the weekend while riding Wego Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. It is the first season rangers in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area have seen Kite Tubes, which are saucer-shaped inflated tubes towed by boats going 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the tube as it rises 15 to 60 feet from the water. On Friday afternoon, a 29-year-old man broke his neck when he lost control of a Kite Tube and fell 35 to 40 feet while moving about 35 to 40 mph, according to a news release. He was the third person in his party injured while riding Kite Tubes that day. The others reported minor injuries and were not treated. The following afternoon, a 14-year-old girl lost

consciousness when she struck the water after falling 10 to 15 feet while being towed at 20 to 25 mph, according to the release. The girl suffered no serious injury and was released following examination at a hospital. The accidents marked the third and fourth time people have been treated for injuries suffered while riding Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. On April 7, a man suffered a punctured lung caused by broken ribs. And on May 22, a man suffered chest and back injuries.

http://www.sltrib.com/utah/ci_3907503

Game Wardens Say New Extreme Sport Responsible For Man's Death On Water

Reported by [Sally MacDonald](#) May 3, 2006 - 6:15PM

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a man who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neches River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Advertisers say buy a kite tube, and you'll reach 'incredible heights.'

Water sports enthusiast Don Burnett says, "As wind gets underneath it, you just start to fly."

Three weeks ago Burnett of Lumberton ordered a kite tube.

Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave danger in its wake. On Sunday 33-

year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after falling off a kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intra coastal Waterway.

Game Warden Robbie Smith says, "Common sense is really an oxymoron. People don't use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 feet in the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in the air and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and he died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more control over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all directly associated with the boat driver."

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he hasn't been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a ride on his tube when it arrives.

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the options as far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so they're not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube, 'Never kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, and we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this story contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com.

<http://www.kfdm.com/engine.pl?station=kfdm&id=14598&template=breakoutlocal.html>

Manufacturer's Website

www.sportsstuff.com

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 4:12 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spittler, Virginia R.
Subject: RE: Kite Tubing

060614HCC3602

The doc number for this one is X0660349A. Same as the other -- assignment has been requested, but it won't show up in the system until at least tomorrow. So it doesn't have a task number yet.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 3:14 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Kite Tubing

Do you have a doc number and IDI number for this one yet?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:58 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spittler, Virginia R.; Topping, John C.
Subject: FW: Kite Tubing

Tanya,

Here's a report of someone who ended up unconscious in the water near Omaha. Should we assign it?

Robin

From: ringle@cpsc.gov [mailto:ringle@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:35 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Kite Tubing



 EMAILTHIS

Powered by  Clickability

* Please note, the sender's email address has not been verified.

You have received the following link from ringle@cpsc.gov:

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6/14/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 4:09 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spittler, Virginia R.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

Doc numbers are X0660350A, X0660350B, X0660350C, and X0660350D. The assignment has been requested but not made yet, so they don't have task numbers. They'll be assigned tomorrow.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 3:13 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

Are all four incidents under the same doc number but with four different IDI numbers? Just wanted to be clear. Do you know the IDI numbers yet?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
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To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

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Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 8:23 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

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Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

6/14/2006

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Powered by Clickability

* Please note, the sender's email address has not been verified.

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Click the following to access the sent link:

Kite Tubing*

[Save This Link](#)

[Forward This Link](#)

108

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dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tue 6/13/2006 7:05 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Parisi, Barbara E
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 10:50 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: June 12 Boating Accident Report

From: PCappel@comdt.uscg.mil [mailto:PCappel@comdt.uscg.mil]
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:28 AM
To: Parisi, Barbara E
Subject: FW: June 12 Boating Accident Report

Barbara,
 This is the info on the kite tubes taken from our boating accident clipping service.

Phil Cappel

Chief, Recreational Boating Product Assurance Division (G-PCB-3)
 Office of Boating Safety, United States Coast Guard
 Phone: (202) 267-0988 Fax: (202) 267-4285
 E-Mail: pcappel@comdt.uscg.mil
www.uscgboating.org

JUNE 12, 2006 Boating Accident Report

These reports are for OFFICIAL USE ONLY. They contain summarized copyrighted material and may not be released or used in a public forum. Please use the attached link to obtain a complete news article and comply with copyright requirements.

NEW SPORT ALERT

OMAHA, NE Kite Tubing WOWT.COM Channel 6

A fun day of boating on the Missouri River turned frightening for a family and their friends when a new water toy became too much to handle. Colleen York had a queasy feeling as she watched. "I'm thinking to myself something is going to happen. He's going way too high," she recalls. A friend riding a newly purchased water toy called the kite tube made a hard landing. Colleen says, "We turned around and he was unconscious in the water and we're all freaking out. So his dad jumps in and rescues him. He started coughing. I was glad." Watching the tape of the episode, Nebraska Medical Center emergency room Dr. Richard Walker said water doesn't guarantee a soft landing."

He says, "If you are jerked around quickly in the air you can injure your neck or your back; your spine." But Paul Davis of Omaha Marine Center says the kite tube comes with written and video instructions to make it a safe and exciting ride. He says the instructions are, "very specific to the speed you can go, the rope length to use. If you continue to accelerate, about the 30 mph range you increase your chances of getting hurt."

The cockpit of the kite tube also comes with instructions on communicating with the boat with instructions to speed up or slow down. Dan Wiley is a kite tube rider who doesn't think of himself as a daredevil. He says, "If you go too fast, yes, it's going to be a dangerous situation but it's a very calm, relaxing, fun ride." Though the kite tube initially made a splash with her friends, Colleen York says they've since returned it. "It looks fun," she says. "You might think you have control but one gust of

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wind and they now know better." Sports Stuff, the manufacturer, says no other towable, inflatable on the market has such an extensive system of warnings and instruction. Markings on the tube are specifically designed to warn the riders of possible dangers in misusing the tube. It's produced by a company in Omaha that conducted numerous safety tests on Lake Manawa before putting the tube on the market.
<http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/3006146.html>

6-11-06 Glen Canyon Nat. Park, New water-toy injuries alarm Powell rangers

Deseret.com-Utah News, 6-11-06 Park rangers at the Glen Canyon Nat'l. Recreation Area are alarmed at the number of injuries they've already seen at Lake Powell as a new water toy makes its debut on lakes across the nation this summer. The Wego Kite Tube, manufactured by SportsStuff Inc., is the latest sporting product to offer boating enthusiasts an adrenaline rush. Kevin Schneider, management assistant at Glen Canyon, said park rangers are still relatively unfamiliar with kite tubes, but they've already seen what happens when riders lose control of them. A speedboat tows a rider on a 10-ft.-diameter inflatable tube, and the rider can glide in the air to heights of 10 to 60 ft., depending on the tow rope's length, Schneider said. When a rider falls from those heights, the results can be traumatic. "This is the first summer we've seen kite tubes," he said. "But we've already had four significant accidents." Just last weekend, 2 people suffered injuries in separate kite-tubing accidents. In the first and more severe incident, a 29-y/o man from St. George lost control of his kite tube June 2 and fell about 40 ft. to the water's surface while moving at approximately 40 mph, Schneider said. Park rangers arrived and found the man had suffered a broken neck. They placed him on a backboard to stabilize him before calling for an emergency helicopter from Page, Ariz. A helicopter ambulance flew the man to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo. Two other members of the man's party reported they also "got banged around on the kite tube" earlier that day.

The next day, a 14-y/o girl from Houston fell about 15 ft. and lost consciousness when she hit the lake surface. She was also airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital. Doctors released her from the hospital after finding she was not seriously injured, Schneider said. Rangers airlifted 2 other individuals in April and May for kite-tube-related injuries that included a punctured lung, broken ribs, chest injuries and back injuries, Schneider said. Mike Mayer, chief ranger for Glen Canyon, last week sent a safety alert regarding the accidents to nearly 400 parks across the nation. Mayer said the victims had been using the kite tubes as directed when the tubes suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable and plunged down to the water surface. "Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash-type injuries, broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures," he wrote. Mayer also noted that cliff jumping was banned at Glen Canyon last year after a spate of injuries and fatalities related to the activity. Schneider said the park management is not contemplating a similar ban on kite tubes at this time, but they will evaluate the accidents to determine how to prevent future mishaps. "Our first concern at Glen Canyon is obviously the safety of our guests," he said. "We want to make sure that they do have a safe time while they are here." Jay Schneider, spokesman for SportsStuff Inc., said his company worked closely with the Water Sports Industry Association on the kite tube, which won Sports Product of the Year Award in 2006 from the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. He said SportsStuff includes with the kite tubes an extensive system of warnings and instructions, including an instructional DVD and many warning patches printed on the surface of the tube. "The Wego kite tube has been extensively tested and has been found to be a safe item when properly used under the recommended guidelines," he said.

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640186042,00.html>

*Prepared for the U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety (202-267-0984) by Ancon Marine Consultants, Inc.
 (239-283-1111)*

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 8:46 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Stern, Richard L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Marc J. Schoem
 Deputy Director
 Office of Compliance and
 Field Operations
 301-504-7520 - phone
 240-638-6955 - cell

From: Howell, Robert J.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 7:03 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Elder, Jacqueline; Wolfson, Scott J.
Cc: Mullan, John G.; Martin, Lowell F.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Found this on the web this am. - Jay

An excerpt from the article: A speedboat tows a rider on a 10-foot-diameter inflatable tube, and the rider can glide in the air to heights of 10 to 60 feet, depending on the tow rope's length, Schneider said. When a rider falls from those heights, the results can be traumatic.

"This is the first summer we've seen kite tubes," he said. "But we've already had four significant accidents."

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Park rangers arrived and found the man had suffered a broken neck. They placed him on a backboard to stabilize him before calling for an emergency helicopter from Page, Ariz. A helicopter ambulance flew the man to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colo. Two other members of the man's party reported they also "got banged around on the kite tube" earlier that day.

The next day, a 14-year-old girl from Houston fell about 15 feet and lost consciousness when she hit the lake surface. She was also airlifted to St. Mary's Hospital. Doctors released her from the hospital after finding she was not seriously injured, Schneider said.

Rangers airlifted two other individuals in April and May for kite-tube-related injuries that included a punctured lung, broken ribs, chest injuries and back injuries, Schneider said.
 Full articles and links below. - Jay

Desert News (1)

New water-toy injuries alarm Powell rangers

Jun 11, 2006 11:03 am

Park rangers at the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area are alarmed at the number of injuries they've already seen at Lake Powell as a new water toy makes its debut on lakes ...

<http://deseretnews.com/dn/view/0,1249,640186042,00.html>

Salt Lake Tribune (1)

Two injured on Kite Tubes at Lake Powell

Jun 7, 2006 11:03 am

Two people were treated for injuries they suffered over the weekend while riding Wego Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. It is the first season rangers in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area have seen ...

http://www.sltrib.com/utah/cj_3907503

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 8:30 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

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 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 Ph. # 262-650-1216
 Fax # 262-650-1217
 Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tue 6/13/2006 7:05 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

Dennis,

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Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 7:06 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached

I scanned each event separately so they would be easier to assign. I'll send them two at a
 6/13/2006

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The park contact is: Mike Mayer, ph. #928-608-6253. This is all the reporting they have. I told him that we would be contacting the consumers, and they are fine with that.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 8:24 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Second two incident reports from NPS attached

perfect

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tue 6/13/2006 7:14 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Second two incident reports from NPS attached

Dennis,

Emerging Hazards actually already had created a specific assignment message for kite tubing cases, which we've been using. I can fold your questions in. Thanks for the tip.

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 7:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Second two incident reports from NPS attached

I wonder if we should create a specific assignment message for these cases. Here are some example questions.

Some of the issues are obvious:

- product ID
- where purchased
- when purchased
- how often used/ experience with similar products

Others may not be:

- did you ask the sales staff how to use the product
- did they offer any directions/ cautions
- did any instructional material come with the product
- did you read it
- did you read the safety warnings on the product itself

I'd interview the rider, the boat driver and any spotters in the boat. They must be interviewed separately!

The rider:

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- previous experience with similar products?
- any experience with this unit?
- did this unit perform differently than the others they tried?
- did they believe they could direct/ control the direction and height of the tube kite?
- what happened when they became airborne?
- could they see the boat (due to the angle of the tube kite)?
- did they try to signal the boat to slow down?
- did they do anything to try to lower the tube kite back down towards the water?
- specifics regarding the actual crash
- any mechanical issues with tube kite?
- what were you wearing (safety gear?)

The driver:

- had they towed inflatable or similar products behind the boat previously?
- what experience with this particular product?
- who attached the tow rope/ tow harness to the tube kite and to the boat?
- was it done based on instructions provided?
- how did you decide what speed you would travel?
- how did you communicate with the rider?
- did you actually see the tube kite dive to the surface?
- why/ why not?
- did you try to do anything to halt the dive or avoid the crash?
- what did you do after the crash?
- was there any damage or apparent equipment failure noted?

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6/13/2006

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From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 7:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Second two incident reports from NPS attached
Attachments: Glen3.pdf; Glen4.pdf

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- who attached the tow rope/ tow harness to the tube kite and to the boat?
- was it done based on instructions provided?
- how did you decide what speed you would travel?
- how did you communicate with the rider?
- did you actually see the tube kite dive to the surface?

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- why/ why not?
- did you try to do anything to halt the dive or avoid the crash?
- what did you do after the crash?
- was there any damage or apparent equipment failure noted?

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 7:06 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Four Glen Canyon National Recreation Area (Page, AZ) reports attached
Attachments: Glen1.pdf; Glen2.pdf

I scanned each event separately so they would be easier to assign. I'll send them two at a time. NPS is adamant that the reports not be released outside CPSC. I added coversheets.

The park contact is: Mike Mayer, ph. #928-608-6253. This is all the reporting they have. I told him that we would be contacting the consumers, and they are fine with that.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 4:27 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

The doc number on the original four Arizona incidents is X0660348A.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 4:20 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

I've left voice mail msgs on the head ranger's office and cell phones... let's sit tight

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Mon 6/12/2006 2:57 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Dennis,

Without knowing what you have on the other four Glen Canyon incidents, I'm unable to tell whether the two mentioned below are two of the four mentioned earlier. If I assign these (which I'd like to do), there's the possibility of duplication. The four we had earlier have no doc number, no task number, or anything -- though I am sure you are looking into them as promised, and I've held off formally assigning them as you requested.

Please call to discuss. 301-949-6982.

Robin

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 3:31 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: FW: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Do we have all of these? If not lets assign them.

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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:58 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Vece, John R.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

<http://www.nps.gov/applications/digest/headline.cfm?type=Incidents&id=2616>

GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA- UTAH

Two Injured in Kite Tubing Accidents

[\[Printer-friendly text version\]](#)

Two people were injured in separate, unrelated "kite tubing" accidents in the park last weekend. In both cases, the victims were riding kite tubes towed by boats when they lost control of the device. Each then fell into Lake Powell from heights of between 10 and 40 feet. Kite tubes are large, round inflated tubes that are towed by boats at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air from 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the slightest upset in its balance causes it to fall into the water. The first incident occurred on Friday, June 2nd, at approximately 2:30 p.m. near the Bullfrog area. A 29-year-old man from St. George, Utah, was riding a kite tube when he lost control and fell from a height of 35 to 40 feet while moving at approximately 35 to 40 mph. He suffered a broken neck and was flown by helicopter from the Bullfrog Medical Clinic to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was the third person in his party that day to be injured while kite tubing, but the other two sustained only minor injuries and were not treated. On the afternoon of Saturday, June 3rd, a 14-year-old girl from Houston, Texas, fell from 10 to 15 feet from her kite tube while being towed at 20 to 25 mph. She lost consciousness when she struck the water. Park rangers immediately responded to the incident and she was flown by helicopter from Iceberg Canyon to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. After further examination at the hospital, she was released without serious injuries. These were the third and fourth accidents this year involving kite tubes. The first accident occurred on April 7th and resulted in a punctured lung caused by broken ribs; the second was on May 22nd, when another person sustained injuries to the chest and back while using a kite tube. Both of these incidents involved kite tube riders losing control of the device and falling into the water while moving at a high rate of speed. The individuals involved in these accidents were also transported by helicopter to the hospital. This is the first season that park rangers at Glen Canyon have seen kite tubes on the lake. Please see the related safety alert on kite tubing in this issue for additional information and for links to two TV news videos on kite tubing accidents.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:19 PM
To: Grundy, Michelle A.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

FYI, we know of four incidents in AZ (National Park Service called me.) Another in Florida, and a fatality in TX. Must be others...

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Mon 6/12/2006 1:16 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

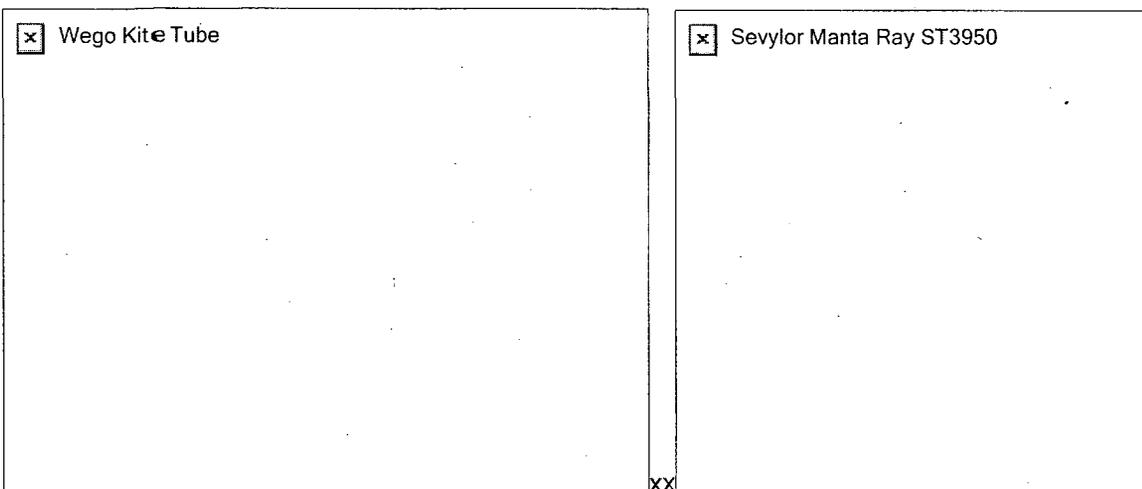
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Thanks!!!

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:15 PM
To: CFIW - Western Region; CFIE - Eastern Region; Cave, Carol J.; Schwartz, Bruce E.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

CPSC has recently received several reports of serious injury involving an inflatable raft/ toy that is pulled behind motor boats. The product is generically called a "kite tube" (a popular manufacturer's brand name.) The product is a nylon covered inflatable raft, designed in various wing-like shapes. Some you lay down on top of; others have seat/ footrest areas. 1-3 people can ride on them. When towed behind a boat quickly enough, the inflatable lifts off the water and hovers like a kite. In theory, the rider would stay close to the water; however, the rider apparently has limited ability to control the raft, and like a kite the flight can be erratic and take the rider very high.



There have been several serious injuries and one reported death attributed to these products. Reports suggest that the inflatable can fly quite high, and that a wind gust or other change in direction can cause the rider to topple from significant height. CPSC would like to take a look at these incidents. Tanya Topka is the responsible compliance officer, and Robin Ingle (EPI emerging hazards) will both be assigning IDs. If you receive a report or observe any news articles regarding an injury involving this product, please let Tanya, Robin or me know as soon as possible.

Dennis Blasius
 Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
 Office of Compliance and Field Operations
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 Ph. # 262-650-1216
 Fax # 262-650-1217
 Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 3:49 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Kite tube death in Texas

The kite tube death in Texas has been assigned under task number 060612HCC3582. It was just assigned in the last hour, so it might not show up in IFS until tomorrow.

Doc # X0660330A

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:56 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Spitler, Virginia R.
Subject: Tube kiting incidents

Tanya,

The tube kiting incidents mentioned below (4 serious injuries) have not been assigned and do not have document numbers but are being looked into by Dennis Blasius, who told me to hold off on assigning them until today, so I have held off pending word from him. I suspect that we will assign them before the day is out.

Other incidents are:

I0660124A -- Florida case, victim rendered unconscious -- we requested IDI
X0660330A -- TX death case -- we requested IDI
I0660178A -- Wyoming, no injury

By the way, if you'd like to add specific things to my assignment message for the investigator to gather, I'd welcome that. Virginia can send you a copy of it.

Robin

Operational Safety Alert:

In the past month Glen Canyon National Recreation Area has experienced a sharp upswing in visitor accidents and injuries due to Kite Tubing accidents. Kite Tubes were introduced into the market this past winter and have proven to be extremely dangerous. In the past three weeks Glen Canyon staff have air lifted 4 patients from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Kite Tubes are large round 10' tubes with a solid fabric floor in the bottom. As the tube is pulled forward the front of the tube is lifted and air catches the floor of the tube and lifts it out of the water with the rider on top of the tube.

In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA the riders were being pulled at 25 to 35 mph with a head on or quartering wind. The tubes would rise uncontrollably 15' to 25' into the air and immediately invert and accelerate back to the water. The combined forward speed of the boat, plus the additional accelerated downward speed is driving these victims into the water at speeds near 50+ mph.

Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the Kite Tubes as directed when they suddenly lift to dangerous heights, become unstable and plunge

down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with de-acceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries in addition to the broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures in the more serious injuries.

Glen Canyon NRA has initiated discussion and contact with the National Boating Law Administrators and we will be providing a national safety alert through their organization very soon. In addition, the Consumers Products Safety Commission on emerging threats have been notified and we hope to have more information out on this activity.

One of our weekend accidents resulted in a major neck injury (broken C-2) and you can view it at KUTV.com. An additional video clip from a Lake Mead incident has also been added this morning and the story and video are available on their home page. (Links to both above)

A prohibition on cliff jumping was put in place at Glen Canyon last year after an increase in injuries and fatalities associated with this activity. (Although controversial in the beginning, it has been widely accepted and the park has received many positive comments back on this prohibition) A review of the data indicated that a significant increase in injury and death occurred at jumps higher than 15'. The last cliff jumping fatality occurred from 70' with a calculated speed of about 50 mph when the victim impacted the water. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15' to 20' in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed and these victims are hitting the water at 45-55mph. These accidents are equivalent of a 70' cliff jump with the added component of an out of control body with no control over how they enter or impact the water.

Additional info:

Bill, these videos are from Break.com

I have added these video examples from the internet to illustrate the impact these accidents are having. I do not know the location of these accidents.

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 12:49 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes possible PI case

FYI

Please send me anything you get on this product. You may want to alert all of the field to be on the look out for this product and incidents. I clearly see how serious injuries could result. If I get the green light, I will open a case so I will need incidents from the field to help support the case.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 12:40 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Stern, Richard L.
Cc: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubes possible PI case

I took a look at this but still find this very hard to believe that Coast Guard is not willing to take it since they would enforce any recall or ruling on this product because they are out on the water patrolling for this type of thing. Marc I can send a case opening letter to the firm but I wanted to make sure we agree with Coast Guard on this before I do it. Life jackets are not attached to a boat but still under their jurisdiction and as far as I am aware we do not regulate water skis (this would be very similar).

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:40 PM
To: Stern, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes possible PI case

I think we need a PI at least on this – don't know where its going to go but need to begin looking at it and getting some marketing information on this product.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Parisi, Barbara E
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 6:42 AM
To: Martin, Lowell F.; Pollitzer, Patricia M.

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Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Mullan, John G.; Williams, Jeffrey R.
Subject: RE: Kite tubes

I assisted Robin on this one. I know this may appear to be Coast Guard at first glance, but the Coast Guard appears to have a relatively strict interpretation of what constitutes "associated equipment" for a boat. We recently looked at a somewhat similar product--an inflatable boat for children which was to be towed behind a boat. I contacted Phil Cappel in the General Counsel's office at the Coast Guard, and he said that items such as this are towable toys which are not permanently attached to the boat as associated equipment and are therefore not considered to fall under Coast Guard authority. He contrasted this with the example of an emergency life boat, which is stored on the boat and would thus, according to him, fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction. Under this analysis, the kite tube, as a recreational product that is towed behind a boat and not stored ON the boat, would not fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction.

Hope this helps.
Barbara

From: Martin, Lowell F.
Sent: Thu 6/8/2006 6:16 PM
To: Parisi, Barbara E; Pollitzer, Patricia M.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes

Any comments on this one?

Lowell F. Martin
Deputy Executive Director
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
phone (301) 504-7628
fax (301) 504-0121
e-mail lmartin@cpsc.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Mullan, John G.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:12 PM
To: Martin, Lowell F.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes

FYI, here's another one. Gib

-----Original Message-----
From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 5:20 PM
To: Mullan, John G.
Subject: Fw: Kite tubes

Gib. Here's the phone message info I just sent you. I can't see how this isn't an associated boat product under Coast Guard. I don't know who Robin talked to in OGC. Do you want to talk to Page or should I forward this up to them for a formal opinion. I would assume if Coast Guard is asked they might want to run with it.

Our visit today went real well and HB will soon begin a weekly report. Ill fill you in tomorrow.
Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - work
240-638-6955 - cell

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----
From: Ingle, Robin L.

6/12/2006

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To: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thu Jun 08 16:43:54 2006
Subject: Kite tubes

Marc,

I thought I should update you on a few developments over the last few days about a new product we've heard about in Emerging Hazards. One of the NEISS hospitals alerted us to a number of injuries in Arizona associated with a product called a kite tube. It's a big inflatable raft type of thing that gets pulled behind a boat by a tow rope. One or two people ride on it. When enough speed is attained, the raft goes airborne and flies. It can fly just a few feet in the air or, as I've seen in videos, really high -- almost as high as the tow rope is long. The trouble is, there is very little control, and the thing can dive just like a real kite, in which case the riders get dumped off. A guy in Beaumont, Texas died after falling from one -- he hit the water so hard that the cause of death was a transected aorta. The injuries in Arizona have included broken necks and internal injuries from hard impact with the water.

I was concerned about jurisdictional issues (i.e., maybe it would be the Coast Guard's?), so I talked to OGC, and they said it's ours because it's a towable toy. So I assigned the death in Texas for investigation.

A National Park Ranger from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona called me yesterday and said his park is going to ban them because they've had so many serious injuries. I asked him to make a report via our website and he said he would. When he does, I will probably assign it for investigation.

I also have another report that came in today from Florida of a teenager who was rendered unconscious by a fall from a kite tube.

There's a sales video of these things at www.sportsstuff.com. The major manufacturer appears to be a company called Wego or We-go, although I think there are other manufacturers. One website I saw claimed that some towable rafts were safe for toddlers, though it was unclear if they meant flying towable rafts, or at what speeds that meant. There are two videos of accidents at www.kutv.com (you need Flash to see them).

So would Compliance be interested in this sort of thing?

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 11:12 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Yes, I requested the assignment based on a news article that will be doc number X0660330A. However, neither the record nor the image is in the system yet. I'm working on getting them there in the next couple of hours. As soon as I have a task number, I'll let you know -- hopefully today.

The location of the death in the article is given as "near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Waterway." Maybe that will help in determining what investigator gets this assignment in the meantime if you need that info. I'll do my best to expedite the entry of the doc into the system so you'll have it soon.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 10:35 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Did you assign (or have enough details to assign) the fatality in TX referenced?

From: Mike_Mayer@nps.gov [mailto:Mike_Mayer@nps.gov]
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 6:08 PM
To: Dennis_Burnett@nps.gov; Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Mark_Law@nps.gov; Mary_Hinson@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Dennis,

Will do. I have 4 reports and will fax first thing Monday morning. In addition I have spoken with Robin Ingle 888-638-8095x7333 from CPSC emerging threats already, she might be interested.

Tip of the iceberg. Fatality in Texas has some good info also. Investigator Ryan Hall, Texas Parks and Wildlife 409-988-9096.

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

Dennis Burnett

To: "Mike Mayer" <Mike_Mayer@nps.gov>

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6/12/2006

06/09/2006 06:26 PM EDT cc:

Subject: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Mike. Is there any way you can mail or fax copies of the incident reports to Dennis Blasius.

Dennis Burnett
Law Enforcement Program Administrator
202-513-7128 office
202-371-1869 secure fax
202-371-2401 general fax

From: Louis Rowe
Sent: 06/09/2006 05:00 PM
To: Dennis Burnett; Cam Sholly
Cc: dblasius@cpsc.gov
Subject: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Dennis Burnett:
Dennis Blasius, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Consumer Product Safety Commission wants to get on this Tube-kiting accident thing right away. Can you get the reports from Lake Mead sent to him ASAP?

Louis Rowe, CSP, CHMM
Deputy, Risk Management
National Park Service
(202) 513-7222 (o)
(703) 994-5816 (c)

----- Forwarded by Louis Rowe/WASO/NPS on 06/09/2006 04:57 PM -----

"Blasius, Dennis
R." To: <Louis_Rowe@nps.gov>
<DBlasius@cpsc.gov cc:
v> Subject: RE: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

06/09/2006 03:09 PM AST

I received the videos. We are very interested. Can you email me the incident reports and other documentation that you have? Need soonest. Thanks for all Louis.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Louis_Rowe@nps.gov [mailto:Louis_Rowe@nps.gov]
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 9:08 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

6/12/2006

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Louis Rowe, CSP, CHMM
Deputy, Risk Management
National Park Service
(202) 513-7222 (o)
(703) 994-5816 (c)

----- Forwarded by Louis Rowe/WASO/NPS on 06/09/2006 10:07 AM -----

Cam Sholly

To:
Richard_Powell@nps.gov, Louis_Rowe@nps.gov
06/08/2006 09:46 cc:

AM EDT Subject:

----- Forwarded by Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS on 06/08/2006 09:46 AM -----

Dennis
Burnett/WASO/NPS

To
06/08/2006 09:36 Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS, Jerry
AM EDT Case/WASO/NPS, Lee
Dickinson/WASO/NPS, David
Barna/WASO/NPS

cc

Subject

Dennis Burnett
NPS Law Enforcement Program Administrator
Division of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
202-513-7128 work
202-371-1869 fax

-----Forwarded by Dennis Burnett/WASO/NPS on 06/08/2006 07:35AM -----

To: Bill Halainen/DEWA/NPS@NPS
From: Mike Mayer/GLCA/NPS
Date: 06/07/2006 01:12PM
cc: Nancie E Ames/GLCA/NPS@NPS, Billy Shott/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dennis
Burnett/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dale Antonich/LAME/NPS@NPS, Linda Alick/CURE/NPS@NPS,
Dennis Weiland/CHIC/NPS@NPS, Dane Tantay/LAMR/NPS@NPS, Bruce

6/12/2006

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Malloy/AMIS/NPS@NPS, Andy Zavanelli/WHIS/NPS@NPS, Randy Y
Larson/PAIS/NPS@NPS, Linden Schlenker/BICA/NPS@NPS, Mark Law/GLCA/NPS@NPS,
Mary Hinson/LAME/NPS@NPS
Subject:

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

Bill, per our conversation for your review.

Operational Safety Alert:

In the past month Glen Canyon National Recreation Area has experienced a sharp upswing in visitor accidents and injuries due to Kite Tubing accidents. Kite Tubes were introduced into the market this past winter and have proven to be extremely dangerous. In the past three weeks Glen Canyon staff have air lifted 4 patients from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Kite Tubes are large round 10' tubes with a solid fabric floor in the bottom. As the tube is pulled forward the front of the tube is lifted and air catches the floor of the tube and lifts it out of the water with the rider on top of the tube.

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Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the Kite Tubes as directed when they suddenly lift to dangerous heights, become unstable and plunge down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with de-acceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries in addition to the broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures in the more serious injuries.

Glen Canyon NRA has initiated discussion and contact with the National Boating Law Administrators and we will be providing a national safety alert through their organization very soon. In addition, the Consumers Products Safety Commission on emerging threats have been notified and we hope to have more information out on this activity.

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when the victim impacted the water. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15' to 20' in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed and these victims are hitting the water at 45-55mph. These accidents are equivalent of a 70' cliff jump with the added component of an out of control body with no control over how they enter or impact the water.

Additional info:

Bill, these videos are from Break.com

I have added these video examples from the internet to illustrate the impact these accidents are having. I do not know the location of these accidents.

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

(See attached file: tubing.zip)

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

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web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 12:40 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Stern, Richard L.
Cc: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Kite tubes possible PI case

I took a look at this but still find this very hard to believe that Coast Guard is not willing to take it since they would enforce any recall or ruling on this product because they are out on the water patrolling for this type of thing. Marc I can send a case opening letter to the firm but I wanted to make sure we agree with Coast Guard on this before I do it. Life jackets are not attached to a boat but still under their jurisdiction and as far as I am aware we do not regulate water skis (this would be very similar).

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:40 PM
To: Stern, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes possible PI case

I think we need a PI at least on this – don't know where its going to go but need to begin looking at it and getting some marketing information on this product.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Parisi, Barbara E
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 6:42 AM
To: Martin, Lowell F.; Pollitzer, Patricia M.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Mullan, John G.; Williams, Jeffrey R.
Subject: RE: Kite tubes

I assisted Robin on this one. I know this may appear to be Coast Guard at first glance, but the Coast Guard appears to have a relatively strict interpretation of what constitutes "associated equipment" for a boat. We recently looked at a somewhat similar product--an inflatable boat for children which was to be towed behind a boat. I contacted Phil Cappel in the General Counsel's office at the Coast Guard, and he said that items such as this are towable toys which are not permanently attached to the boat as associated equipment and are therefore not considered to fall under Coast Guard authority. He contrasted this with the example of an emergency life boat, which is stored on the boat and would thus, according to him, fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction. Under this analysis, the kite tube, as a recreational product that is towed behind a boat and not stored ON the boat, would not fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction.

Hope this helps.
Barbara

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FW: Kite tubes

From: Martin, Lowell F.
Sent: Thu 6/8/2006 6:16 PM
To: Parisi, Barbara E; Pollitzer, Patricia M.
Subject: FVV: Kite tubes

Any comments on this one?

Lowell F. Martin
Deputy Executive Director
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
phone (301) 504-7628
fax (301) 504-0121
e-mail lmartin@cpsc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Mullan, John G.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:12 PM
To: Martin, Lowell F.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes

FYI, here's another one. Gib

-----Original Message-----

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 5:20 PM
To: Mullan, John G.
Subject: Fw: Kite tubes

Gib. Here's the phone message info I just sent you. I can't see how this isn't an associated boat product under Coast Guard. I don't know who Robin talked to in OGC. Do you want to talk to Page or should I forward this up to them for a formal opinion. I would assume if Coast Guard is asked they might want to run with it.

Our visit today went real well and HB will soon begin a weekly report. Ill fill you in tomorrow.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - work
240-638-6955 - cell

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Ingle, Robin L.
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thu Jun 08 16:43:54 2006
Subject: Kite tubes

Marc,

I thought I should update you on a few developments over the last few days about a new product we've heard about in Emerging Hazards. One of the NEISS hospitals alerted us to a number of injuries in Arizona associated with a product called a kite tube. It's a big inflatable raft type of thing that gets pulled behind a boat by a tow rope. One or two people ride on it. When enough speed is attained, the raft goes airborne and flies. It can fly just a few feet in the air or, as I've seen in videos, really high -- almost as high as the tow rope is long. The trouble is, there is very little control, and the thing can dive just like a real kite, in which case the riders get dumped off. A guy in Beaumont, Texas died after falling from one -- he hit the water so hard that the cause of death was a transected aorta. The injuries in Arizona have included broken necks and internal injuries from hard impact with the water.

I was concerned about jurisdictional issues (i.e., maybe it would be the Coast Guard's?), so I talked to OGC, and they said it's ours because it's a towable toy. So I assigned the death in Texas for investigation.

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6/12/2006

A National Park Ranger from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona called me yesterday and said his park is going to ban them because they've had so many serious injuries. I asked him to make a report via our website and he said he would. When he does, I will probably assign it for investigation.

I also have another report that came in today from Florida of a teenager who was rendered unconscious by a fall from a kite tube.

There's a sales video of these things at www.sportsstuff.com. The major manufacturer appears to be a company called Wego or We-go, although I think there are other manufacturers. One website I saw claimed that some towable rafts were safe for toddlers, though it was unclear if they meant flying towable rafts, or at what speeds that meant. There are two videos of accidents at www.kutv.com (you need Flash to see them).

So would Compliance be interested in this sort of thing?

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 10:35 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Did you assign (or have enough details to assign) the fatality in TX referenced?

From: Mike_Mayer@nps.gov [mailto:Mike_Mayer@nps.gov]
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 6:08 PM
To: Dennis_Burnett@nps.gov; Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Mark_Law@nps.gov; Mary_Hinson@nps.gov
Subject: Re: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Dennis,

Will do. I have 4 reports and will fax first thing Monday morning. In addition I have spoken with Robin Ingle 888-638-8095x7333 from CPSC emerging threats already, she might be interested.

Tip of the iceberg. Fatality in Texas has some good info also. Investigator Ryan Hall, Texas Parks and Wildlife 409-988-9096.

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

Dennis Burnett
To: "Mike Mayer" <Mike_Mayer@nps.gov>
06/09/2006 06:26 cc:
PM EDT Subject: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Mike. Is there any way you can mail or fax copies of the incident reports to Dennis Blasius.
Dennis Burnett
Law Enforcement Program Administrator
202-513-7128 office
202-371-1869 secure fax
202-371-2401 general fax

From: Louis Rowe
Sent: 06/09/2006 05:00 PM

6/12/2006

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Re: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Page 2 of 5

To: Dennis Burnett; Cam Sholly
Cc: dblasius@cpsc.gov
Subject: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Dennis Burnett:
Dennis Blasius, Special Assistant to the Deputy Director of the Consumer Product Safety Commission wants to get on this Tube-kiting accident thing right away. Can you get the reports from Lake Mead sent to him ASAP?

Louis Rowe, CSP, CHMM
Deputy, Risk Management
National Park Service
(202) 513-7222 (o)
(703) 994-5816 (c)

----- Forwarded by Louis Rowe/WASO/NPS on 06/09/2006 04:57 PM -----

"Blasius, Dennis
R." To: <Louis_Rowe@nps.gov>
<Dblasius@cpsc.gov cc:
v> Subject: RE: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

06/09/2006 03:09
PM AST

I received the videos. We are very interested. Can you email me the incident reports and other documentation that you have? Need soonest. Thanks for all Louis.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Louis_Rowe@nps.gov [mailto:Louis_Rowe@nps.gov]
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 9:08 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Louis Rowe, CSP, CHMM
Deputy, Risk Management
National Park Service
(202) 513-7222 (o)
(703) 994-5816 (c)

----- Forwarded by Louis Rowe/WASO/NPS on 06/09/2006 10:07 AM -----

Cam Sholly

To:
Richard_Powell@nps.gov, Louis_Rowe@nps.gov
06/08/2006 09:46 cc:

6/12/2006

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AM EDT

Subject:

----- Forwarded by Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS on 06/08/2006 09:46 AM -----

Dennis
Burnett/WASO/NPS

To
06/08/2006 09:36 AM EDT Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS, Jerry
Case/WASO/NPS, Lee
Dickinson/WASO/NPS, David
Barna/WASO/NPS

cc

Subject

Dennis Burnett
NPS Law Enforcement Program Administrator
Division of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
202-513-7128 work
202-371-1869 fax

-----Forwarded by Dennis Burnett/WASO/NPS on 06/08/2006 07:35AM -----

To: Bill Halainen/DEWA/NPS@NPS
From: Mike Mayer/GLCA/NPS
Date: 06/07/2006 01:12PM
cc: Nancie E Ames/GLCA/NPS@NPS, Billy Shott/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dennis
Burnett/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dale Antonich/LAME/NPS@NPS, Linda Alick/CURE/NPS@NPS,
Dennis Weiland/CHIC/NPS@NPS, Dane Tantay/LAMR/NPS@NPS, Bruce
Malloy/AMIS/NPS@NPS, Andy Zavanelli/WHIS/NPS@NPS, Randy Y
Larson/PAIS/NPS@NPS, Linden Schlenker/BICA/NPS@NPS, Mark Law/GLCA/NPS@NPS,
Mary Hinson/LAME/NPS@NPS
Subject:

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

Bill, per our conversation for your review.

6/12/2006

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Operational Safety Alert:

In the past month Glen Canyon National Recreation Area has experienced a sharp upswing in visitor accidents and injuries due to Kite Tubing accidents. Kite Tubes were introduced into the market this past winter and have proven to be extremely dangerous. In the past three weeks Glen Canyon staff have air lifted 4 patients from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Kite Tubes are large round 10' tubes with a solid fabric floor in the bottom. As the tube is pulled forward the front of the tube is lifted and air catches the floor of the tube and lifts it out of the water with the rider on top of the tube.

In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA the riders were being pulled at 25 to 35 mph with a head on or quartering wind. The tubes would rise uncontrollably 15' to 25' into the air and immediately invert and accelerate back to the water. The combined forward speed of the boat, plus the additional accelerated downward speed is driving these victims into the water at speeds near 50+ mph.

Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the Kite Tubes as directed when they suddenly lift to dangerous heights, become unstable and plunge down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with de-acceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries in addition to the broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures in the more serious injuries.

Glen Canyon NRA has initiated discussion and contact with the National Boating Law Administrators and we will be providing a national safety alert through their organization very soon. In addition, the Consumers Products Safety Commission on emerging threats have been notified and we hope to have more information out on this activity.

One of our weekend accidents resulted in a major neck injury (broken C-2) and you can view it at KUTV.com. An additional video clip from a Lake Mead incident has also been added this morning and the story and video are available on their home page. (Links to both above)

A prohibition on cliff jumping was put in place at Glen Canyon last year after an increase in injuries and fatalities associated with this activity. (Although controversial in the beginning, it has been widely accepted and the park has received many positive comments back on this prohibition) A review of the data indicated that a significant increase in injury and death occurred at jumps higher than 15'. The last cliff jumping fatality occurred from 70' with a calculated speed of about 50 mph when the victim impacted the water. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15' to 20' in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed and these victims are hitting the water at 45-55mph. These accidents are equivalent of a 70' cliff jump with the added component of an out of control body with no control over how they enter or impact the water.

Additional info:

Bill, these videos are from Break.com

I have added these video examples from the internet to illustrate the impact these accidents are having. I do not know the location of these accidents.

Re: Fw: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Page 5 of 5

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

(See attached file: tubing.zip)

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following

web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

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6/12/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 3:04 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Ingle, Robin L.; Stern, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Tube-kiting incidents

Here are the videos the Park Service sent over. They are large files, so I put them on the P drive, CPSCPRIV/drb/kite tube videos. You can try this link; otherwise you'll have to navigate through the network directory.

<https://gnat.cpsc.gov/oneNet/NetStorage/DriveP-DATA/CPSCPRIV/drb/Kite%20tube%20videos>

I've asked for the actual incident reporting; the Park Service does in-depth investigation of all injuries/ deaths within the national parks so I'm hoping their reports are comprehensive.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:48 PM
To: Stern, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Mullan, John G.
Subject: FW: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Interesting video to watch

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 1:40 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Dennis,

I spoke with Mike Mayer by phone a few days ago. Yes, this is definitely an emerging hazard that I am very interested in. I checked with OGC on jurisdiction and they have assured me it is within CPSC's jurisdiction since it is a "towable toy". When Mr. Mayer and I spoke, I thought he was going to make a report via the CPSC website, but that hasn't yet come through. I had intended to assign his incidents for investigation then. However, if you want to go ahead and assign from where you sit, that would be fine with me -- just let me know. I certainly would like to get one of our people to look into this.

We have another case from Florida, as well. And I requested an investigation into the death in Texas yesterday.

What's your take on this? Have you see the videos?

Robin

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 1:30 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: FW: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

I received this information from my liaison contact with the National Parks Service. Is this within our jurisdiction and is it an emerging hazard we should be aware of?

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

145

From: Louis_Rowe@nps.gov [mailto:Louis_Rowe@nps.gov]
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 9:08 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Several serious injuries "Tubekiting" on water

Louis Rowe, CSP, CHMM
Deputy, Risk Management
National Park Service
(202) 513-7222 (o)
(703) 994-5816 (c)

----- Forwarded by Louis Rowe/WASO/NPS on 06/09/2006 10:07 AM -----

Cam Sholly
06/08/2006 09:46 AM EDT
To: Richard_Powell@nps.gov, Louis_Rowe@nps.gov
cc:
Subject:

----- Forwarded by Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS on 06/08/2006 09:46 AM -----

Dennis
Burnett/WASO/NPS
06/08/2006 09:36 AM EDT
To
Cam Sholly/WASO/NPS, Jerry
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Date: 06/07/2006 01:12PM
cc: Nancie E Ames/GLCA/NPS@NPS, Billy Shott/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dennis

6/12/2006

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Several serious injuries "Tubing" on water

Burnett/WASO/NPS@NPS, Dale Antonich/LAME/NPS@NPS, Linda Alick/CURE/NPS@NPS, Dennis Weiland/CHIC/NPS@NPS, Dane Tantay/LAMR/NPS@NPS, Bruce Malloy/AMIS/NPS@NPS, Andy Zavanelli/WHIS/NPS@NPS, Randy Y Larson/PAIS/NPS@NPS, Linden Schlenker/BICA/NPS@NPS, Mark Law/GLCA/NPS@NPS, Mary Hinson/LAME/NPS@NPS
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Bill, per our conversation for your review.

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Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the Kite Tubes as directed when they suddenly lift to dangerous heights, become unstable and plunge down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with de-acceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries in addition to the broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures in the more serious injuries.

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6/12/2006

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Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
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(See attached file: tubing.zip)

148

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:41 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Several serious injuries "Tubeking" on water

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 1:43 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Several serious injuries "Tubeking" on water

The attachments from Mr. Rowe have been quarantined; I'll ask EXIT to let them through. I'll forward to you and you can assign as you'd like.

I've never heard of this-- (but would love to try it!)

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Fri 6/9/2006 12:39 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Several serious injuries "Tubeking" on water

Dennis,

I spoke with Mike Mayer by phone a few days ago. Yes, this is definitely an emerging hazard that I am very interested in. I checked with OGC on jurisdiction and they have assured me it is within CPSC's jurisdiction since it is a "towable toy". When Mr. Mayer and I spoke, I thought he was going to make a report via the CPSC website, but that hasn't yet come through. I had intended to assign his incidents for investigation then. However, if you want to go ahead and assign from where you sit, that would be fine with me -- just let me know. I certainly would like to get one of our people to look into this.

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Subject

150

Dennis Burnett
NPS Law Enforcement Program Administrator
Division of Law Enforcement and Emergency Services
202-513-7128 work
202-371-1869 fax

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Subject:

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6/12/2006

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Several serious injuries "Tubing" on water

Safety Commission on emerging threats have been notified and we hope to have more information out on this activity.

One of our weekend accidents resulted in a major neck injury (broken C-2) and you can view it at KUTV.com. An additional video clip from a Lake Mead incident has also been added this morning and the story and video are available on their home page. (Links to both above)

A prohibition on cliff jumping was put in place at Glen Canyon last year after an increase in injuries and fatalities associated with this activity. (Although controversial in the beginning, it has been widely accepted and the park has received many positive comments back on this prohibition) A review of the data indicated that a significant increase in injury and death occurred at jumps higher than 15'. The last cliff jumping fatality occurred from 70' with a calculated speed of about 50 mph when the victim impacted the water. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15' to 20' in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed and these victims are hitting the water at 45-55mph. These accidents are equivalent of a 70' cliff jump with the added component of an out of control body with no control over how they enter or impact the water.

Additional info:

Bill, these videos are from Break.com

I have added these video examples from the internet to illustrate the impact these accidents are having. I do not know the location of these accidents.

Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area
office 928-608-6253
cell 928-640-0429
928-608-6259 FAX Office

(See attached file: tubing.zip)

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 2:40 PM
To: Stem, Richard L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes possible PI case

I think we need a PI at least on this – don't know where its going to go but need to begin looking at it and getting some marketing information on this product.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Parisi, Barbara E
Sent: Friday, June 09, 2006 6:42 AM
To: Martin, Lowell F.; Pollitzer, Patricia M.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Mullan, John G.; Williams, Jeffrey R.
Subject: RE: Kite tubes

I assisted Robin on this one. I know this may appear to be Coast Guard at first glance, but the Coast Guard appears to have a relatively strict interpretation of what constitutes "associated equipment" for a boat. We recently looked at a somewhat similar product--an inflatable boat for children which was to be towed behind a boat. I contacted Phil Cappel in the General Counsel's office at the Coast Guard, and he said that items such as this are towable toys which are not permanently attached to the boat as associated equipment and are therefore not considered to fall under Coast Guard authority. He contrasted this with the example of an emergency life boat, which is stored on the boat and would thus, according to him, fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction. Under this analysis, the kite tube, as a recreational product that is towed behind a boat and not stored ON the boat, would not fall under Coast Guard jurisdiction.

Hope this helps.
Barbara

From: Martin, Lowell F.
Sent: Thu 6/8/2006 6:16 PM
To: Parisi, Barbara E; Pollitzer, Patricia M.
Subject: FW: Kite tubes

Any comments on this one?

Lowell F. Martin
Deputy Executive Director
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814
phone (301) 504-7628
fax (301) 504-0121
e-mail lmartin@cpsc.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Mullan, John G.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 6:12 PM
To: Martin, Lowell F.

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6/12/2006

Subject: FW: Kite tubes

FYI, here's another one. Gib

-----Original Message-----

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, June 08, 2006 5:20 PM
To: Mullan, John G.
Subject: Fw: Kite tubes

Gib. Here's the phone message info I just sent you. I can't see how this isn't an associated boat product under Coast Guard. I don't know who Robin talked to in OGC. Do you want to talk to Page or should I forward this up to them for a formal opinion. I would assume if Coast Guard is asked they might want to run with it.

Our visit today went real well and HB will soon begin a weekly report. Ill fill you in tomorrow.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - work
240-638-6955 - cell

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----

From: Ingle, Robin L.
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thu Jun 08 16:43:54 2006
Subject: Kite tubes

Marc,

I thought I should update you on a few developments over the last few days about a new product we've heard about in Emerging Hazards. One of the NEISS hospitals alerted us to a number of injuries in Arizona associated with a product called a kite tube. It's a big inflatable raft type of thing that gets pulled behind a boat by a tow rope. One or two people ride on it. When enough speed is attained, the raft goes airborne and flies. It can fly just a few feet in the air or, as I've seen in videos, really high -- almost as high as the tow rope is long. The trouble is, there is very little control, and the thing can dive just like a real kite, in which case the riders get dumped off. A guy in Beaumont, Texas died after falling from one -- he hit the water so hard that the cause of death was a transected aorta. The injuries in Arizona have included broken necks and internal injuries from hard impact with the water.

I was concerned about jurisdictional issues (i.e., maybe it would be the Coast Guard's?), so I talked to OGC, and they said it's ours because it's a towable toy. So I assigned the death in Texas for investigation.

A National Park Ranger from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area in Arizona called me yesterday and said his park is going to ban them because they've had so many serious injuries. I asked him to make a report via our website and he said he would. When he does, I will probably assign it for investigation.

I also have another report that came in today from Florida of a teenager who was rendered unconscious by a fall from a kite tube.

There's a sales video of these things at www.sportsstuff.com. The major manufacturer appears to be a company called Wego or We-go, although I think there are other manufacturers. One website I saw claimed that some towable rafts were safe for toddlers, though it was unclear if they meant flying towable rafts, or at what speeds that meant. There are two videos of accidents at www.kutv.com (you need Flash to see them).

So would Compliance be interested in this sort of thing?

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway

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6/12/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Glogowski, Henry P.
Sent: Thursday, September 14, 2006 4:24 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: All REC's Complete

The following REC is the last in the group and is completed.

Investigator: Randall D. Poth
Recall Number: CA060037
Assign Number: 060714CRM0996

Firm Name:
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Product: Kite Tube

Firm Inspected:
Boaters World
6711 Ritz Way
Beltsville, MD 20705

060705 HBB3646



STATE OF COLORADO
INCIDENT REPORT

Reporting Agency: DPOR-PUE
Incident Report No.: PUE-06-072

Location: MID LAKE		Geo-Code: 02	Connecting Citation(s):	
Date Occured: 6/10/2006	Time Occured: 4:40 PM	Date Reported: 6/10/2006	Time Reported: 4:40 PM	
Incident Type: MEDICAL ASSIST		Referral:		

Subject Section:

Subject Code: V	Name (Last, First, Middle): MAYES VIRGINIA	Sex: F	Race: W	Age: 25	Date of Birth: 6/20/1980
Address: 640 S. ELATI	City: LITTLETON	State: CO	Zip: 80120	Phone: (303)794-5651	
Occupation:	Bus. Name:	Bus. Phone:			
Bus. Address:	Bus. City:	Bus. State:	Bus. Zip:		

Subject Code: OP	Name (Last, First, Middle): WILSON DAVID	Sex: M	Race: W	Age: 53	Date of Birth: 2/9/1953
Address: 640 S. ELATI	City: LITTLETON	State: CO	Zip: 80120	Phone: (303)947-5220	
Occupation:	Bus. Name:	Bus. Phone:			
Bus. Address:	Bus. City:	Bus. State:	Bus. Zip:		

Vehicle Section:

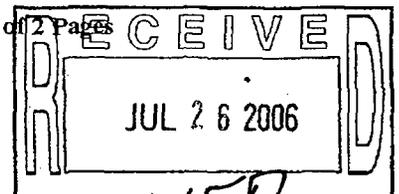
Vessel Section:

Year: 2006	Make: REGAL	Model: 2200	Style:	Color (Top/Bottom): WHITE/RED
Vessel Type: OPEN MOTOR BOAT	Propulsion Type:	Hull. Mat.:	Fuel:	
HIN: RGMDM335C606	Registered Owner: ELIZABETH WILSON	Registration NO: CL5964GA		

Report: PUE-06-072

Handwritten initials

1 of 2 Pages



Handwritten number 157

Snowmobile Section:

Off Highway Vehicle Section:

Evidence Section:

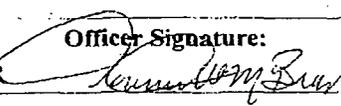
Property Section:

Narrative: On June 10, 2006 I, Officer McBrayer, was on boat patrol with Officer Mount at Lake Pueblo State Park in Pueblo County, Colorado. At approximately 4:40 PM I received a radio call from Pueblo Sheriff's Office Dispatch that a female had been injured on a boat at the North Shore Marina. We arrived at the North Shore Marina no-wake buoy line and were waved down by a boater. The boater knew where the injured party was. We followed the boat and found the victim between Peck Creek Cove and Kettle Creek Cove on a 2006 Regal, CL5964GA.

The victim, later identified as Virginia Mayes (DOB: 06-20-80), was lying on the boat's stern swim platform. She was being held and stabilized by the boat's occupants. She was in extreme pain. I was informed that she had a leg or hip injury. I contacted Officer King and Officer Nelson, an EMT, and told them to meet us at the west end of Hobie Cat. We arrived at the location and Virginia was transported to Parkview Hospital by AMR.

Elizabeth and David Wilson owned the boat. Mr. Wilson (DOB: 02-09-53) was operating the boat at the time of the accident. Mr. Wilson told me that the boat was pulling a kite tube. Virginia, his daughter, was riding the tube. He said the tube left the water, as it is designed to do, and rose into the air approximately 10 feet. The tube then turned nose down and hit the water. He estimated the speed of the boat at approximately 20 mph. He said he thought that Virginia's leg was caught in the tube and was twisted upon impact.

Mr. Wilson said Virginia splintered and fractured her right femur. No citations were issued.

Reporting Party Signature: I affirm this information is true and correct.			ParkArea: Lake Pueblo State Park	
Officer No.: 609	Last Name: MCBRAYER	Officer Signature: 	Supervisor No.: 586 	Assigned To Officer: 609

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Assign No.	From	Insp Firm Name	Insp Firm Addr	Insp Firm City	Notify Firm	Firm Follow	Recall Sign	Inventory Init
060714CRM0989	SVM	Overtor's	111 Red Banks Rd.	Greenville, NC 27835	Y	Y	Y	12
060714CRM0990	CRM	Hardware City	1060 S. Riverside Drive	Clarksville, TN 37040	Y	Y	N	1
060714CRM0991	JZL	BARTS WATER SPORTS	7581 E 800 N	NORTH WEBSTER, IN 46555	Y	Y	Y	64
060714CRM0992	JZL	Chelsea's Boutique	PO Box 29134/11724 Crabapple	Indianapolis, IN 46239	Y	Y	*	2
060714CRM0993	DRP	Lime Lake Marine & RV	9963 Rt. 16	Delevan, NY 14042	Y	Y	Y	1
060714CRM0994	KJK	Seacoast Distributors LLC	684 N. Queens Avenue	Lindenhurst, NY 11757	Y	Y	Y	30
060714CRM0995	DRP	Collins Marine	4444 River Road	Tonawanda, NY 14150	Y	Y	Y	1
060714CRM0996	RDP	Boaters World	6711 Ritz Way	Beltsville, MD 20705	Y	Y	Y	201
060714CRM0997	ERE	Freestyle	475 Westfield Rd.	Charlottesville, VA 22901	Y	Y	Y	1
060714CRM0998	YYT	Fun Inc.	254 S. River Ave.	Holland, MI 49423	Y	Y	Y	12
060714CRM0999	YYT	Save On Drugs Inc.	21118 Bridge Street	Southfield, MI 48034	Y	Y	*	1
060714CRM1000	YYT	Summit Sports Inc.	330 Enterprise Court	Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302	Y	Y	N	4
060714CRM1001	DAK	Links Unlimited, Inc.	1249 W. 7th. St.	Cincinnati, OH 45203	Y	Y	*	2
060714CRM1002	CXR	Vita-Plate Battery Inc	304 Buckeye Blvd	Port Clinton, Ohio 43452	Y	Y	Y	71
060714CRM1003	FL	Land & Sea Distributing	3131 N Andrews Ext.	Pompano Beach, FL 33064	Y	Y	*	
060714CRM1004	FL	WCDDI Inc.	2051 NW 107th Ave.	Miami, FL 33172	Y	Y	*	
060714CRM1005	ZEW	SkyMail	1520 E. Pima Street	Phoenix, AZ 85034	Y	Y	N	0
060714CRM1006	MXV	Exceed International, Inc.	8949 Kennamar Dr	San Diego, CA 92121	Y	Y	Y	21
060714CRM1007	TXD	Resuco U.S.A., Inc.	23011 Moulton Parkway, #1-6	Laguna Hills, CA 92653	N	*	*	200
060714CRM1008	RXL	Little Chapel of the Flowers	1717 Las Vegas Blvd., South	Las Vegas, NV 89104	N	Y	*	1
060714CRM1009	MMB	West Marine, Inc.	500 Westridge Dr.	Watsonville, CA 95076	Y	Y	N	4
060714CRM1010	MMB	Utah Water Toys	395 W. 400 N.	Manti, UT 84642	Y	Y	N	16
060714CRM1011	MMB	Ski-n-See	772 E. 9400 S.	Sandy, UT 84094	Y	Y	N	2
060714CRM1012	BGB	Pro Boating Supplies	7712 Parkwood Plaza Dr.	Ft. Worth, Texas 76137	Y	Y	*	3
060714CRM1013	BGB	V & V Marine	6642 Baker Blvd.	Ft. Worth, Texas 76118	Y	Y	*	250
060714CRM1014	KMB	Sail and Ski	12971 Research Blvd	Austin, TX 78750	Y	Y	Y	10
060714CRM1015	MMB	Parks Sportsman	644 N. State St.	Orem, UT 84057	Y	*	Y	4
060714CRM1016	RXL	Proshop Motorsports & Marine	575 W. Lake Mead Pkwy.	Henderson, NV 89015	Y	Y	Y	8
060714CRM1017	MXK	Diversified Marine Products	3528 Garfield Ave	Commerce, CA 90040	Y	Y	N	203
060714CRM1018	RXP	Appleton Scheels	4301 W. Wisconsin Avenue	Appleton, WI 54913	Y	Y	Y	24
060714CRM1019	CMF	Lincoln Scheels	2960 Pine Lake Rd. Suite B	Lincoln, NE 68516	Y	Y	Y	8

Inventory Notif	Inventory Insp	Return Num
0	0	4
1	1	1
0	6	20
0	0	0
0	0	0
0	0	15
0	0	0
26	8	26
1	0	0
2	3	1
0	0	0
0	0	0
2	0	0
25	0	1
12	8	
0	0	0
4	0	4
150	180	30
1	1	1
0	0	1
10	10	1
0	0	1
0	0	0
0	0	0
1	0	2
0	0	0
2	2	0
0	78	78
4	1	10
1	0	6

Assign No	From	Insp Firm Name	Insp Firm Addr	Insp Firm City	Notify Firm	Firm Follow	Recall Sign	Inventories Int
060714CRM1020	CMF	Dub's Sporting Goods	1917 N. Broadwell	Grand Island, NE 68803	Y	Y	N	3
060714CRM1021	CMF	Cabela's Inc.	3200 Rd. 101	Sidney, NE 69160-0001	N	N	N	
060714CRM1022	RYH	Medart Marine	124 Manufacturers Drive	Arnold, MO 63010	Y	Y	*	100
060714CRM1023	RYH	Bass Pro Shops	2500 E. Kearney	Springfield, MO 65898	Y	Y	Y	1400
060714CRM1024	RXP	Scheels All Sports	4710 Golf Road	Eau Claire, WI 54701	Y	Y	Y	24
060714CRM1025	JRB	Joe's Sporting Goods	33 E. County Road B	Maplewood, MN 55109	Y	Y	N	2
060714CRM1026	SWP	Lake Elmo Sports	451 East Cliff Road, Suite 104	Burnsville, MN 55337	Y	Y	Y	85
060714CRM1027	JRB	St. Cloud Scheels	40 North Waite Ave.	St. Cloud, MN 56204	Y	Y	Y	20

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Inventory Notif	Inventory Insp	Return Num
1	1	0
5	5	
186		806
4	0	8
0	0	1
14	14	0
0	0	16

RECALL EFFECTIVENESS CHECK - INJURY MEMO

The Assistant Manager was aware of one injury complaint where a female customer who was returning a recalled Wego kite tube mentioned that her son was injured while using the kite tube. No other information was obtained from the customer. The Assistant Manager was not aware of any claims being filed or any other information related to this incident.

RECALL EFFECTIVENESS CHECK - INJURY MEMO

Chad Cassady broke his ribs sometime in July 2006 while riding a rented Wego Kite tube and vacationing in California. The victim is in process of returning the product to the online retailer. The victim's address is:

11616 Lisburn PL

La Miranda, CA 90638

(562-587-7344)

email address: cassadyroofing@verizon.net

RECALL EFFECTIVENESS CHECK - INJURY MEMO

Manager was aware of one incident. One of their employees fell off kite tube and sustained minor injury to his rib, but no medical attention was required.

RECALL EFFECTIVENESS CHECK - INJURY MEMO

Four kite tubes returned prior to recall. Some were concerned with the safety of the kite tube and some involved a defect in the rubber tube. No injuries were reported in relation to the return of the kite tube.

060714 CRM 09916

CA 060037

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

1. DATE 9/12/2006	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) US CPSC 4330 East West Highway Bethesda, MD 20814
2. TIME A.M. 3:10 P.M.	
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL Brook Stevens	
B. FIRM NAME Brooks World	
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS 6711 Ritz Way	
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Bethesda, MD 20705	

Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:

- Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*);
- Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 *et seq.*);
- Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)
- Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*)] and/or
- Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).

Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.

5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED.

The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents, and labeling, and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations, 16 CFR Part 1015.

7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)



1. Task Number 060721HWE5-466		2. Investigator's ID 8232		EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
3. Office Code 840	4. Date of Accident YR MO DAY 2006 07 08	5. Date Initiated YR MO DAY 2006 07 30		
6. Synopsis of Accident or Complaint UPC unknown A 37 year old female sustained fractured ribs and fractured vertebra while riding a kite tube towed by a motor boat. The boat was traveling at approximately 30 MPH when the kite tube became airborne 5 to 10 feet above the water. The kite tube suddenly inverted and slammed the victim into the water. The victim was transported to a trauma hospital and was hospitalized for four days. The victim was wearing a life jacket. Drugs and alcohol were not involved.				
7. Location (Home, School, etc) 9 - SPORTS OR RECREATION PLACE		8. City LAKE OWYHEE		9. State OR
10A. First Product 3200 - Water Tubing (activity, Appa		10B. Trade/Brand Name WEGO		10C. Model Number UNKNOWN
10D. Manufacturer Name and Address SPORTSTUFF INC. Omaha, NE				
11A. Second Product 0		11B. Trade/Brand Name NONE		11C. Model Number NONE
11D. Manufacturer Name and Address NONE				
12. Age of Victim 37	13. Sex 2 - Female	14. Disposition 4 - Hospitalized	15. Injury Diagnosis 57 - Fracture	
16. Body Part(s) Involved 31 - UPPER TRUNK	17. Respondent 1 - Victim/Complainant	18. Type of Investigation 3 - Other	19. Time Spent (Operational / Travel) 17 / 2	
20. Attachment(s) 2 - Documents		21. Case Source 05 - Newspaper		22. Sample Collection Number
23. Permission to Disclose Name (Non NEISS Cases Only) <input type="radio"/> Yes <input checked="" type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Verbal				
24. Review Date 09/11/2006	25. Reviewed By 9021		26. Regional Office Director Frank J. Nava	
27. Distribution Topka, Tanya L.			28. Source Document Number N0670527A	

The victim and her husband were the respondents. Additional information was obtained from the Sheriff's report and the State Marine Board staff.

Narrative

This investigation was initiated by the regional office in response to a news report regarding a 37 year old female who was hospitalized with injuries sustained when kite tube inverted and slammed her abruptly into the water.

The victim was a healthy active 37 year old female who is married with children. The victim is 62 inches tall and weighs approximately 115 pounds. The victim is experienced in the use of water skis and wake boards. The victim was not using drugs or alcohol at the time of the event. The victim was wearing a life jacket when the event occurred.

The kite tube was purchased new by the victim's sister's family. The kite tube was purchased at the beginning of summer 2006. Specific details about the exact date and location of the purchase were not available. The victim's sister's family also own and operate the tow boat that was used at the time of the event. The tow boat was a 2005 model 24 foot long recreational boat that is powered by a 385 horsepower inboard motor.

The event occurred on a lake located in a state adjacent to the state where the victim and her family reside. The lake is formed by a 413 foot high dam located in a high desert canyon. The lake is 53 miles long with a surface area of 13,900 acres. The approximate elevation of the area surrounding the lake is 4000 feet above sea level. The lake is patrolled by the County Sheriff's Department. Public and private campgrounds are located around the area surrounding the lake.

The victim's family and the sister's family were camping at the lake for the third time during the 2006 summer season. They used the kite tube on each of the camping trips at the lake. The victim rode in the tow boat and watched other family members use the kite tube on previous camping trips.

The victim said that her husband fell off of the kite tube while being towed behind the boat on one occasion before the event occurred. She said that the kite tube was not airborne at the time he fell. She said that he was not injured. She said that there were no other incidents involving the kite tube before the event occurred.

The event occurred on July 8, 2006 at approximately 7:18 PM. The event occurred during daylight under clear conditions. The air temperature was 98 degrees Fahrenheit; the water temperature was 79 degrees Fahrenheit. The water surface was choppy with a 10 to 15 mile per hour wind.

The victim said that she was using the kite tube for the first time when the event occurred. She said that she read the instructions and was familiar with operation of the kite tube from watching other members in the group use the kite tube. The victim said that she was riding the kite tube for approximately one minute when the event occurred.

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The victim said that the boat was towing the kite tube using the tow rope that was furnished with the kite tube. She said that the tow rope was adjusted to the longest length. She and her husband could not estimate the length of the tow rope.

The tow boat was driving into the wind when the event occurred. The speed of the tow boat was approximately 30 miles per hour. The victim said the kite tube became airborne within one minute of the beginning of her ride on the kite tube. She said that the kite tube was between 5 and 10 feet above the surface of the water. She said that she shifted her weight forward on the kite tube as per the manufacturer's instructions in an attempt to lower the height of the kite tube.

The victim said that the kite tube did not respond to her effort to lower the height. She said she held her grip tight on the kite tube to avoid falling off. She said that the kite tube inverted without warning and abruptly slammed her down onto the surface of the water.

The victim complained about intense pain in her back when the tow boat retrieved her from the water. The family requested emergency assistance when the boat returned to the boat dock. A local ambulance was summoned. Paramedics evaluated the victim's injuries and summoned a helicopter ambulance to transport the victim to a trauma hospital. The victim was transported by air approximately 50 miles to the hospital.

The event was investigated by the County Sheriff's Marine patrol. The Sheriff's Deputy interviewed the victim's family and witnesses. The State Marine Board collected reports from the Sheriff's Department and the boat operator. The Marine Board did not conduct an independent investigation. A Marine Board staff member said that there was no evidence of any safety violations and no fault in the operation of the boat. Copies of the official reports are attached to this report as exhibits.

The victim was hospitalized for four days following the event. She said that she sustained three fractured ribs and two fractured vertebrae in her mid back. She said that one vertebra fracture was a compression fracture. The victim was still recovering from her injuries at the time of this investigation.

The victim's husband said that he contacted the kite tube manufacturer by telephone after the event. He said that he was instructed to submit the information in writing. He said that he submitted a detailed report to the manufacturer by email. He said that the manufacturer had not responded to his email at the time of this investigation.

Product Identification

Brand: **Wego**

Manufacturer: **Sports Stuff Inc.**

The brand and manufacturer were obtained from the Sheriff's report. The investigating officials did not identify the model number or serial number of the kite tube.

The victim said that the kite tube was purchased new by her sister's family at the beginning of the 2006 summer season. Specific product identification and history information was not available. Photographs of the kite tube were not available. The owner of the kite tube did not respond to requests for an interview to provide additional information about the kite tube.

The kite tube was towed behind a 27 foot long recreational boat powered by an inboard motor. The kite tube was connected to the boat with the tow rope that was part of the original equipment furnished with the kite tube. The length of the tow rope was not available. The victim and her husband said that the tow rope was adjusted to its maximum length at the time of the event.

Attachments

Exhibit # 1: Sheriff's Report (2 pages)

Exhibit # 2: Marine Board Report (2 pages)

Exhibit # 3: Victim's Statement (1 page)

Police Report
Removed - 11/27/05

Police Department did
not consent to disclosure.

Contact Sheet

Victim:

Husband:



Interviewed by telephone 8/31/06

State Official: Ashley Massey
Oregon State Marine Board
435 Commercial Street
Salem, OR 97309
(503) 378-2623

Contacted in person: 07/26/2006

The victim's husband contacted the manufacturer by telephone and email after the event occurred. A copy of the husband's email message to the manufacturer was requested but not received. The CPSC investigator did not contact the manufacturer as part of this investigation.

The State Marine Board did not conduct an independent investigation of this event. The Marine Board relied on information collected by the Sheriff's Department.

1. Task Number 060710HBB2668		2. Investigator's ID 9044		EPIDEMIOLOGIC INVESTIGATION REPORT
3. Office Code 840	4. Date of Accident YR MO DAY 2006 .06 04	5. Date Initiated YR MO DAY 2006 07 12		
6. Synopsis of Accident or Complaint UPC Unknown On the first use of a kite tube by a consumer, being pulled by a boat at about 30-35 mph, he fell off about 15 feet into a lake. He had a severe spiral fracture to the upper leg and was hospitalized for 6 days, during which he had surgery and needed two blood transfusions. He later suffered a compartment syndrome with severe swelling and was hospitalized for 2 more days. He reported this injury to the manufacturer on 7/5/2006, 8 days prior to the recall.				
7. Location (Home, School, etc) 9 - SPORTS OR RECREATION PLACE		8. City JEFFERSON		9. State IA
10A. First Product 3200 - Water Tubing (activity, Appa		10B. Trade/Brand Name WEGO		10C. Model Number 53-5000
10D. Manufacturer Name and Address SPORTSSTUFF INC. 11213 E. Circle # A Omaha, NE				
11A. Second Product 0		11B. Trade/Brand Name NONE		11C. Model Number NONE
11D. Manufacturer Name and Address NONE				
12. Age of Victim 31	13. Sex 1 - Male		14. Disposition 4 - Hospitalized	15. Injury Diagnosis 57 - Fracture
16. Body Part(s) Involved 81 - UPPER LEG	17. Respondent 1 - Victim/Complainant		18. Type of Investigation 1 - On-Site	19. Time Spent (Operational / Travel) 16 / 4
20. Attachment(s) 9 - Multiple Attachments		21. Case Source 07 - Consumer Complaint		22. Sample Collection Number
23. Permission to Disclose Name (Non NEISS Cases Only) <input checked="" type="radio"/> Yes <input type="radio"/> No <input type="radio"/> Verbal				
24. Review Date 09/07/2006		25. Reviewed By 8929		26. Regional Office Director Frank J. Nava
27. Distribution Topka, Tanya L.			28. Source Document Number I0670118A	

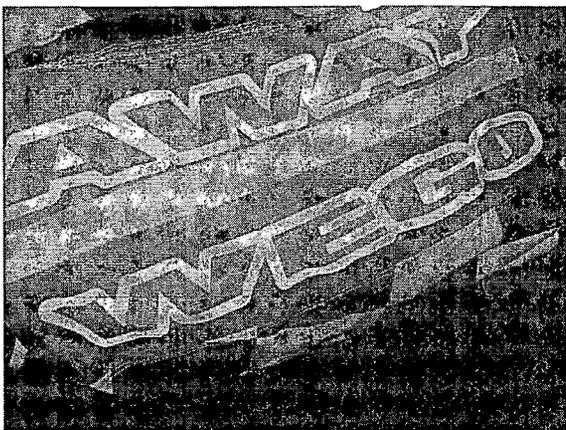
214

All information contained in this report, was obtained through an on-site visit with the victim and his wife, who was a witness. The consumer reported this incident (source document).

On 5/12/2006, a 31-year-old consumer purchased a new product called a kite tube from an online internet retailer. He had researched the product for 3-5 hours before purchasing it and watched the video that came with it several times, as well as read the written directions prior to using the product.

The consumer selected this model of kite tube because it appeared to be the largest model on the market, with the widest diameter and he thought it was a quality product. He noted the weight limit for the rider was about 200 pounds. He was about 5'11" tall and he weighed about 185 pounds and he was confident he could ride the kite tube safely and enjoy it the way it was designed.

Exhibit 1, Photo 1:
Label on the kite tube.



The consumer understood that kite tubing was a new sport using a new product that he had not seen on the market before. He also knew it was considered an extreme sport. However, he felt confident in the safety of the product as well as his ability to operate it. He had enjoyed many sports over the years

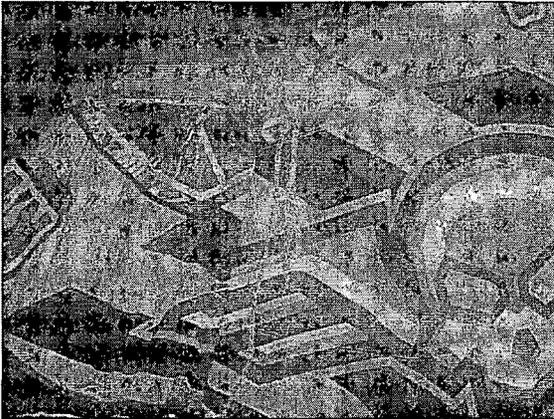
including knee-boarding and parasailing, and he and his wife had been avid boaters for many years.

In addition, the consumer and his wife were both members of the National Guard and he had spent much time in the past few years in an active status. He had over 14 years of service time and had spent significant time away from home on active duty in various places in the world. His professional role in the National Guard was as a teacher of

"hand-to-hand" combat. He worked on staying physically fit and he felt he was in prime physical condition. He often ran 5-10 miles at a time and enjoyed many sports. He was always careful to warm up and do things the right way to stay in good condition.

The consumer purchased the kite tube on a website called EBay for about \$350.00, plus shipping, and it was delivered to his home a few days later in mid-May, 2006. He purchased the associated tow rope and it also came with a video. It arrived in an original shipping carton and was not inflated. The consumer also received the owner's manual and he read it prior to using the product. A few weeks later they inflated the kite tube and used it for the first time. Two young friends of his took turns riding it. Everyone had fun and they had no problems with the kite tube while using it that day.

**Exhibit 1, Photo 2:
Close up of the kite tube.**



On 6/4/2006, the family took the boat out for the day on a nearby lake called Twin Lakes, in western Iowa. The boat they were operating was a 2001 Model, 25" "Mariah", with a 325 HP inboard - outboard motor. They were very familiar with it and had owned it for many years. The family was avid boaters and they took the boat out about 50 times a summer spending

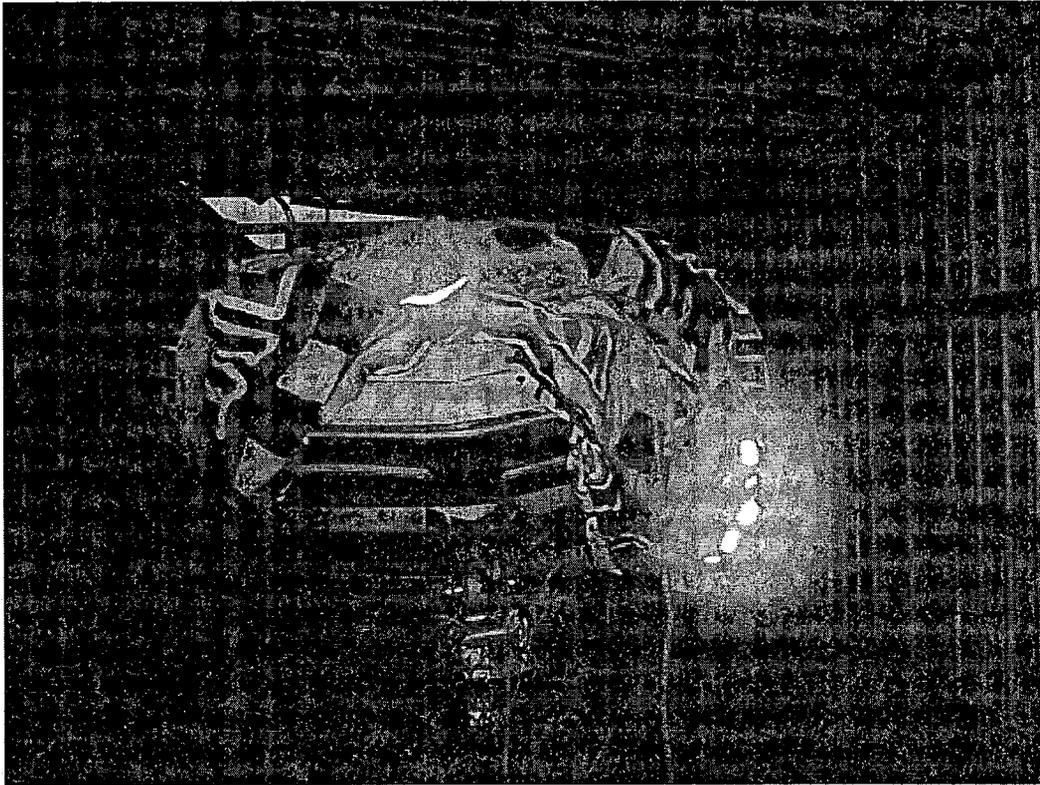
over 100 hours on the water near their home. They also took regular boating trips to other lakes in the Midwest.

On the boat that day was the 31-year-old male and his wife, and the family's three young children. They also had two other adults with them including a 26-year-old male friend who used the kite tube for the first time that day on the lake. It had been inflated as directed. It was a warm day with temperatures in the 80's, and a light breeze about 5 mph.

At about 6:00 pm, the 26-year-old male went first and he rode the kite tube for about 10 minutes as it was being

towed by the boat. He went airborne for about 5 minutes of the time and he appeared to enjoy the experience. They stopped the boat and the 31-year-old male climbed on to the kite tube for his first turn on it. He knew immediately that it was hard to ride and control which was a surprise to him. Within 2 minutes of use, he was airborne and it felt like he was out of control as it went up and down, and side to side, in an erratic pattern.

Exhibit 1, Photo 3: The boat and deflated kite tube.



At this time, the 31-year-old male's wife was operating the boat, and the 26-year-old male friend who had just ridden the kite tube was acting as the spotter. They did not observe that the rider was in distress, and did not know that he was panicked. It appeared to them that he was having fun, even though the kite tube was not performing in a smooth motion as it was portrayed in the video. They really had no way of communicating with each other. They could not hear each other due to the distance and the boat's motor noises.

They also could not see each other well because the rider was above the kite tube. The small clear plastic window in the bottom of the kite tube did not offer a clear or focused view. The 31-year-old male tried to signal to the boat to stop, because he felt the tube was getting out of control, but he knew that they could not see or hear him. He tried to extend his body to get above the line of site of the tube, but this made the tube fly even higher.

After just a few minutes of riding the kite tube, at about 6:30 pm, on 6/4/2006, as the tube went higher, it flipped over and threw the rider into the water. The boat was traveling about 30-35 mph with the minimum length of tow rope extended at 45 feet long for beginners, and he was about 10-15 feet in the air. The rider was wearing a wet suit and a life jacket. The kite tube was unstable as the wind blew from the left to his right, and the next thing he knew he was in the water.

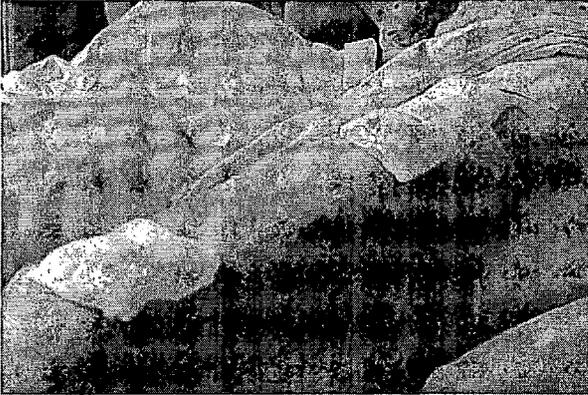
Exhibit 1, Photo 4: Injury caused to the lower left leg.



The 31-year-old male immediately knew he was injured. His face hurt and after a few moments in the water, his left leg started to hurt. He ran his hand down along his leg he felt it was bulging in one place and he knew it was broken at the femur. He rested in the water floating with the

aid of his life jacket, until the boat came up along side him and picked him up.

They called 911 for help and made arrangements for the ambulance to meet them on shore. The ambulance transported the 31-year-old male to the nearest hospital. They confirmed that he had a spiral fracture of the left femur and that it was shattered from three inches below the hip down to two inches above the knee.

Exhibit 1, Photo 5: Injury caused to the upper left leg.

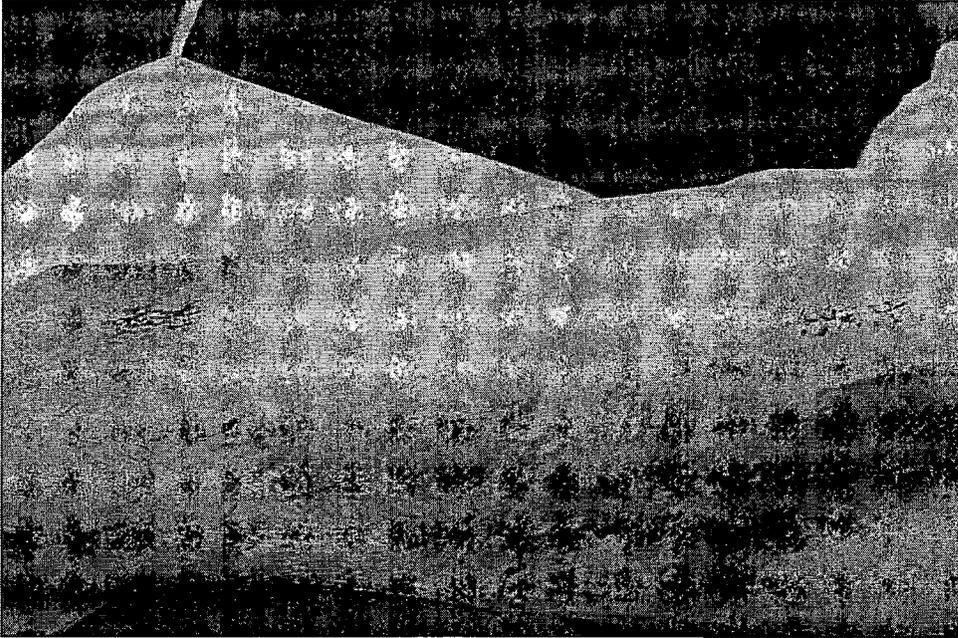
The victim spent a total 6 days at this hospital. He had surgery 20 hours after the incident, where they inserted a rod and pins to stabilize the leg.

Later, after returning home, he was again hospitalized after he developed complications called "compartment syndrome". His leg swelled up to measure about 31" at the thigh, and 22" at his calf. This compared with his waist size of 32". This was a very severe and painful condition which was difficult for him to endure for several days. In addition, the victim lost feeling in his right foot for awhile. He spent two days in the hospital.

During the first hospitalization, the victim required two units of blood the day after surgery and another 2 units the next day after that. He spent a total of 8 days in the hospital. His full recovery was expected to take about 4 months.

Exhibit 1, Photo 6: Photo shows the injury to the left leg including where he required surgery under each of the 3 bandages.

Exhibit 1, Photo 7: Close up of the leg after surgery.



On 7/7/2006, the victim reported this incident to CPSC on-line (source document). On 7/10/2006, the victim's wife had their fourth child. Both she and her husband were hospitalized at the same time, but in different hospitals.

On 7/12/2006, I contacted the victim and made an appointment to visit him as soon as possible. On 7/19/2006, I visited the victim and his wife, who was a witness to this incident. The nature of the interview process included interviews with the victim and his wife both together and separately and the enclosed information was collected.

Also during this visit, I observed a deflated incident unit being stored in their boat in a covered building and I photographed it (exhibit 1). They also provided the Kite Tube Owner's Manual (exhibit 2) and Towable Owner's Manual (exhibit 3). I also observed they had the video that came with the kite tube when they purchased it.

During this visit, the victim explained that he was what he would call an adrenaline junky and that he thought kite tubing would be fun. He noted that he always took the required precautions and he never took unnecessary risks

always following recommended guidelines. He took pride in not being "stupid" and doing things right.

The victim stated that it just blew his mind that this type of severe unpredictable injury could be caused on the first use of the kite tube. He said if he had any idea it was such a dangerous product he would have never used it, especially since they were expecting their fourth child. He also stated that after this incident, he wanted everyone to know that he felt that the kite tube was dangerous and it should not be sold. He stated that there is no way to control it after it leaves the water and goes airborne and that the second concern is that there is no communication between the boat and the tube.

Also, during this visit, the victim's wife explained they knew there was some risk with the kite tube and that in fact they had waited to use it the first time until their new health insurance became effective. They had a delay in coverage because her husband had recently changed jobs.

In addition, she noted that they had much experience with parasailing and that they thought they knew what they were doing but that this kite tube was totally different than anything else they had experienced. She reported that she operated the boat 99 percent of the time they were on it including when her husband parasailed. She noted that when he parasailed that he could rise as high as 200 feet in the air and that they always felt in control and safe at what they were doing. As compared, she said the kite tube was totally unpredictable.

They reported that they did not know what they will do with the incident unit. They reported that they notified the manufacturer of this incident and the serious injury that it caused on 7/5/2005, a few days before contacting the CPSC. They waited to notify them due to the hospitalization and medical complications the victim was having. They reportedly told them the kite tube was unsafe and gave them specific reasons for this conclusion including details of his injury.

They noted that the manufacturer's representative took their name and telephone number but they said they were not sure if they were going to buy back the kite tube or just

replace the value of it for other products. The victim felt they were cooperative, but that they did not appear to be decisive as to the concerns he raised. They did not mention a pending recall and overall did not appear concerned about the severity of the injury that it caused him.

During my visit on 7/19/2006, the victim and his wife reported they were aware of both CPSC news releases on kite tubes including CPSC News Release 06-202, dated June 30, 2006; and CPSC News Release 06-202, dated July 13, 2006, titled "Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries", in which they announce that the incident unit had been recalled. They noted that they only learned of these news releases after the incident, and that it was interesting especially since they had spoken with the Manufacturer on 7/5/2006, prior to the recall on 7/13/2006.

They said they were glad that the product was not longer on the market. I noted that the victim was using crutches to be mobile and that they had set up a convalescent bed for his use in the first floor family room so he did not have to go to the second floor to sleep. He reported he was doing better and he was recovering but that he was not certain as to the status of his ability to continue to serve on a full commission in the National Guard. This concern distressed him greatly.

The victim reported that he was also very upset that he had this injury about the time his wife gave birth to their fourth child and that it had caused significant problems for them to handle all the responsibilities associated with that. He reported that he had a very severe injury and that had been very hard on him. He reported that his weight had dropped from 185 to 159 pounds since he was injured.

The victim told me that he felt confident that he would recover and stated that he was very concerned that others would be injured if they did not know about the recall. He reported that his doctors told him that only 50 percent of the people who suffer this type of spiral fracture to the femur survive the injury because they usually suffer a severe blood loss at the time of the incident.

They also told him that just 10 years ago, a person with this type of injury would have had a permanent disability from it, but that today's medicine helped to prevent this level of disability and that he hoped for a full recovery.

Exhibit 1, Photo 8: Warning label on kite tube.



The victim reported that he was aware of another person who he works with who suffered a very serious injury after he had his injury. This other person had a broken arm and two severely bruised legs after he fell from a similar kite tube. He reported that his employer had since these two incidents asked all of their 110 employees to not use kite tubes, so that they do not loose other employees to injuries like these two had.

The victim provided the additional photos of his injuries and I requested his medical records and will provide them as an addendum to this report (exhibit 6) when they are received.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

FROM VICTIM:

- How many people were on the kite tube at the time of the incident? ONE
- Did you have previous experience with similar products? YES
- Did you have any experience with this unit? NO
- Did this unit perform differently than the others you tried? YES
- Did you believe you could direct / control the direction and height of the kite tube? YES
- What happened when you became airborne? FLIPPED OVER & LOST CONTROL
- How high off the surface of the water were you at the time that things began to go wrong? ABOUT 10-15 FEET
- What was the maximum height achieved during the incident? ABOUT 15 FEET
- Could you see the boat (due to the angle of the tube kite)? NOT VERY WELL
- Did you try to signal the boat to slow down? YES
- Did you do anything to try to lower the tube kite back down towards the water? TRIED TO RISE ABOVE IT SO TO BE SEEN
- Describe specifics regarding the actual crash. FLIPPED OVER
- Did you notice any mechanical issues with tube kite? YES, IT WAS MOVING, TWISTING AND DIPPING FROM SIDE TO SIDE
- What were you wearing (safety gear)? YES, LIFE JACKET & WET SUIT

FROM DRIVER AND WITNESSES:

- Had you towed inflatable or similar products behind the boat previously? YES
- What experience did you have with this particular product? FIRST USE
- Who attached the tow rope/ tow harness to the tube kite and to the boat? VICTIM
- Was it done based on instructions provided? YES
- How long was the rope (i.e., distance from where it was tied on boat to where it was tied to the kite tube, after tying)? SET AT MIN. LENGTH OF 45 FEET
- What was the age and condition of the tow rope? NEW, CAME WITH ORDER
- What was the speed of the boat? ABOUT 30-35 MPH
- How did you decide what speed you would travel? FROM EXPERIENCE
- How high off the surface of the water was the kite tube at the time that things began to go wrong? ABOUT 10-15 FEET
- What was the maximum height achieved during the incident? ABOUT 15 FEET
- How did you communicate with the kite tube rider? SIGHT ONLY
- Did you actually see the kite tube dive to the surface? NO, FIRST SAW THE VICTIM FALL
- Why/ why not? KITE TUBE FELL TOO, WHEN STOPPED BOAT
- Did you try to do anything to halt the dive or avoid the crash? SLOWED DOWN
- What did you do after the crash? RESCUE VICTIM
- Was there any damage or apparent equipment failure noted? NO

FROM PURCHASER OF KITE TUBE:

- Did you ask the sales staff how to use the product? BOUGHT ON-LINE, SAW INFO ON WEBSITE ONLY
- Did they offer any directions/ cautions? YES, IN VIDEO
- Did any instructional material come with the product? YES
- Did you read it? YES
- Did you read any safety warnings that may have been on the product itself? YES, HAS MANY, READ THEM ALL.

PRODUCT IDENTIFICATION:

Water Tubing (Product Code 3200)

Type: Kite Tube, included tow rope, DVD and starting leash
Item # 53-5000

Brand: "WEGO"

Manufacturer: Sports Stuff Inc., 11213 E. Circle # A,
Omaha, NE, 402-592-9085, www.sportstuff.com

Retailer: Purchased from EBay

Date Purchased 5/12/2006

Price: \$350.00 (plus shipping)

SAMPLES COLLECTED: None

ATTACHMENTS:

- Exhibit 1 - 8 Photographs
- Exhibit 2 - Kite Tube Owner's Manual
- Exhibit 3 - Towable Owner's Manual
- Exhibit 4 - Authorization for Release of Name
- Exhibit 5 - Description of Respondents
- Exhibit 6 - Medical Records

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Stern, Richard L.
Sent: Tuesday, September 12, 2006 7:54 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690140A - Wego Kite Tube

From: Topping, John C.
Sent: Mon 9/11/2006 9:43 AM
To: EH-FER
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690140A - Wego Kite Tube

-----Original Message-----

From: Noble, Laura EW
Sent: Monday, September 11, 2006 9:20 AM
To: Emerging Hazards; Internet Incident Reports; Incident Reports; Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690140A

09/08/2006 17:39:00

Name = MIKE MORSE
Address = 1221 W SMITH FERRY ROAD
City = MUSKOGEE
State = Oklahoma
Zip = 74401
Email = lisa.fivestar@coxinet.net
Telephone = 918 869-6523
Name of Victim = CODY MORSE
Victim's Address = 1221 W. SMITH FERRY ROAD Victim's City = MUSKOGEE
Victim's State = Oklahoma Victim's Zip = 74401 Victim's Telephone = 918 682-6409

Incident Description: CODY WAS FLYING AND THE TUBE FLIPPED BACK UNDER HIM WHEN HE FELL AND HE FELL ON THE TUBE INSTEAD OF THE WATER. HE LANDED ON HIS BACK. HIS BREATH WAS KNOCKED OUT OF HIM AND HE STARTED SPITTING UP BLOOD. I TOOK HIM TO THE EMERGENGY ROOM IN WAGONER OK. THE DIAGNOISES WAS HIS ESPHOGUOS WAS JARRED LOOSE.

Victim's age at time of incident = 17
Victim's sex = Male
Date of incident = 052806
Product involved = WEGO KITE TUBE
Product brand name/manufacturer = SPORTSSTUFF Manufacturer street address = 11213 E. CIRCLE, SUITE A Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = OMAHA, NE. 68137 Product involved still available = Yes Product model and serial number, manufacture date = TO6-0085208 Date product purchased = 052606 Name Release = Release name to manufacturer only

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Stern, Richard L.
Sent: Sunday, September 10, 2006 3:29 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690099A - Kite Tube

From: Topping, John C.
Sent: Thu 9/7/2006 12:20 PM
To: EH-FER
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690099A - Kite Tube

-----Original Message-----

From: Noble, Laura EW
Sent: Thursday, September 07, 2006 9:16 AM
To: Emerging Hazards; Internet Incident Reports; Incident Reports; Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0690099A

09/06/2006 21:24:37

Name = Amie Weir
Address = 124 Lightship DR
City = Mooresville
State = North Carolina
Zip = 28117
Email = weir@ltdkate.com
Telephone = 877-422-1137
Name of Victim = Douglas Weir
Victim's Address = 124 Lightship DR
Victim's City = Mooresville
Victim's State = North Carolina
Victim's Zip = 28117
Victim's Telephone = 877-551-5896

Incident Description: Doug fell from a Wego Kite Tube into the water from a height of 10+ feet. He was knocked unconscious in the water, taking lake water into his lungs. We was taken to a nearby hospital and then transferred to a trauma center. He spent 2 nights in ICU with a breathing tube until the water cleared. The doctors gave him a 50-50 chance of pulling through. Fortunately he recovered quickly and we returned our kit tube!.

Victim's age at time of incident = 36
Victim's sex = Male
Date of incident = 4-16-06
Product involved = Kite Tube
Product brand name/manufacturer = Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube
Manufacturer street address = Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = online from Overton's Product involved still available =
No Product model and serial number, manufacture date = Model 53-5000
Date product purchased = April 2006 Name Release = Release name to manufacturer only

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Brian Slagle [Brian.Slagle@cabelas.com]
Sent: Tuesday, August 29, 2006 5:32 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Fred Neal; Troy Bosard; Jeff Verbeck; Matt Roberts
Subject: Sports Stuff Wego Kite Tube Recall and Cabela's Inc.

Tanya,

Thank you for the returned phone call today. As discussed in our conversation, here is the information you requested for your file. Cabela's Inc. did not sell the Sports Stuff Wego Kite Tube that is being recalled, through any of our channels of distribution (i.e.: Catalog, Internet or Retail stores) . As I had previously stated in my voice message to you, we did receive 3 tubes from Sports Stuff. Two were ordered by customers through our Customer Relations dept. as special orders and one tube was ordered for a Cabela's employee. We have received back the two "special ordered" tubes from our customers and the employee's tube was never given to him because it was received just as the recall was announced. Cabela's Inc. will however, be placing the recall notice in our retail stores as a service to our customers. We are also exploring the ability to place this recall notice on our web sight as a further service to our valued customers.

Thank you for the opportunity to address this matter with you and please do not hesitate to contact me if any further information is required. I can be reached at #308-255-2791 or Brian.Slagle@cabelas.com.

Best Regards,
Brian Slagle
Marine Product Manager
Cabela's Inc.

8/30/2006

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CA040037



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance

Tel: 301-504-7520
Fax: 301-504-0359
Email: mschoem@cpsc.gov

Dear Retailer:

As you should be aware, CPSC in cooperation with Sportsstuff Inc. announced a voluntary recall on July 12, 2006. Under the corrective action plan approved by the CPSC staff, retailers were asked to display recall posters in several conspicuous locations in the stores where the recalled product was previously sold.

As part of the Commission's monitoring of this recall, CPSC Investigators visited your store and found that it was not in compliance with the approved plan. We have attached a list of the store visits and the response received from your store associates.

Please take steps to remind all store associates of the need to display recall posters when requested. Please feel free to contact Tanya L. Topka in the Office of Compliance at (301) 504-7594, if you have any questions or need further information.

Sincerely,

Marc J. Schoem

cc: Tanya L. Topka

CONCURRENCES				
DATE ▼	SURNAME ▼	SYMBOL ▼	FEP	FEP
9/14/06	TLT	FEP	FEP	EXC
			CID	

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Sportsstuff Inc. Kite Tube

Press Release Number: PR06210

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06210.html>

CPSC File No.: CA060037

Cabela's Inc.

3200 Rd. 101

Sidney, NE 69160-0001

Interviewed: Corey Cane

Inspection Date:

August 07, 2006

Was the store notified of the recall?

No, the store was not notified of the recall.

**Were the recall/repurchase or corrective
action plan notification signs posted?**

No, the recall/repurchase or corrective action plan
notification signs were not posted.

IDI 060711HCC2677

On the evening of May 27, 2006, an 18-year-old Excelsior, MN male was riding on a tube kite that was being pulled behind a power boat on a lake near Balsam Lake, WI. The tube kite had been used approximately eight times prior by other individuals over an approximate two hour period without incident.

The 18-year-old male was riding the tube kite for the first time. The individual was wearing a full wet suit with a life jacket, but did not have gloves on. The 18-year-old male proceeded to ride the tube kite up into the air, averaging between fifteen and twenty feet off of the water. The boat was traveling approximately 25-26 miles per hour with light winds on the lake.

The rider was in the air for around 45 seconds when the tube kite suddenly turned to the side. The rider was unable to hang on and was thrown from the tube kite. The individual hit the water with a great deal of force. When spotters in the boat saw the tube kite turn and throw the rider into the water, the boat operator immediately cut power and returned to the area where the rider went into the lake.

As the boat pulled up to the victim, blood was visible coming from the 18-year-old's mouth and they realized that he was injured. The victim was pulled into the boat and transported to shore. The victim was removed from the boat and transported by ambulance to a hospital in St. Croix Falls, WI where he was seen in the emergency room. The victim was treated and released from the hospital at 12:22 a.m. on May 28, 2006. The victim was diagnosed with pulmonary contusion as a result of chest trauma, a sprained right knee ligament, and hematuria.

This investigator initially spoke with the complainant, who is the father of the victim, by telephone on July 12, 2006. An on-site visit was conducted at the consumer's residence on July 17, 2006. Photographs were taken of the incident product and are contained in Exhibit A. The information contained in this report was obtained from the complainant and his son, who were both interviewed by this investigator on July 17, 2006. The victim's mother assisted in the interview with her son as he is deaf.

The victim stated that he had never used a tube kite before and that this was the first time that he had been on the incident tube. In high school, the individual had participated in athletics and was in good physical health. The victim had extensive experience with water sports that included water skiing and the use of other equipment that was pulled behind a power boat.

According to the rider, the direction and height of the tube kite was controlled by the boat speed, allowing for little or no control of the tube by the rider once airborne. The rider believed that he went up a maximum of approximately twenty to twenty-five feet, which was his approximate height when he lost control of the tube kite. The rider stated that he could not see the boat unless the tube moved from side to side.

The rider stated that the incident happened so fast that he was unable to notify the driver or those in the boat. The rider stated that when the incident occurred it felt as if the tube bent in on the side. When it popped open, he could not hang on and was shot immediately into the water. According to the rider, there wasn't anything mechanically wrong with the tube kite at the time of the incident.

The victim's father stated that he was the owner of the tube kite, having ordered it at a boat show. The consumer stated the tube kite was shipped to him. The complainant did not ask the sales staff from the retail store where the product was actually received from or how to use the product. According to the complainant, an instructional DVD came with the tube kite. The consumer stated that he and the driver of the boat watched the instructional DVD. The consumer also stated that he read the safety warnings that were on the product.

According to the father, he was in the boat and saw the incident occur. The father stated that he was filming his son's ride on the tube kite with his cell phone. The complainant provided a copy of the video, which is contained in Exhibit B. The father stated that he too had used the tube kite but without incident.

The complainant stated that the tube kite had been used about eight times prior to the incident. According to the

consumer, he was familiar with other towed inflatables. The father stated that he had attached the rope from the tube kite to the boat. The rope was stated to have been at its maximum 65 feet at the time of the incident. The complainant stated that his brother was driving the boat and was going approximately 25 miles per hour. The father stated that his son was up in the air a maximum of about 20 feet and was around fifteen feet up when the incident occurred.

According to the consumer, there is no way to communicate with the rider while in the boat or operator while on the tube kite. The father stated that the tube kite suddenly went out of control without warning and there was nothing that could be done. The complainant stated that the driver could not let off the throttle fast enough. According to the consumer, it was not windy at the time of the incident.

The complainant stated that he did not make any modifications or repairs to the tube kite prior to the incident. The consumer did not provide any contact information for the owner/driver of the boat.

At the time of the on-site visit, the complainant also provided a copy of his son's discharge instructions from the emergency room that can be found in Exhibit C. The consumer provided this investigator with information on the tube kite that he had obtained on-line along with tube kite height estimations that he had derived from product advertising. See Exhibit D for this information.

The consumer also provided the e-mail notification that the retailer had sent to him detailing the recall of his tube kite. This information is contained in Exhibit E. The complainant had discussed the incident with the dealer from whom the product was purchased. The complainant did not provide this investigator with a copy of the purchase receipt for the tube kite.

According to the consumer, he contacted the manufacturer about the incident on or about July 11, 2006 via their 1-800 telephone number and requested a full refund. The consumer replied that he contacted the manufacturer again on July 14, 2006. According to the complainant, the

company would not give him his money back, stating that the product is fine and there is no issue with it.

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Tube Kite

Brand: Wego 10-foot Kite Tube
Model: 53-5000
UPC: 0 29808 00518 0
Manufacturer: Sportsstuff, Inc.
11213 E Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE, 68137
Tel: 402-592-9085
Fax: 402-592-1354
Customer Service: 888-814-8833
www.sportsstuff.com
Made in China
Retailer: Premier Pool and Spa Inc.
204 North Chestnut Street
Highway 41
Chaska, MN 55318
Purchase Date: January 2006
Retail Price: \$599 with \$100 credit
on additional product

The product consists of a ten-foot, circular, inflatable, tube kite that is red, black, and yellow in color. The product contained "53-5000" imprinted near its valve. The cover of the tube kite bore a picture of a skull and crossbones.

The cover of the tube kite contained,

"KITE TUBE
WEGO
SOLO
SPORTSSTUFF
NEVER KITE HIGHER THAN YOU'RE WILLING TO FALL!"

Power Boat

The boat that was pulling the tube kite was described as a "Master Craft" brand, twenty and one-half foot long, "Pro Star 205" model with a 285 HP engine.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A - Photographs

Exhibit B - CD containing video of incident
(SSPX0006 Fall From WEGO) and
additional video of tube kite in use.

Exhibit C - Victim's medical records

Exhibit D - Product information provided by complainant
along with complainant's notes estimating
height of tube in advertisement

Exhibit E - E-mail from retailer to consumer
regarding recall

Exhibit F - Authorization for Release of Name Form
(Do Not Release)

Exhibit G - Contact information

Exhibit A-1 below shows the top of the tube kite involved in the incident.



Exhibit A-2 below shows the bottom of the tube kite with its rope connected to it.





IDI 060711HCC2677

Exhibit B

Due to the exhibit being a compact disk containing a video of the incident, the exhibit could not be scanned.



ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

St. Croix Regional Medical Center
204 South Adams Street, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
Patient Name: [REDACTED]

Discharge Instructions - Emergency Department

IMPORTANT: We examined and treated you today on an emergency basis only. This was not a substitute for, or an effort to provide, complete medical care. In most cases, you must let your doctor check you again. Tell your doctor about any new or lasting problems. We cannot recognize and treat all injuries or illnesses in one Emergency Department visit. If you had special tests, such as EKG's or X-rays, we will review them again within 24 hours. We will call you if there are any new suggestions. After you leave, you should follow the instructions below.

You were treated today by [REDACTED]

This Information Is About Your Follow Up Care

Call as soon as possible to make an appointment to see your own doctor in within 3 days. You can reach your doctor by calling their clinic phone number.

This Information Is About Your Illness and Diagnosis

PULMONARY CONTUSION

Pulmonary contusion is an injury of the lung. It is like a bad bruise. When the lungs are hurt, blood and fluid build up in the tissues of the lungs, just like your ankle gets black and blue and swollen when you sprain it. This build-up of blood and fluid can make breathing difficult.

Trauma to the chest is the cause of pulmonary contusions. Examples of this may be:

- Motor vehicle accident
- Falling
- Assault
- Any other blunt injury to the chest

Pulmonary contusion can be mild to severe. Signs and symptoms vary depending on how bad the contusion is.

- Trouble breathing
- Chest pain
- Low blood pressure

Follow these instructions:

- Take deep breaths and cough as often as your doctor orders, usually every 2 hours while you are awake.
- Take your medicines exactly as prescribed.
- Keep all follow-up appointments with your doctor.

Call your doctor if:

- you have trouble breathing.
- your pain is worse or isn't helped by the pain medicine.
- you have a fever or chills.
- you are coughing up phlegm that smells foul or is red, green, brown, or yellow.
- you have any other questions or concerns.

LIGAMENTOUS SPRAIN.

Patient: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Med Rec # [REDACTED] Date: May 28, 2006 Time: 00:22

You have sprained your right knee ligament. Ligaments are rope-like bands that hold bones to each other. You have stretched and torn some of your ligament fibers.

Follow these instructions:

- If you can keep swelling down, you will feel better more quickly. Three things help to keep swelling down in the first 48 hrs:
 - Elevation is most important. Keep the injured part above the level of your heart if you can.
 - Ice packs are very helpful. Use a piece of cloth between the ice pack and the injured part to prevent frostbite.
 - Wrapping is helpful for arms and legs when you must be up and around. An Ace bandage works well.

Call your doctor if you have:

- increased pain or swelling.
- no improvement in 1 week.
- any new or severe symptoms.

TRAUMATIC HEMATURIA

What is traumatic hematuria?

Hematuria is blood in the urine. "Traumatic" means it is caused by an injury, not a disease. Blood in the urine may be visible, making your urine red or pink, or it may only be seen in the lab under a microscope.

What causes traumatic hematuria?

Any injury to your kidneys, bladder, or the tubes that drain your kidneys and bladder can cause hematuria. These types of injuries may be caused by:

- Falls
- Motor vehicle accidents
- Physical assault
- Accidents in which a large, heavy object falls on top of you
- Many other possibilities

What are the signs and symptoms of traumatic hematuria?

- Red urine
- Pink urine
- Bruises or wounds around the lower abdomen, sides, and lower back
- Pain

How does my doctor know what kind of injury is causing my hematuria?

By examining you and talking with you, and by doing:

- Urine tests
- Blood tests
- Kidney x-rays
- Cystoscopy (looking inside the bladder with a tiny camera on the end of a soft small tube)
- Cystography and urethrography (taking x-rays of the bladder and the tube that drains the bladder using dye to get clearer pictures)
- CT scan of the lower abdomen to look at the kidney, bladder, and tubes

How will my hematuria be treated?

Treatment will depend on what kind of injury is causing your hematuria.

- You may need surgery to repair any damage to your kidneys, bladder, or tubes that drain your kidneys or bladder.
- You may need antibiotic medication to prevent or treat infection.



ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

St. Croix Regional Medical Center
204 South Adams Street, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
Patient Name: [REDACTED]

- If you have had a lot of bleeding, you may need a blood transfusion.
- You may have a catheter (a small, soft tube) in your bladder to drain your urine.

What should I report to my nurse or doctor while I am in the hospital?

- More blood in your urine
- Pain
- Chills
- Any other problems or concerns

You have been treated for traumatic hematuria. Hematuria is blood in the urine. "Traumatic" means it is caused by an injury, not a disease.

When you go home, follow these instructions:

- Keep follow up appointments with your doctor or lab.
- Take medications exactly as prescribed.
- Watch your urine for signs of more bleeding.
- Drink plenty of water (at least 8 glasses a day), unless otherwise instructed by your doctor.
- If you are taking antibiotics, keep taking them until they are gone, even if you feel fine.

Call your doctor if:

- You have more blood in your urine.
- You have a fever.
- You have pain or burning with urination.
- You have pain in your back or side.
- You have trouble passing your urine.
- You have any other questions or concerns.

This Information Is About Your New Medicine - Start taking your new medication.

IBUPROFEN (Motrin, Advil, Rufen, Nuprin)

Take this medicine **with food and an eight-ounce glass of water** in the following dose: 600 mg by mouth every 6 hours if needed.

WARNING: Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant.

This medicine is used to reduce pain and inflammation (redness and swelling). It is also used to treat arthritis, muscle aches, headaches, athletic injuries, gout and menstrual cramps. Ibuprofen also reduces a fever. This medicine may be used for other reasons, as prescribed by your doctor. Ibuprofen belongs to a class of medicines called "nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs" or "NSAIDs".

Side effects may include:

- an upset stomach
- heartburn
- dizziness
- headache
- abdominal pain
- drowsiness
- sun sensitivity (some people will sunburn more easily)
- abdominal or rectal bleeding.

Other side effects may occur, but are not as common. Elderly people may have more side effects, especially confusion, stomach problems, decreased urine, and swelling in the face or lower legs.

Patient: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Med Rec #: [REDACTED] Date: May 28, 2006 Time: 00:22

Allergy would show up as: rash or itching, facial or throat swelling, wheezing or shortness of breath.

Before taking this medicine, tell your doctor if:

- you are allergic to any medicines, foods or dyes, especially:
 - ibuprofen
 - aspirin
 - ketorolac (Toradol)
 - zomepirac (Zomax)
 - suprofen (Suprol)
 - oxyphenbutazone (Tandearil, Oxalid)
- you are pregnant or breast-feeding
- you have heart disease or high blood pressure
- you have a history of kidney disease or kidney stones
- you drink 3 or more alcoholic drinks per day or smoke cigarettes (this can cause increased bleeding)
- you have a history of stomach ulcers, colitis, diverticulitis or other stomach or intestinal problems
- you have a history of fluid retention (swelling, especially in the lower legs)
- you have a history of blood disorders, such as anemia, low white blood cell count, or low platelet count
- you have diabetes
- you have problems with bleeding or clotting
- you have asthma

Follow these instructions:

- Do not take this medicine if you are pregnant or become pregnant.
- If you will be having surgery, tell your doctor or dentist that you are taking this medicine.
- Talk to your doctor or pharmacist before using any new medicines when you are taking this medicine.
- Protect your skin from the sun. Use sunscreen and protective clothes when outside.
- Take this medicine with food and a full glass of water to avoid an upset stomach.
- Do not take any other NSAID's (such as aspirin, naproxen, ketoprofen, celecoxib, others) while taking this medicine. (Read the labels on all non-prescription pain and fever-reducing medicines.)
- Do not drink alcohol, drive or operate machinery until you know how this medicine affects you.
- Store this medicine away from heat, moisture or direct light.
- If you miss a dose and are taking it on a regular schedule, take it as soon as possible. If it is almost time for your next dose, skip the missed dose. Do not double the doses. If you are taking the extended-release form of this medicine, only take the missed dose if you remember it within 2 hours after you should have taken it.

Talk with your doctor before taking any other medicines (including herbals) as you may require additional monitoring especially:

- blood thinners, such as warfarin (Coumadin) or heparin
- aspirin
- cyclosporine
- valproic acid
- medicines for high blood pressure
- medicines for fungal infections, such as itraconazole (Sporanox), ketoconazole (Nizoral), others
- digoxin
- antibiotic medicines, such as ciprofloxacin (Cipro), others



ST. CROIX REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

St. Croix Regional Medical Center
204 South Adams Street, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
Patient Name: [REDACTED]

- lithium
- corticosteroids, such as prednisone
- methotrexate
- zidovudine (Retrovir, AZT)
- probenecid (Benemid)
- phenytoin (Dilantin)
- ketorolac (Toradol)
- acetaminophen (Tylenol)

Call your doctor if you have:

- any sign of allergy.
- black, tar-like bowel movements.
- blood in your vomit (bright red or dark brown that looks like coffee grounds).
- severe nausea, heartburn or stomach pain.
- confusion.
- skin rash with fever, chills and muscle aches.
- fainting.
- irregular or very fast heartbeat.
- vision changes.
- easy bruising or bleeding.
- any bothersome side effects.
- any new or severe symptoms.

This Information Is About Your Medical Equipment And Treatments

KNEE IMMOBILIZER.

This is a soft wrap with stiff bars in its sides. It is used to keep your knee from bending.

Do the following:

- Fasten it with the Velcro type straps.
- Adjust it to be firm but not tight. Signs of an immobilizer that is too tight include:
 - swelling
 - numbness
 - color change in the foot or ankle
 - increased pain
- When resting, raise your leg above the level of your heart. This reduces throbbing and helps healing. Prop it up with pillows.
- Remove the immobilizer to bathe and sleep. Wear it otherwise until you see your doctor again.

COLD PACKS.

Keeping an injured part cool will help reduce swelling and pain. Cold packs can be wet or dry.

For wet cold packs, follow these steps every 4 hours while awake for the next 48 hours:

- 1) Wet towel(s) in cold ice water.
- 2) Wring out the towels and place them on the injured area.
- 3) Put a waterproof cover over the wet towels.
- 4) Put a dry towel over the cover.
- 5) Leave the cold pack on your injured part for 5 to 10 minutes.

For dry cold packs, follow these steps every 4 hours for the next 48 hours:

- 1) Fill a water bottle with ice.
- 2) Cover the container with a cloth.

Patient: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Med Rec #: [REDACTED] Date: May 28, 2006 Time: 00:22

Portions Copyrighted 1987-2006, LOGICARE Corporation Page 3 of 4

- 3) Put the cold pack on the injured part and cover all with a towel.
- 4) Leave the cold pack in place for 15 to 20 minutes.

Call your doctor if you have:

- any new or severe symptoms.

INCENTIVE SPIROMETER.

You have been instructed to use your incentive spirometer.

What is an incentive spirometer?

An incentive spirometer is a small plastic device designed to exercise your lungs.

Why is it important to use my incentive spirometer?

When you have surgery, you receive anesthesia medicines to put you to sleep during the operation. Sometimes these medicines cause your lungs to make more phlegm and secretions than they usually do. This puts you at risk for getting pneumonia.

After surgery, you don't breathe as deeply as you normally do. This happens because of medicines that you receive, and because of pain related to your operation. This lack of deep breathing also puts you at risk for pneumonia.

The incentive spirometer helps you to take very deep breaths, which helps to expand your lungs and keep them clear.

To use the incentive spirometer at home, do the following:

- Use the incentive spirometer hour while you are awake.
- Blow out all the air in your lungs.
- Put the mouthpiece of the incentive spirometer into your mouth.
- Seal your lips tightly around the mouthpiece.
- Breathe in as deeply as you can, watching the balls or disk go up inside the device.
- Try to get the all the balls up, or get the disk to the top of the column.
- Hold the big breath for 3 seconds.
- Breathe out normally.
- Take 5 normal breaths.
- Repeat this 6-10 times each time you use the incentive spirometer.

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**ST. CROIX
REGIONAL
MEDICAL CENTER**

St. Croix Regional Medical Center
204 South Adams Street, St. Croix Falls, WI 54024
Patient Name: [REDACTED]

YOU ARE THE MOST IMPORTANT FACTOR IN YOUR RECOVERY.
Follow the above instructions carefully. Take your medicines as prescribed.
Most important, see a doctor again as discussed. If you have problems that
we have not discussed, call or visit your doctor right away. If you cannot
reach your doctor, return to the Emergency Department.

"I have received this information and my questions have been
answered. I have discussed any challenges I see with this plan with the
nurse or physician."

[REDACTED] or Responsible Person

[REDACTED] or Responsible Person has received this information
and tells me that all questions have been answered.

RN/LPN Signature

Date/Time

Patient: [REDACTED] Date of Birth: [REDACTED]

Med: Re [REDACTED] Date: May 28, 2008 Time: 00:22

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This is the **WEGO KITE TUBE**, this is the future.



Watch The Video Here

Features and guidelines for use of the WEGO:

- Sportsstuff's guidelines for riders: Every rider must be at least 100 lbs. to ride this tube, and no more than 200 lbs.
- When riding the WEGO, the boat driver must never exceed speeds of 25 m.p.h.
- Always start riding with the 45 foot rope included with this tube before trying a longer rope, do not use a longer rope until the boat driver and rider of the tube are absolutely confident in their abilities to control the tube's flight.
- Most importantly, always make sure your WEGO is fully inflated, a foot pump is almost always necessary to fully inflate this tube to optimal pressure. Remember: 80% of tubes are not fully inflated.
- If you have difficulties in flying the tube after you have followed all these guidelines, please [contact us](#).
- 120 inch inflated diameter (10 foot) with slanted saucer configuration
- Adjustable length style 45-55-65 foot segmented tow rope included
- 840D full body nylon double skin cover with PU coating
- Computerized double stitched sewing
- Nylon zippered openings for bladder insertion and adjustment
- Multiple mesh drain ports, bar-tacked
- Two heavy-duty PVC bladders-outer ring and slotting cockpit
- Reinforced towing system with molded aluminum connector for easy quick connection
- Speed safety valves for fast easy inflation and deflation
- Parallel slotting system with non-slip footsteps and neoprene padding for comfortable foot, knee, and leg use
- 8 padded, non-slip handles with knuckle guards
- Heavy-duty starting leash with easy grip sponge balls
- Reflective Safety piping on all handles and on the outside top taping
- Variable loops for detachable leash use
- Panoramic see through double windows
- High visibility, billboard style, red and yellow watersports safety

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- colors with checkerboard and caution accent striping
- Instructional DVD, tow rope, and starting leash included!

This rope allows you to tow with a 45 foot, 55 foot, or 65 foot rope, depending on the weight of the rider and the conditions of the lake. Every rider will start with the 45 foot rope, after the boat driver and the rider are confident they can control the tube, they can eventually move to a 55 foot rope, simply by attaching the next section of rope. When the boat driver and the rider are absolutely confident in their abilities, they can upgrade your rope to 65 feet, simply by attaching the last 10 foot section.

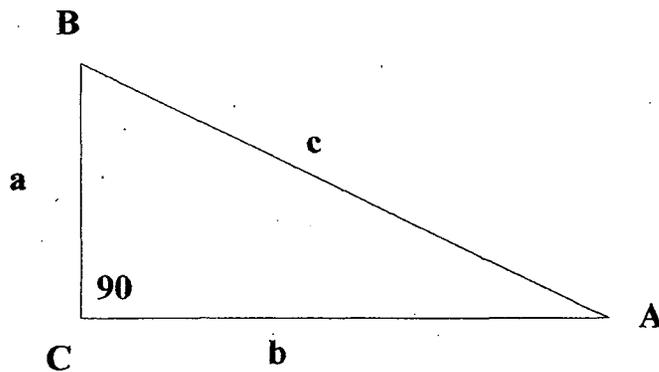
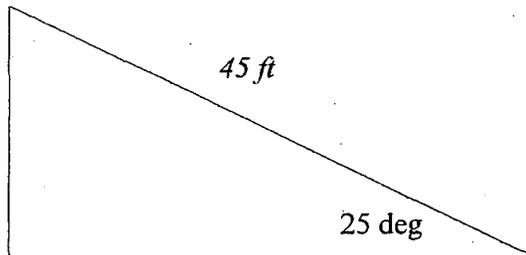
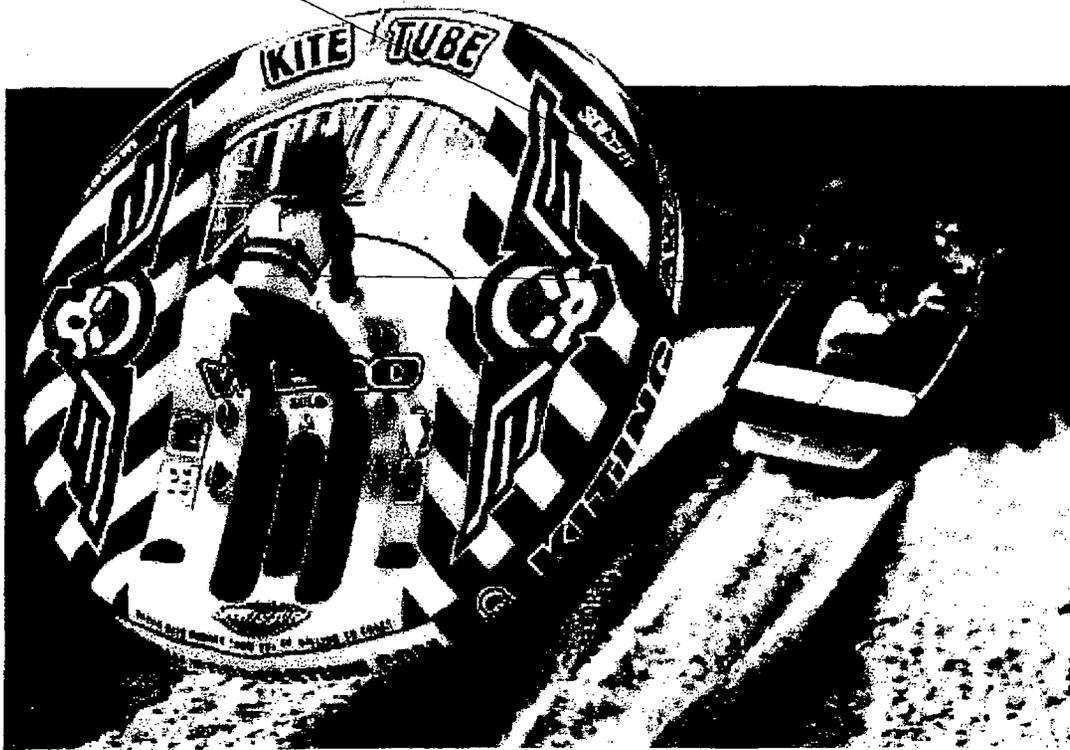
1.) CALCULATE HEIGHT FOR 45 FOOT ROPE AT 25 DEGREES

Side a = **19.02 ft**
Side b = 40.78 ft
Side c = 45 ft
Angle A = 25 deg (est)

2.) CALCULATE HEIGHT FOR 45 FOOT ROPE AT 25 DEGREES

Side a = **27.47 ft**
Side b = 58.92 ft
Side c = 65 ft
Angle A = 25 deg (est)

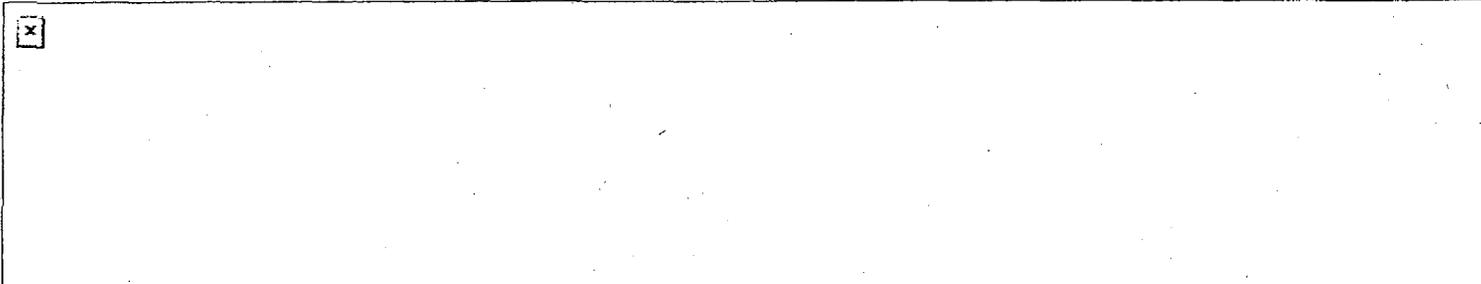




060711HCC2677 Exhibit E

Todd Palmberg

From: <fun@waterriders.com>
To: <tpalmberg@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 12:24 PM
Subject: Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube Safety Recall



From:
WaterRiders.com
Premier Pool and Spa Inc.
204 North Chestnut Street Hwy. 41
Chaska, MN 55318

In response to a request by the CPSC(Consumer Product Safety Commission), the manufacturer of the Wego Ktie Tube, Sportsstuff, has requested all it's dealers, including WaterRiders.com, to notify their customers of an important safety recall. This recall has been attached below, and you can also see the recall on Sportsstuff's website here. Please follow the instructions provided in the letter to get an exchange on your Wego Kite Tube from the manufacturer. If you have received this E-Mail on accident, and have never purchased this tube, please disregard this E-Mail.

To view the Safety Recall online:
<http://www.sportsstuff.com/news/07-12-06/images/Consumerletter07-10-06.pdf>

Learn About the Wego Kite Tube Replacement Program:
<http://www.sportsstuff.com/customercare/wegoexchange/index.shtml>

Regards,
Alton Gerold
Waterriders.com

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL
WEGO KITE TUBES (LETTER "B")

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, you purchased a Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube. In recent weeks, Sportsstuff has received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. To date, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

7/17/2006

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We therefore request that you stop using your kite tube and contact us at 1-866-831-5524 for instructions how to obtain the replacement product(s). Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

**Sincerely yours,
Leroy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer**

7/17/2006

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Exhibit F

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF NAME

Thank you for assisting us in collecting information on a potential product safety problem. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission depends on concerned people to share product safety information with us. We maintain a record of this information, and use it to assist us in identifying and resolving product safety problems.

We routinely forward this information to manufacturers and distributors to inform them of the involvement of their product in an incident situation. We also give the information to others requesting information about specific products or hazards. Manufacturers may need the individual's name so that they can obtain additional information on the product or incident situation.

Would you please indicate on the bottom of this page whether you will allow us to disclose your name. If you request that your name remain confidential, we will of course, honor that request. After you have indicated your preference, please sign your name and date the document on the lines provided.

YES

NO

(Signature)

(Date)

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IDI 060711HCC2677

Exhibit G

Contact Information


Complainant


Contact: 7/12/06

IDI 060711HBB2676

On June 30, 2006, a 20-year-old St. Paul, MN male was riding on a tube kite that was being pulled behind a power boat on a lake near Battle Lake, MN. The tube kite had been used approximately five to six times prior by other individuals. At an earlier time, a 16-year-old male had been using the tube kite when he was tossed up into the air approximately 30 feet. The rider landed back onto the tube without injury.

At around 8:20 p.m., the 20-year-old male, who was approximately 71 inches tall and weighed 170 pounds, was riding the tube kite. The individual was wearing a life jacket and had not been consuming alcohol. The air temperature was 90 degrees with no wind. It was cloudy with good visibility.

The 20-year-old male proceeded to ride the tube kite up into the air, approximately twenty to twenty-five feet off of the water. The boat was traveling approximately 35 miles per hour on a calm lake.

While in the air, the tube kite turned unexpectedly to the side in a perpendicular fashion. It tipped quickly and the tube shot down to the water. The rider lost control of the tube and fell, landing on top of the tube. The boat slowed down and stopped.

As the boat went back to the rider, he was found in the water by the tube. The victim was spitting up blood and in pain. Authorities were contacted. A call came into the Otter Tail County dispatch at 8:37 p.m. on June 30, 2006. The victim was pulled into the boat and transported to shore where he was taken to a local hospital. The victim was reported to have bruised his chest and lungs. The victim's current condition is unknown.

This investigator initially spoke with the 39-year-old male driver of the boat by telephone on July 13, 2006. The individual e-mailed this investigator a photograph of the incident tube kite, which is contained in Exhibit A. The photograph shows a 16-year-old male being thrown up into the air. The rider, who landed back on top of the tube, was not injured. The driver of the boat stated that his brother owned the incident tube kite.

The driver of the boat stated that this was the first day that he was towing the tube kite. The incident occurred on the third or fourth run. The driver stated that he had extensive experience with other water sports that included pulling skiers and other inflatable equipment.

According to the driver, the speed of the boat depended on the weight of the rider. The driver estimated that he was traveling between 30 and 35 miles per hour during the incident run. The driver thought that the rider was approximately 25 feet in the air when the tube kite started to go out of control. The individual thought this was probably the maximum height that the rider had gone on the tube.

The driver stated that there is no way to communicate with the rider. According to the driver, you can't see through the plastic viewing area on the tube kite. The driver believed that the tow rope was in good condition and was approximately 75 feet long.

According to the driver, the rider can't control the tube kite. The tube tends to go from side to side, as well as up and down. Once the tube turned to the side in a perpendicular fashion and went out of control, there was nothing that he could do. The driver stated that he slowed down but the tube was still going up. The tube flipped and then the boat pulled it back down. According to the driver, there wasn't anything mechanically wrong with the tube kite prior to or after the incident.

The driver of the boat stated that everyone involved with the tube kite watched the instructional video that was provided with the product prior to its use.

On July 24, 2006, this investigator spoke with the owner of the boat and tube kite by telephone. The owner of the boat stated that he purchased the tube kite from a marine dealer in Battle Lake, MN. According to the consumer, he picked up the product after store hours as the tube kite had been set outside the retail store. The owner of the tube kite stated that he did not ask the sales staff from the retail store how to use the product. According to the consumer, an instructional DVD came with the product. The consumer

stated that he watched the DVD prior to the tube kite being used.

According to the tube kite owner, the product was used approximately five to six times prior to the incident on June 30, 2006. The consumer stated that he was familiar with other towed inflatables. The owner of the tube kite stated that the product came with a 70 foot rope. According to the owner, he did not make any modifications or repairs to the tube kite prior to the incident.

The boat owner stated that the incident occurred very fast. The tube kite shot straight up and then went straight down. The tube hit the water and then the rider landed hard on top of the tube kite. The boat owner called for medical assistance. According to the tube kite owner, he was not related to the victim. The consumer did not provide any contact information for the victim.

The owner of the tube kite did not provide a purchase invoice for the product. In a telephone conversation with the product owner on July 24, 2006, he stated that the incident tube kite was being stored at a location near Battle Lake, MN. The owner was aware of the recall involving his tube kite and intended on returning it to the dealer.

An incident report was filed with the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources and is the source document for this investigation.

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Tube Kite

Brand: Wego 10-foot Kite Tube

Manufacturer: Sportsstuff, Inc.
11213 E Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE, 68137
Tel: 402-592-9085
Fax: 402-592-1354
Customer Service: 888-814-8833
www.sportsstuff.com
Made in China

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PRODUCT INFORMATION (CON'T):

Retailer: Battle Lake Marine, Inc.
23394 State Highway 78
Battle Lake, MN 56575
(218) 864-8183

Purchase Date: June 10, 2006

Retail Price: \$500

The product consists of a ten-foot, circular, inflatable, tube kite that is red, black, and yellow in color. The cover of the tube kite bore a picture of a skull and crossbones.

The cover of the tube kite contained,

"KITE TUBE
WEGO
SPORTSSTUFF"

Power Boat

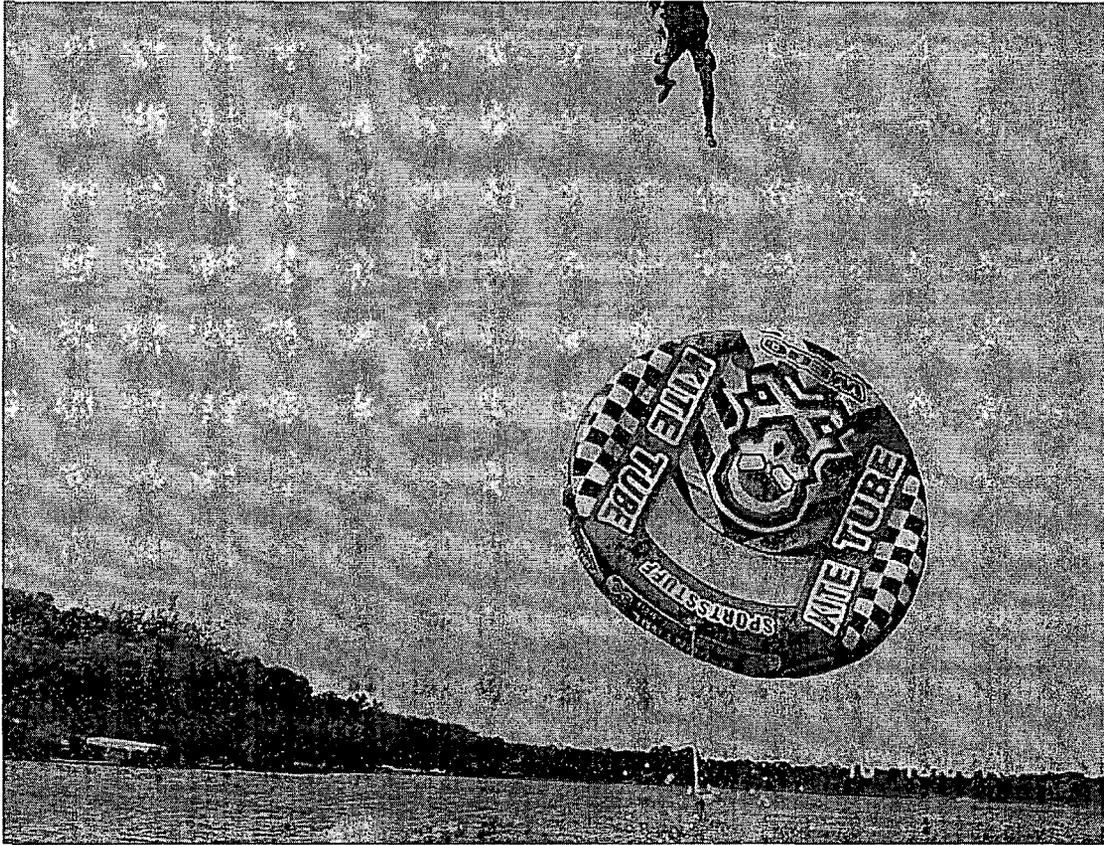
The boat that was pulling the tube kite was a 2005 "Glastron" brand, fiberglass Runabout, 17-foot long, with a Volvo 225 HP engine. The hull identification number was #GLA463523405.

ATTACHMENTS:

Exhibit A - Photograph

Exhibit B - Contact information

Exhibit A-1 below shows the tube kite involved in the incident.



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IDI 060711HBB2676

Exhibit B

Contact Information

[REDACTED]
Boat Operator

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Contact: 7/13/06

[REDACTED]
Boat and Tube Kite Owner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
Contact: 7/24/06

[REDACTED]
Victim
No contact

Topka, Tanya L.

CA060037

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Friday, August 18, 2006 8:11 AM
To: Cohn, Murray S.; Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: ebay kite tube

Here is a ebay auction for a kite tube he did not use the word kite tube so it was probably not picked up by them but it ends shortly (11 hours) http://cgi.ebay.com/Sportsstuff-Towable-Tube-CHECK-OUT-PICTURE_W0QQitemZ280018540590QQihZ018QQcategoryZ71169QQtcZphotoQQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem

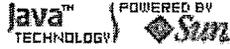


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In addition, these payment methods are not eligible for the eBay buyer protection programs.

Further information on [trading safely](#)

All Categories

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT ██████████	2. PHONE NO. (HOME) (WORK) ██████████ ██████████
3. STREET ADDRESS ██████████	4. CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ ██████████ 29681
4a. EMAIL ADDRESS	4b. INCIDENT CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ ██████████ SC 29681

5. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES
Kite tube appears to be under recall for CAP NR#06-210.

- cont -

6. DATE OF INCIDENT (S) 07/02/2006	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE/SEX 15 Y/M AND DESCRIBE INJURY laceration to liver; bruised lower right lung	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME not given RELATIONSHIP son
---------------------------------------	---	--

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT kite tube	10. BRAND NAME Wego
--	------------------------

11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE Sportsstuff unknown unknown unknown unknown	12. MODEL, SERIAL #'s, DATE OF MFR M# unknown, DOM unknown
	13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE Sportsstuff unknown unknown unknown

ISSUE 46
08/14/2006

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? DESCRIBE:	15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW DATE PURCHASED 06/30/2006 AGE 2 D
	16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: unknown

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? YES IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM?	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? YES IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION with consumer	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES
---	--	--

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 08/11/2006	21. RECEIVED BY (NAME & OFFICE) emj/HL	22. DOCUMENT NO. H0680123A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 1200
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE emj 08/11/2006	

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

H0680123A

Narrative Continued

Consumer believes kite tube poses a risk of injury.

5'7" tall, 140 lb. son was riding kite tube being pulled by a boat traveling approximately 30 MPH. Kite tube and son were approximately 20' in the air when the boat turned causing a gust of wind to take kite tube up an additional 10'. Kite tube flipped causing son to fall approximately 30' into the water on his right side. Son became unconscious and was floating face down in the water. Husband turned son over and son regained consciousness. Four people pulled son out of the water and slid him onto the back of the boat. Son was coughing up small amounts of blood. Husband contacted 911.

7/2/2006 Son was taken by ambulance to Oconee Memorial Hospital in Seneca, SC where he was examined and treated by physician (name unknown). Physician performed a CAT scan and took X-rays. Physician told husband that son had a laceration of the liver and a bruised lower right lung.

7/2/2006 Son was transferred to Greenville Memorial Hospital in Greenville, SC where he was observed for two days.

7/2006 Husband contacted the manufacturer and explained the incident to rep., (name unknown). Rep., told husband that they were not offering refunds and that they were only offering other merchandise.

Distributor Phone #:

CPSC Source: WOM

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Stern, Richard L.
Sent: Saturday, August 12, 2006 2:06 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0680136A - Wego kite tube

Richard L. Stern
Associate Director
Fuel, Electrical & Recreational Products U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
voice: 301-504-7620
fax: 301-504-0359
e:mail: rstern@cpsc.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Topping, John C.
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2006 3:20 PM
To: EH-FER
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0680136A - Wego kite tube

-----Original Message-----
From: Noble, Laura EW
Sent: Tuesday, August 08, 2006 9:22 AM
To: Emerging Hazards; Internet Incident Reports; Incident Reports; Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0680136A

08/07/2006 21:21:07

Name = [REDACTED]
Address = [REDACTED]
City = [REDACTED]
State = [REDACTED]
Zip = 27612
Email = [REDACTED]
Telephone = [REDACTED]
Name of Victim = [REDACTED]
Victim's Address = [REDACTED]
Victim's City = [REDACTED]
Victim's State = [REDACTED]
Victim's Zip = 27612
Victim's Telephone = [REDACTED]

Incident Description: Fell from a Wego Kite Tube approximately 40' (caught a gust of wind that sent him up too high and kite got out of control). His life jacket busted open when he hit the water, and an ambulance lifted him out of the boat. At the hospital, it was found that he had ruptured a kidney that was not a healthy kidney prior to the accident.

Victim's age at time of incident = 30
Victim's sex = Male
Date of incident = 5/28/06
Product involved = Wego kite tube
Product brand name/manufacturer = Sportsstuff Manufacturer street address = Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = online - www.sportsstuff.com Product involved still available = No Product model and serial number, manufacture date = Date product purchased = 2006 Name Release = Release name to manufacturer only

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 9:51 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Vece, John R.
Subject: RE: Ohio-Tappan Lake Flying Tube

I reviewed both articles. They are the same incident/same victim.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 8:02 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Ohio-Tappan Lake Flying Tube

A new Wego injury incident in Ohio

Dennis Blasius
 Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
 Office of Compliance and Field Operations
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 Ph. # 262-650-1216
 Fax # 262-650-1217
 Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

From: Gogle, Nancy [mailto:Nancy.Gogle@dnr.state.oh.us]
Sent: Thu 8/10/2006 5:48 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: Ohio-Tappan Lake Flying Tube

Dennis,
 Here is the initial report on another kite tube incident. If you need more information please let me know.

Nancy M. Gogle
 phone: 614-265-6615
 fax: 614-267-8883

-----Original Message-----

From: Battista, Randal
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2006 6:21 PM
To: Simonetti, Larry
Cc: Doncyson, Todd; Bird, John; Wisse, John; Gogle, Nancy
Subject: Tappan Lake Flying Tube

On 8-8-06 @ about 5:45pm, [REDACTED] yer, 60 years old, & lives @ [REDACTED] 43812 operated a 19' 11" Bayliner on Tappan Lake. He was towing his 40 year old son, [REDACTED] yer of [REDACTED] g, OH, 43068; on a kite tube. The observer was [REDACTED] s stepdaughter [REDACTED] 23, also of [REDACTED] 3; no other passengers on board. The boat was traveling 35mph (per GPS) and the kite tube was about 25 foot off the water when it dove down into the water. [REDACTED] was knocked unconscious & was face down in the water when [REDACTED] dove into the water and rolled him over. He was wearing a type 3 PFD. [REDACTED] was life flighted to Aultman Hospital in Canton Ohio; he has a type three concussion. He may be released on 8-10-06. [REDACTED] has been kite tubing about 25 times; he likes flying @ 45MPH and frequents Dillon, Alum Creek and Buckeye

8/10/2006

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ake, State Parks. He boats during the week and knows the law. Citations will be served this week. The kite tube has a voluntary
call notice, he paid \$500:00.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ross, Robin M.
Sent: Thursday, August 10, 2006 11:28 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Non-Effective REC

The following REC is non-effective.

Investigator: Christina M. Fredrick
Recall Number: CA060037
Assign Number: 060714CRM1021

Firm Name:
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Product: Kite Tube

Firm Inspected:
Cabela's Inc.
3200 Rd. 101
Sidney, NE 69160-0001

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Barton, Keven J.
Sent: Wednesday, August 09, 2006 5:17 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Non-Effective REC

The following REC is non-effective.

Investigator: Tetsuo Doi
Recall Number: CA060037
Assign Number: 060714CRM1007

Firm Name:
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Product: Kite Tube

Firm Inspected:
Resuco U.S.A., Inc.
23011 Moulton Parkway, #I-6
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: WESTERN

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT ██████████	2. PHONE NO. (HOME) (WORK) ██████████ unknown
3. STREET ADDRESS ██████████	4. CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ ██████████ 54703
4a. EMAIL ADDRESS	4b. INCIDENT CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ WI 54703

5. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES
 The 6'3" tall, 215 lb., consumer was being pulled approx 20 miles per hour, when the tube became airborne. The tube hit the water
 - cont -

6. DATE OF INCIDENT (S) 06/18/2006	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE/SEX 41 Y/M AND DESCRIBE INJURY broken right ankle	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME self RELATIONSHIP self
---------------------------------------	--	---

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT inflatable tube for water activity	10. BRAND NAME Wego Kite Tube
---	----------------------------------

11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE Sportsstuff unknown unknown unknown unknown	12. MODEL, SERIAL #'s, DATE OF MFR unknown	13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE Shields Sporting Goods unknown Eau Claire, WI unknown
--	---	--

ISSUE 45
08/09/2006

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? DESCRIBE:	15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW DATE PURCHASED 06/01/2006 AGE 2M	16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: unknown
---	--	---

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? NO IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? yes	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? NO IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION The owner has the product.	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? NO
---	--	--

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 08/08/2006	21. RECEIVED BY (NAME & OFFICE) mlj/HL	22. DOCUMENT NO. H0680061A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 3200
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE mlj 08/08/2006	

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: WESTERN

H0680061A

Narrative Continued

and became airborne a second time. When the tube hit the water the 2nd time, the consumer wrenched his right ankle. Both ankles were in the pockets of this tube, that are designated for the feet.

The consumer was taken to St. Joseph's Hospital, Chippewa Fall, WI. X-rays were taken and the consumer's right foot was placed in a temporary cast, because his right ankle was broken. The consumer was scheduled to see an orthopedic surgeon the following week.

The consumer saw the the orthopedic surgeon the following week and based on his x-rays, surgery was recommended. The consumer had surgery the following week.

The consumer plans to contact the firm at a later time.

Distributor Phone #:

CPSC Source: INTERNET

060714 CRM 1007
CA 060037

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

1. DATE
8-7-06

2. TIME
11:08 AM P.M.

3. FROM (Area Office and Address)
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
804 SILVER SPUR RD., #1057 175
DOLLING HILLS ESTATES, CA 92674
310-373-0535

A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL
Mitsuko Kawashita, General Manager

B. FIRM NAME
Resco USA, Inc.

4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS
23011 Mountain Pkwy #I-6

D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Notice of inspection is hereby given pursuant to:

- Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 et seq.);
- Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.);
- Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)
- Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.)] and/or
- Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).

Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.

5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED.

The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents, and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations. (16 CFR Part 1015)

7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)

Thomas D. ...

270

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Spitler, Virginia R.
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2006 10:02 AM
To: EH-FER; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0680069A - Kite Tube

Virginia Spitler
Management & Program Analyst
US Consumer Product Safety Commission
Division of Hazard Analysis
301-504-7301

-----Original Message-----

From: Noble, Laura EW
Sent: Friday, August 04, 2006 8:51 AM
To: Emerging Hazards; Internet Incident Reports; Incident Reports; Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0680069A

08/03/2006 20:34:07

Name = D [REDACTED]
Address = [REDACTED] t.
City = [REDACTED]
State = Arizona
Zip = 85365
Email = [REDACTED]
Telephone = [REDACTED] 8
Name of Victim = N [REDACTED]
Victim's Address = [REDACTED]
Victim's City = Yuma
Victim's State = Arizona
Victim's Zip = 85365
Victim's Telephone = [REDACTED]

Incident Description: The Wego Kite Tube was hovering at about 10 ft. above the water when it suddenly caught an unexpected amount of air. On its way down, it landed at an awkward angle, causing the victim's ankle to break in two places.

Victim's age at time of incident = 15
Victim's sex = Male
Date of incident = 6/17/06
Product involved = 10 ft. wide kite tube Product brand name/manufacturer = Wego Kite Tube/Sportsstuff Inc.
Manufacturer street address = 11213 E. Circle (Suite "A") Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = Omaha, Nebraska 68137 Product involved still available = No
Product model and serial number, manufacture date = N/A Date product purchased = 6/16/06
Name Release = Release name to the manufacturer and public



democratherald.com

Print Page

Friday, August 4, 2006

Last modified Thursday, August 3, 2006 12:25 PM PDT

Kite tubing banned at many state reservoirs

By Alex Paul
Albany Democrat-Herald

Kite tubing — a new extreme water sport that sends riders of an inflatable platform as high as 60 feet into the air — has been banned on Foster, Green Peter and Detroit reservoirs, as well as 13 other Oregon bodies of water managed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Kite tubes are round, 10-feet-wide and towed behind a boat, much like other inflatables. The difference is that by manipulating ropes on the tube, the rider can become airborne when the boat reaches speeds of 20 to 40 miles per hour. Heights reach more than 30 feet.

The Corps of Engineers said the speed of the boat, the inexperience of the boat operator, wind gusts and water currents can significantly increase the dangers associated with kite tubes. The ban includes not only kite tubes, but any other inflatable device that is designed to go airborne when towed behind a boat.

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission, injuries have included broken necks, punctured lungs and head trauma. Nationwide, there have been some 84 reported injuries associated with kite tubing, including two deaths in the United States and one in Canada.

Sweet Home Fire Chief Mike Beaver said there have been no emergency services calls associated with kite tube accidents on either Foster or Green Peter reservoir.

The ban comes less than a month after more than 19,000 Wego kite tubes were voluntarily recalled by their manufacturer, Sports Stuff Inc., of Omaha, Neb.

Earlier this year, the kite tube had been honored as the best new product of the year by the Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association. Promotional material for the tube noted, "Experience the thrill of flight as you rise above the water, reaching incredible heights, leaving nothing but adrenaline in your wake!" Writing on the tube said, "Never kite higher than you are willing to fall."

Mid-valley owners of the Wego Kite Tube model 53-5000 model can go to the company's Web site, www.sportsstuff.com, for details on how they can apply for a replacement water sport product.

The Corps said today that kite tubing is prohibited on all of its reservoirs in the Columbia, Willamette and Rogue River basins. Other reservoirs where the ban is in place include Big Cliff in Marion County; Applegate and Lost Creek in Jackson County; Blue River, Cottage Grove, Cougar, Dexter, Dorena, Fall Creek, Fern Ridge, Hills Creek and Lookout Point in Lane County, and Willow Creek in Morrow County. Also included on the Columbia River are the pools formed at Bonneville, The Dalles and John Day dams.

Kite tubes have also been banned on Corps-managed lakes in at least 15 states across the country.

Alex Paul can be reached at alex.paul@lee.net or 812-6076.

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT ██████████	2. PHONE NO. (HOME) (WORK) ██████████ unknown
3. STREET ADDRESS ██████████	4. CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ NY 11557
4a. EMAIL ADDRESS	4b. INCIDENT CITY ST ZIPCODE ██████████ NY 11557

5. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES
The consumer's inner tube may have been under CAP#06-210.

- cont -

6. DATE OF INCIDENT(S) 06/01/2006	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE/SEX 26 Y/M AND DESCRIBE INJURY lost all movement/feeling in right arm	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME self RELATIONSHIP self
--------------------------------------	--	---

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT inflatable water tub	10. BRAND NAME Wego Kite Tube
---	----------------------------------

11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE unknown unknown	12. MODEL, SERIAL #'s, DATE OF MFR unknown
	13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE www.ebay.com unknown unknown unknown

ISSUE 44
08/04/2006

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? DESCRIBE:	15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW DATE PURCHASED 05/18/2006 AGE 2 W
	16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: None pertaining to the problem.

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? NO IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? yes	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? NO IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION The tube was left in the water.	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES
---	---	---

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 08/03/2006	21. RECEIVED BY (NAME & OFFICE) mlj/HL	22. DOCUMENT NO. H0680028A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 3200
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE mlj 08/03/2006	

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CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

H0680028A

Narrative Continued

The 71" tall, 200 lb. consumer was traveling approx. 25 to 30 miles per hour, when the inner tube became airborne. The tube rotated sideways, which caused the consumer to land on his right arm. The consumer was taken to a nearby hospital, where he was examined. The consumer lost all movement and all feeling in his right arm. The consumer was kept in the hospital for 4 days and then released.

The people with the consumer cut the inner tube lose from the boat at the time of the incident, so there is no additional information from it.

Distributor Phone #:

CPSC Source: INTERNET

On 6/17/06, a 34 year old female suffered a mild concussion as a result of riding a kite tube that crashed while being towed by a motorboat on a lake. The victim was riding the kite tube about two or three feet above the water when a sudden gust of wind took her up to about 10 to 12 feet above the water, she lost control and the kite tube dove down and crashed into the lake sideways. The victim was temporarily knocked unconscious. She was hospitalized overnight for a mild concussion and then released.

Information in this report was obtained through telephone interviews with the victim's fiancé, boat operator/owner, and NC Wildlife Resources Commission (NCWRC) officials. The victim's fiancé stated that the victim did not remember anything about the incident due to being knocked unconscious. Information was also obtained from a boating accident report received from NCWRC [see Exhibit 1], as well as from product description, specifications and return information on the manufacturer's web-site [see Exhibits 2&4]. The NC Wildlife Resources Investigator did not take any photos. A photograph was requested from the boat owner/operator (kite tube owner, but it was not provided. This product was recalled by the manufacturer on 7/13/06 [see Exhibit 3]. No medical release was provided by the victim so medical records were not requested from the hospital. There were no other officials involved/official reports to collect.

The kite tube involved in the incident was about two days old when the incident occurred. The victim's fiancé stated that the victim had no previous experience with similar products, but she had ridden on regular tubes a number of times and had gone parasailing once. Both the victim's fiancé and the boat owner/operator stated that the kite tube and the tow rope were new and appeared to be in good condition at the time of the incident. This was the first time that the victim had used the kite tube. The boat owner/operator's son's had apparently used it for a day or two prior to the incident.

On the day of the incident, the victim was at the lake with her fiancé, the boat owner/operator and at least two other people in the boat. They were riding on a 250 horsepower open motorboat. The boat owner was driving the boat and the victim's fiancé was in the boat. The victim was wearing a life jacket and got in the water to ride the kite tube.

The boat owner stated that a DVD comes with the product and that his son had watched the video. The boat/kite tube owner stated that he did not ask the retail sales staff any questions when he purchased the kite tube and they did not offer any directions or cautions. He read the instructions/warnings printed on the kite tube.

At the time of the incident, the weather was clear, the temperature was 90 degrees, Fahrenheit and the water conditions were choppy (waves 6" to 2'). The wind was light (7 to 14 mph), and the visibility was good. Alcohol was not listed as a factor in the incident [see Exhibit 1, pgs. 1&2].

On June 17, 2006 at about 4:15 pm, the 34 year old female victim was flying on the kite tube for about 15 minutes at two or three feet above the surface of the lake when a sudden gust of wind took the kite tube and the victim up about 10 - 12 feet in the air (according to the victim's fiancé) where she suddenly lost control and slammed down sideways onto the surface of the lake. The boat operator stated that the maximum height achieved was more like seven or eight feet above the water. The victim was knocked unconscious for about one full minute. The boat operator whipped the boat around and the victim's fiancé and two other people helped the victim back into the boat within three to three and one-half minutes of the incident. The victim was taken to the emergency room, treated for a mild concussion and kept overnight for observation. She was released the next day.

The victim was the only person on the kite tube and she was the only one being towed by the boat at the time of the incident. The 57 year old boat owner/operator (kite tube owner) had many years of experience operating boats.

The victim's fiancé stated that he did not believe that she could direct/control the direction and height of the kite tube. He stated that the kite tube appears to rock back and forth and become unstable when wind gets a hold of it and drives it up into the air. He believes that the maximum angle that could be achieved on this kite tube is 45 degrees..

The victim's fiancé indicated that the tow rope was about 20 or 30 feet long. There were two sections of the tow rope attached together. The boat operator stated that

060707HBB1625

the boat was traveling at between 18 to 20 miles per hour at the time of the incident.

The boat operator stated that he could not communicate with the victim and that he did not actually see the kite tube dive to the surface because he was operating the boat. The boat operator said his son attached the tow rope to the boat based on the manufacturer's instructions.

The victim did not report the incident to the manufacturer. The boat operator/kite tube owner is aware of the recall but has not yet contacted the manufacturer to report the incident/return the kite tube. He still had possession of it as of August 2, 2006.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

The NC Wildlife Resources Commission, the victim's fiancé and the boat owner/operator (kite tube owner) all confirmed that the product is a Wego brand inflatable kite tube that is 10 foot in diameter, yellow colored, and designed to be towed behind a power boat.

MANUFACTURER: SPORTSSTUFF, INC.
11213 E. Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137

BRAND: WEGO
MODEL: 53-5000

The boat owner/operator purchased the kite tube from Lake Gaston Sales & Service, Littleton, NC about two days prior to the incident. He no longer has the original sales receipt.

The product description and specifications for the kite tube are as follows (see Exhibit 2):

Wego Kite Tube

10ft diameter flying tube
Take flight with the WEGO KITE TUBE! The next generation of action towable is here, taking you to a whole new level of excitement! Whip across the water like a deck tube, or fly through the air like a bird! Experience the thrill of flight as you rise above the water, reaching incredible heights, leaving nothing but adrenaline in your wake! The level of extreme sport has been raised with the WEGO KITE TUBE. Anything else is beneath it...

060707HBB1625

Model 53-5000 Sug. Retail: \$599.95

KITE TUBE WITHDRAWN FROM MARKET - CLICK HERE FOR INFO

Features:

- 120 inch inflated diameter (10 foot) with slanted saucer configuration
- 840D full body nylon double skin cover with PU coating
- Computerized double stitched sewing
- Nylon zippered openings for bladder insertion and adjustment
- Multiple mesh drain ports, bar-tacked
- Two heavy-duty PVC bladders-outer ring and slotting cockpit
- Reinforced towing system with molded aluminum connector for easy quick connection
- Speed safety valves for fast easy inflation and deflation
- Parallel slotting system with non-slip footsteps and neoprene padding for comfortable foot, knee, and leg use
- 8 padded, non-slip handles with knuckle guard
- Heavy-duty starting leash with easy grip sponge balls
- Reflective Safety piping on all handles and on the outside top taping
- Variable loops for detachable leash use
- Panoramic see through double windows
- Adjustable length style 45-55-65 foot segmented tow rope included
- High visibility, billboard style, red and yellow watersports safety colors with checkerboard and caution accent striping
- Instructional DVD, tow rope, and starting leash included

Watch the included instructional video to learn how to fly:
[Kite Tube Instructional Video](#)

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit 1 - Boating accident report (NCWRC).
- Exhibit 2 - Product info. from SportsStuff web-site.
- Exhibit 3 - Release NO. 06-210 (Kite tube recall).
- Exhibit 4 - Return info. from SportsStuff web-site.
- Exhibit 5 - Contact List.
- Exhibit 6 - Status of Missing document form.

ACCIDENT DATA

VESSEL #1 OPERATOR NAME [REDACTED] VESSEL #2 OPERATOR NAME N/A VESSEL #3 OPERATOR NAME N/A

DATE OF ACCIDENT 17-Jun-08 TIME 4:15 am NAME OF BODY OF WATER Lake Gaston NEAREST CITY OR TOWN Henrico

STATE North Carolina LOCATION (Give location precisely) Jimmy's CRK Lat UNKNOWN Long COUNTY Northampton

WEATHER: [X] Clear, [] Rain, [] Cloudy, [] Snow, [] Fog, [] Hazy
 WATER CONDITIONS: [] Calm (waves less than 6"), [X] Choppy (waves 6" to 2'), [] Rough (waves 2' to 6"), [] Very Rough (greater than 6"), [] Strong Current
 TEMPERATURE (Estimate): Air 80 °F, Water 70 °F
 WIND: [] None, [X] Light (0-6mph), [] Moderate (7-14mph), [] Strong (15-25mph), [] Storm (Over 25mph)
 VISIBILITY: Day [X] Good, [] Fair, [] Poor; Night [] Good, [] Fair, [] Poor

ACCIDENT CAUSE(S) (Check all applicable):
 [] Careless/Reckless, [] No / Improper Lights, [] Weather, [X] Excessive Speed, [] No Proper Lookout, [] Restricted Vision, [] Overloading, [] Improper Loading, [] Hazardous Waters
 [] Improper Anchoring, [] Wake, [] Alcohol use, [] Drug Use, [] Fault of Hull, [] Fault of Machinery, [] Fault of Equipment, [] Operator Inexperience, [] Operator Inattention
 [] Dam / Lock, [] Sharp Turn, [] Ignition of Fuel/Vapor, [] Failure to Vent, [] Starting in Gear, [] Congested Waters, [X] Other tubing, KETE TUBING
 TYPE OF ACCIDENT (Check one):
 [] Grounding, [] Capsizing, [] Flooding, [] Sinking, [] Falls Overboard, [] Falls in boat, [] Starting Engine, [X] Skier Mishap, [] Struck by boat
 [] Fire or Explosion (Fuel), [] Fire or Explosion (Other than fuel), [] Collision with Fixed Object, [] Collision with Floating Object, [] Hit By Motor or Propeller, [] Collision with Vessel, [] Struck Submerged Object, [] Other



VESSEL #1 INFORMATION

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OPERATOR [REDACTED] AGE OF OPERATOR: GENDER: MALE [X] FEMALE [] DATE OF BIRTH: 5-28-49
 OPERATOR TELEPHONE NUMBER: 252-537-4334 OWNER TELEPHONE #: 252-537-4334
 OPERATOR EXPERIENCE: [] Under 10 Hours, [] 10 to 100 Hours, [X] Over 100 Hours
 OPERATOR EDUCATION: [] State, [] None, [] Red Cross, [] USCG Auxiliary, [] Power Squadron, [] Other

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER [REDACTED] RENTED BOAT? [] YES, [X] NO NUMBER OF PERSONS ONBOARD VESSEL: 2
 OWI ARREST: [] Yes B.A.C., [] No NUMBER OF OTHER ARRESTS: NUMBER OF SKIERS TOWED:

BOAT REGISTRATION #: NC 6992 WJ BOAT NAME: NONE BOAT MAKE: CARAVELLE BOAT MODEL: 1999 ZV2 BR MFR HULL IDENTIFICATION #: VCN111071899

TYPE OF BOAT: [X] Open Motorboat, [] Cabin Motorboat, [] Auxiliary Sail, [] Mini Jet Boat, [] Canoe/Kayak, [] Other (specify)
 HULL MATERIAL: [] Wood, [] Aluminum, [] Steel, [X] Fiberglass, [] Rubber/Vinyl, [] Plastic, [] Other
 ENGINE: [] Outboard, [X] Inboard gasoline, [] Inboard diesel, [] Inboard-outdrive, [] Jet, [] Other (Specify)
 PROPULSION: # of engines: 1, Horsepower (total): 250, Type of fuel: Gasoline
 CONSTRUCTION: Length: 21, Year built (boat): 1999
 Has boat had a Safety Examination? [X] Yes, [] No For current year? [X] Yes, [] No Year indicate whether [] USCG Auxiliary Courtesy Marine Exam, [X] State / local exam, [] Other

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (Check all applicable):
 [] Commercial Activity, [] Cruising, [] Maneuvering, [] Docking/Undocking, [] Rowing/Paddling, [X] Water Skiing, [] Racing, [] Towing, [] Sailing, [] Changing Direction, [] Whitewater Sports, [] Starting Engine, [] Other (Specify)
 [] Drifting, [] At Anchor, [] Tied to Dock, [] Fueling, [] Fishing, [] Hunting, [] Skin Diving, [] Swimming, [] Being Towed, [] Launching, [] Changing Speed, [] Making Repairs, [] Tournament

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD'S)
 Was the boat adequately equipped with COAST GUARD APPROVED FLOTATION DEVICES? [X] Yes, [] No
 Were they accessible? [X] Yes, [] No
 Were they serviceable? [X] Yes, [] No
 Were they used by survivors? [X] Yes, [] No
 What type? [] I, [] II, [X] III, [] IV, [] V (specify)
 Was the vessel carrying NON approved flotation devices? [] Yes, [X] No
 Were they accessible? [] Yes, [] No
 Were they used? [] Yes, [] No
 If Yes, indicate kind

PROPERTY DAMAGE
 Estimated amount: This Boat: N/A
 Other Property:
 DESCRIBE PROPERTY DAMAGE:
 NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER:
 OF DAMAGED PROPERTY:
 N/A
 DESCRIBE VESSEL DAMAGE:
 N/A

FIRE EXTINGUISHER
 Were they used? (If Yes, list Type(s) and #)
 [] Yes, [X] No, [] NA Types:

BOAT SPEED: [] Not Moving, [] Under 10mph, [X] 10-20, [] 21-50

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VESSEL # 2 INFORMATION (If more than two vessels, add additional forms)

NAME AND ADDRESS OF OPERATOR N/A		AGE OF OPERATOR GENDER: Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>		OPERATOR EXPERIENCE <input type="checkbox"/> Under 10 Hours <input type="checkbox"/> 10 to 100 Hours <input type="checkbox"/> Over 100 Hours	
OPERATOR TELEPHONE #		DATE OF BIRTH		OPERATOR EDUCATION <input type="checkbox"/> None <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> Red Cross <input type="checkbox"/> USCG Auxillary <input type="checkbox"/> Power Squadron <input type="checkbox"/> Other	
NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER		RENTED BOAT? # of persons on board vessel: <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		OWI ARREST <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____ # OF OTHER ARRESTS _____ # OF SKIERS TOWED _____	
BOAT REGISTRATION #	BOAT NAME	BOAT MAKE	BOAT MODEL	MFR HULL IDENTIFICATION #	

TYPE OF BOAT <input type="checkbox"/> Open Motorboat <input type="checkbox"/> Cabin Motorboat <input type="checkbox"/> Auxiliary Sail <input type="checkbox"/> Mini Jet Boat <input type="checkbox"/> Canoe/Kayak <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify) _____		HULL MATERIAL <input type="checkbox"/> Wood <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum <input type="checkbox"/> Steel <input type="checkbox"/> Fiberglass <input type="checkbox"/> Rubber/vinyl <input type="checkbox"/> Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		ENGINE <input type="checkbox"/> Outboard <input type="checkbox"/> Inboard gasoline <input type="checkbox"/> Inboard diesel <input type="checkbox"/> Inboard-outdrive <input type="checkbox"/> Jet <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		PROPULSION # of engines _____ Horsepower (total) _____ Type of fuel _____ Has boat had a Safety Examination? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No For current year? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Year _____ Indicate whether <input type="checkbox"/> USCG Auxillary Courtesy Marine Exam <input type="checkbox"/> State/local exam <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____		CONSTRUCTION Length: _____ Year built (boat) _____	
--	--	---	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

OPERATION AT TIME OF ACCIDENT (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial Activity <input type="checkbox"/> Cruising <input type="checkbox"/> Maneuvering <input type="checkbox"/> Docking/Undocking <input type="checkbox"/> Rowing/Paddling <input type="checkbox"/> Water Skiing <input type="checkbox"/> Racing <input type="checkbox"/> Towing <input type="checkbox"/> Sailing <input type="checkbox"/> Changing Direction <input type="checkbox"/> Whitewater Sports <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____		PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD'S) Was the boat adequately equipped with COAST GUARD APPROVED FLOTATION DEVICES? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Were they accessible? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Were they serviceable? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Were they used by survivors? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No What Type? <input type="checkbox"/> I <input type="checkbox"/> II <input type="checkbox"/> III <input type="checkbox"/> IV <input type="checkbox"/> V (specify) _____ Were PFD's properly Used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Was the vessel carrying NON approved flotation devices? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Were they accessible? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Were they used? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No If Yes, indicate kind _____		PROPERTY DAMAGE Estimated amount: This Boat \$ _____ Other Property \$ _____ DESCRIBE PROPERTY DAMAGE: _____		FIRE EXTINGUISHER Were they used? (if yes, list Type(s) and # used.) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> NA Types: _____	
BOAT SPEED: <input type="checkbox"/> Not Moving <input type="checkbox"/> Under 10 MPH <input type="checkbox"/> 10 - 20 MPH <input type="checkbox"/> 21 - 40 MPH		NAME AND ADDRESS OF OWNER OF DAMAGED PROPERTY: _____ _____ DESCRIBE VESSEL DAMAGE: _____					

FATALITIES AND INJURIES (If more than 3 fatalities and / or injuries, attach additional form(s))

DECEASED					
Name N/A	Address N/A	DATE OF BIRTH	WAS VICTIM? <input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Type _____	DEATH CAUSED BY <input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPEARANCE	Physical Condition: Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol Involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____
Name	Address	DATE OF BIRTH	WAS VICTIM? <input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Type _____	DEATH CAUSED BY <input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPEARANCE	Physical Condition: Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol Involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____
Name	Address	DATE OF BIRTH	WAS VICTIM? <input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Type _____	DEATH CAUSED BY <input type="checkbox"/> DROWNING <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER <input type="checkbox"/> DISAPPEARANCE	Physical Condition: Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol Involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____

INJURED				
Name Heather Olesevich	Address 738 Henery St. Roanoke Rapids, NC	DATE OF BIRTH 12-1-71	Primary Injury head injury/knocked Out Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: falling off tube	Medical Treatment? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Hospitalized? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____ PFD Worn? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
Name	Address	DATE OF BIRTH	Primary Injury _____ Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: _____	Medical Treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____ PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Name	Address	DATE OF BIRTH	Primary Injury _____ Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: _____	Medical Treatment? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes B.A.C. _____ PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes

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ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED (sequence of events; include and explain any failure of equipment or machinery. Include information regarding the involvement of alcohol and/or drugs in causing or contributing to the accident. Include any descriptive information about the use of PFD's)

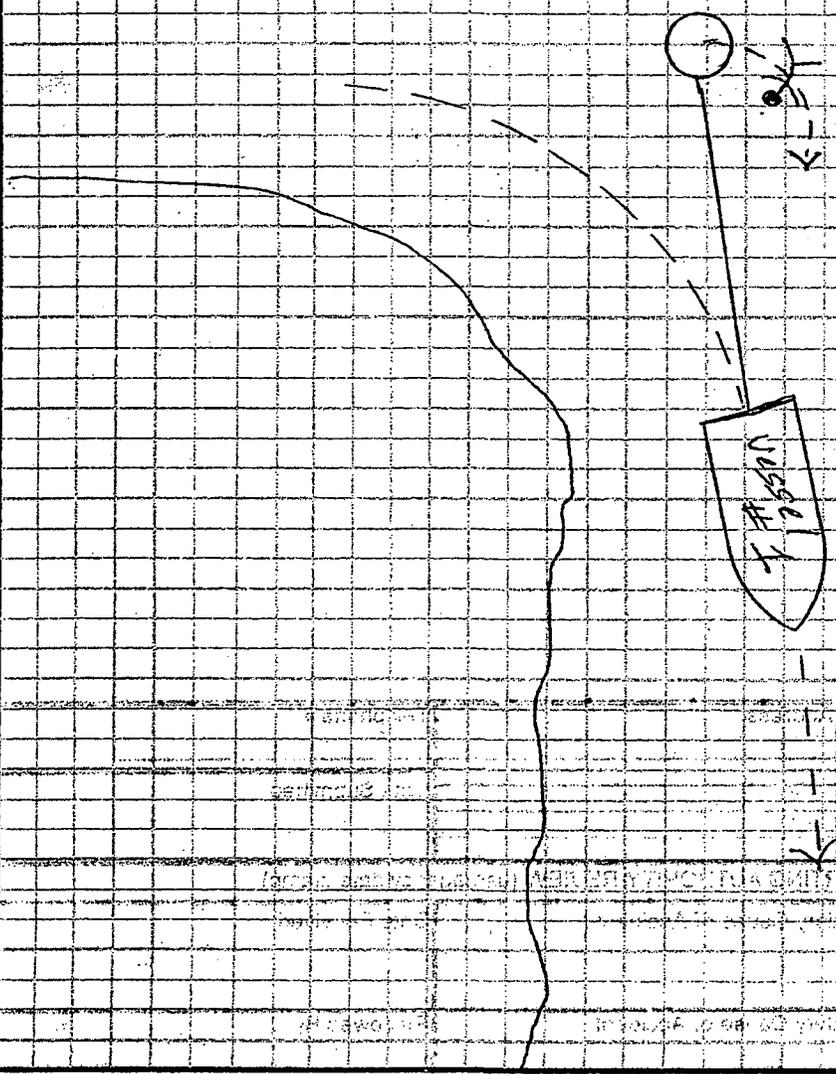
The operator of vessel # 1, [redacted] was pulling [redacted] on a tube. [redacted] fell off the tube while rounding the point near Jimmy Creek and the main Lake. She was knocked out briefly. She was taken to the Halifax Regional Medical Center for treatment of a mild concussion.

Name <u>Patrick Browne</u>		Address	Telephone #
Officer Badge Number <u>129</u>		<u>Po Box 97</u>	<u>(252) 586-5732</u>
SIGNATURE <u>Patrick Browne #129</u>		<u>Littleton, NC</u>	Date Submitted
		<u>27850</u>	<u>6-29-06</u> <i>(initials)</i>
(do not use) - FOR REPORTING AUTHORITY REVIEW (use agency date stamp)			
Causes based on (check one)		Secondary Cause of Accident	Date Received
<input type="checkbox"/> This report investigation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Investigation and this report <input type="checkbox"/> Could not be determined			<u>7/5/06</u>
Primary Cause of Accident <u>SUBJECT FELL OFF OF RITE TUBE</u>		Secondary Cause of Accident	Reviewed By <u>Lt. J.R. Hale #364</u> <u>NCWRC</u>

Gaston Dam

Jimmy Creek

Lake Gaston
(main lake)



060707HBB1625

INFORMANT

<input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Type	Death Caused By <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning <input type="checkbox"/> Other	Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol Involved? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes
Name _____ Address _____ Date of Birth _____	Was Victim? <input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Type	Death Caused By <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning <input type="checkbox"/> Other
Name _____ Address _____ Date of Birth _____	Was Victim? <input type="checkbox"/> Swimmer <input type="checkbox"/> Non Swimmer PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No Type	Death Caused By <input type="checkbox"/> Drowning <input type="checkbox"/> Other

INJURED

Name _____ Address _____ Date of Birth _____	Primary Injury _____ Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: _____	Medical Treatment Hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Yes Yes Yes Yes
Name _____ Address _____ Date of Birth _____	Primary Injury _____ Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: _____	Medical Treatment Hospitalized? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes PFD Worn? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes	Yes Yes Yes Yes
Name _____ Address _____ Date of Birth <u>12-1-71</u>	Primary Injury _____ Secondary Injury _____ Propeller Injury? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes Injury Caused By: <u>Falling off Tube</u>	Medical Treatment Hospitalized? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes Alcohol? <input type="checkbox"/> Yes PFD Worn? <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Yes Yes Yes Yes

ACCIDENT DESCRIPTION

DESCRIBE WHAT HAPPENED (sequence of events, include and explain any failure of equipment or machinery. Include information regarding the involvement of alcohol and/or drugs in causing or contributing to the accident. Include any descriptive information about the use of PFD's)

Was Towing Kite Tube west past Edwards beach when boat passed point east of wind off Main Lake capsized Tube Throwing rider off

VESSEL # 2 (if more than 2 vessels, attach additional form(s))

Name of Operator _____	Operator Telephone # _____	Boat # _____
Operator Address _____		
Name of Owner _____	Owner Telephone # _____	
Owner Address _____		

WITNESSES

Name _____	Address _____	Telephone # _____
Name _____	Address _____	Telephone # _____
Name _____	Address _____	Telephone # _____

PERSON COMPLETING REPORT

Name _____	Address _____	Telephone # _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Operator <input type="checkbox"/> Owner		
Signature <i>John C. Christensen</i>	Date Submitted <u>6-19-06</u>	

CONTACT LIST (060707HBB1625)

1. [REDACTED]/victim's fiancé

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 0

7/7 - Conducted telephone interview.

2. [REDACTED] /Boat owner & Operator,
Kite tube owner

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] 4

7/12 - telephone interview.

3. Chris Huebner/CPT
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
1717 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699-1717
(919) 707-0033

7/6 - initiated with brief telephone interview & email.

7/13 - picked up boating accident report.

4. CPT Mark Bruton
NC Wildlife Resources Commission
Roanoke Rapids, NC
(252) 443-3791

7/6 - telephone interview with CPT Bruton.

Task Number: 060706HBB1625

Date: 8/2/06

Status of Missing Document(s)

The official records below were requested for this investigation report, but could not be obtained.

1. Photo of kite tube (from boat operator/owner).

2.

3.

4. _____

5. _____

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Gomez, Marissa [MGomez@SYSINTEGRATION.COM]
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 2:56 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

Tanya, the consumer called back and stated that the matter has been resolved with the firm. No further action needed.

Thank you,

Marissa

-----Original Message-----

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 1:06 PM
To: Gomez, Marissa
Subject: RE: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

No you can send them to me this week and I will forward on while he is gone.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Gomez, Marissa [mailto:MGomez@SYSINTEGRATION.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 1:03 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

Good afternoon Tanya - I noticed Marc will be out until next week and I wasn't sure if I should send this to you. The consumer (below) is dissatisfied with the handling of the recall. Should I hold onto this memo until Marc gets back?

Thank you for your help,

Marissa

-----Original Message-----

From: James, Erica
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 12:48 PM
To: Gomez, Marissa
Subject: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries



Model: unknown
Dealer: Ken Sports

7/31/2006 Consumer contacted the manufacturer to participate in the recall and left a message.

7/31/2006 Manufacturer's rep., Erica (last name unknown) contacted consumer and told him that he would have to pick from selected products.

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8/3/2006

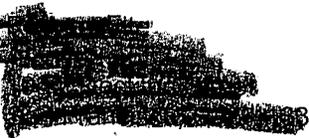
Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 1:11 PM
To: 'mjb@brown-gidding.com'
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

Mike,
I am forwarding this to you in Marc's absence. Please pass on to the firm. Hotline Report.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594

Hotline Report
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 12:48 PM
Subject: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries



Dealer: Ken Sports

7/31/2006 Consumer contacted the manufacturer to participate in the recall and left a message.

7/31/2006 Manufacturer's rep., Erica (last name unknown) contacted consumer and told him that he would have to pick from selected products.

Consumer believes that the manufacturer should refund his money or offer credit in the amount of the kite tube to pick from any manufacturer products.

Please forward.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Poyer, Julie A.
Sent: Wednesday, August 02, 2006 8:32 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Non-Effective REC

The following REC is non-effective.

Investigator: Yolanda Tiano
Recall Number: CA060037
Assign Number: 060714CRM1000

Firm Name:
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Product: Kite Tube

Firm Inspected:
Summit Sports Inc.
330 Enterprise Court
Bloomfield Hills, MI 48302

On 6/8/06, a 40 year old male fractured his right ankle while riding a kite tube about six feet high off the lake when the kite tube suddenly flipped to the left side and dove down, crashing to the water.

Information in this report was obtained through an in-person interview with the victim and a brief telephone interview with the boat operator/owner of the kite tube. The victim provided me with a short video clip of the kite tube taken a week or two before the incident. This clip (referred to as Exhibit 1) was forwarded by email to the distribution list for this IDI. Product description, specifications and return information was obtained from the manufacturer's web-site [see Exhibits 3 & 5]. This product was recalled by the manufacturer on 7/13/06 [see Exhibit 4]. No samples were requested in the assignment instructions, only photographs were required. Medical Records were requested, but not provided [see Exhibit 7]. The NC Wildlife Resources Commission had not completed their investigation of this incident at the time this report was submitted. The victim granted authorization for his name to be released [see Exhibit 2]. There were no other officials involved/official reports to collect.

The kite tube involved in the incident was about 10 days old when the incident occurred. The victim stated that he had no previous experience with similar products, but he had over 20 years experience riding on regular tubes. He also tried parasailing once. The victim used the kite tube two or three times prior to the incident, but he didn't get far up into the air on these previous occasions. There were no problems prior to the incident. The victim's estimated weight was about 195 - 200 pounds and he is about 5 feet 10 inches tall. Both the victim and the boat operator/owner stated that the kite tube and the tow rope were new and appeared to be in good condition at the time of the incident. The victim attached the tow rope to the ski pylon or center of the boat. All three sections of the rope were attached together so the full length of the rope (65 feet) was being used at the time of the incident.

On the day of the incident, the victim was at the lake with his friends. They were riding on his friend's motorboat. His friend was driving the boat while he got ready to ride on the kite tube. The victim was wearing a life jacket. He stated that a DVD comes with the product

and that he and the driver of the boat had watched the DVD and followed all of the directions. The victim stated that he read the warnings that are printed on the kite tube. The boat owner purchased the kite tube on-line and did not ask any questions or get any other instructions from the seller.

At the time of the incident, the weather in the nearest recorded city to the lake was around 80 degrees, Fahrenheit and the wind was light - less than 7mph. The victim and boat operator both stated that there was little or no wind on the lake at the time of the incident.

On the afternoon of June 8, 2006, the 40 year old male victim was riding on a kite tube a few feet above the surface of the lake for only about five minutes when the incident occurred. He stated that he was traveling a few feet off the surface of the water when a sudden gust of wind took him up to about six feet above the water. The victim stated that within seconds of the kite tube attaining its maximum height of six feet it flipped to the left and dove down at the same time. The boat operator/owner stated that the kite tube's actual height when the incident occurred was more like three or four feet, although it may have achieved a maximum height of six feet.

The kite tube crashed to the surface of the lake but neither the victim nor the boat operator is sure how the victim landed when he first struck the water. The victim believes that his foot was still in the kite tube and that it struck the kite tube and the water when the crash occurred. The victim broke his ankle (Talus bone) and has three screws in it to repair it.

The victim was helped back into the boat by the other two passengers. They drove the boat back to the victim's friend's car and the victim's friend transported the victim to the urgent care center where he was treated and released that same day.

The victim was the only person on the kite tube and he was the only one being towed by the boat at the time of the incident. The boat operator (victim's friend) was 36 years old and only towed regular tubes prior to using the kite tube. He said the boat was traveling between 29 - 31mph at the time of the incident.

The victim stated that he did not believe that he could direct/control the direction and height of the kite tube but he said it was possible to alter the angle by positioning your body or the tube differently. The victim stated that he was at a 90 degree angle at the time of the incident and was trying to sustain an angle of between 45 degrees and 60 degrees.

The victim stated that he could not see the boat at the time of the incident. He did not try to slow the boat down. The victim did not notice any mechanical issues with the kite tube. He could not do anything to lower the kite tube towards the water.

The victim's ankle was operated on that same day (6/8/06) to repair the fracture. Three screws were inserted into his leg to help repair it.

The victim did not report the incident to the manufacturer.

PRODUCT INFORMATION

The product is a Wego brand inflatable kite tube that is 10 foot in diameter, yellow colored, and designed to be towed behind a power boat.

MANUFACTURER: SPORTSSTUFF, INC.
11213 E. Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137

BRAND: WEGO
MODEL: 53-5000

The victim's friend (boat operator) purchased the kite tube new from ebay a few days before Memorial day (5/29/06). He no longer had the original sales receipt. At the time of the phone interview with the victim's friend (owner of kite tube) he was in the process of closing a sale of the kite tube on ebay. He is believed to have sold it prior to the recall.

The product description and specifications for the kite tube are as follows (see Exhibit 5):

060706HBB1616

Wego Kite Tube

10ft diameter flying tube

Take flight with the WEGO KITE TUBE! The next generation of action towable is here, taking you to a whole new level of excitement! Whip across the water like a deck tube, or fly through the air like a bird! Experience the thrill of flight as you rise above the water, reaching incredible heights, leaving nothing but adrenaline in your wake! The level of extreme sport has been raised with the WEGO KITE TUBE. Anything else is beneath it...

Model 53-5000 Sug. Retail: **\$599.95**

KITE TUBE WITHDRAWN FROM MARKET - CLICK HERE FOR INFO

Features:

- 120 inch inflated diameter (10 foot) with slanted saucer configuration
- 840D full body nylon double skin cover with PU coating
- Computerized double stitched sewing
- Nylon zippered openings for bladder insertion and adjustment
- Multiple mesh drain ports, bar-tacked
- Two heavy-duty PVC bladders-outer ring and slotting cockpit
- Reinforced towing system with molded aluminum connector for easy quick connection
- Speed safety valves for fast easy inflation and deflation
- Parallel slotting system with non-slip footsteps and neoprene padding for comfortable foot, knee, and leg use
- 8 padded, non-slip handles with knuckle guard
- Heavy-duty starting leash with easy grip sponge balls
- Reflective Safety piping on all handles and on the outside top taping
- Variable loops for detachable leash use
- Panoramic see through double windows
- Adjustable length style 45-55-65 foot segmented tow rope included
- High visibility, billboard style, red and yellow watersports safety colors with checkerboard and caution accent striping
- Instructional DVD, tow rope, and starting leash included

Watch the included instructional video to learn how to fly:
[Kite Tube Instructional Video](#)

ATTACHMENTS

- Exhibit 1 - video clip of kite tube (sent by separate email).
- Exhibit 2 - Authorization for Release of Name.
- Exhibit 3 - product info. from SportsStuff web-site.
- Exhibit 4 - Release NO. 06-210 (Kite tube recall).
- Exhibit 5 - Return info. from SportsStuff web-site.
- Exhibit 6 - Contact List.
- Exhibit 7 - Status of Missing document form.



U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20207

060706HBB1616 Exhibit 2, Pg. 1 of 1

U. S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

AUTHORIZATION FOR RELEASE OF NAME

Thank you for assisting us in collecting information on a potential product safety problem. The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission depends on concerned people to share product safety information with us. We maintain a record of this information, and use it to assist us in identifying and resolving product safety problems.

We routinely forward this information to manufacturers and distributors to inform them of the involvement of their product in an incident situation. We also give the information to others requesting information about specific products or hazards. Manufacturers may need the individual's name so that they can obtain additional information on the product or incident situation.

Would you please indicate on the bottom of this page whether you will allow us to disclose your name. If you request that your name remain confidential, we will of course, honor that request. After you have indicated your preference, please sign your name and date the document on the lines provided.

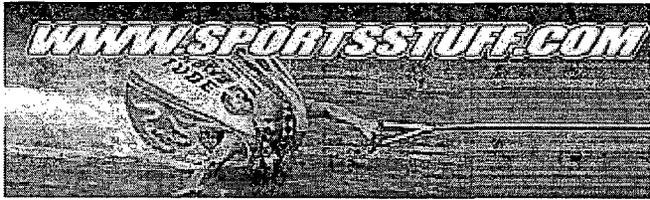
YES NO

(Signature)

[Handwritten Signature]

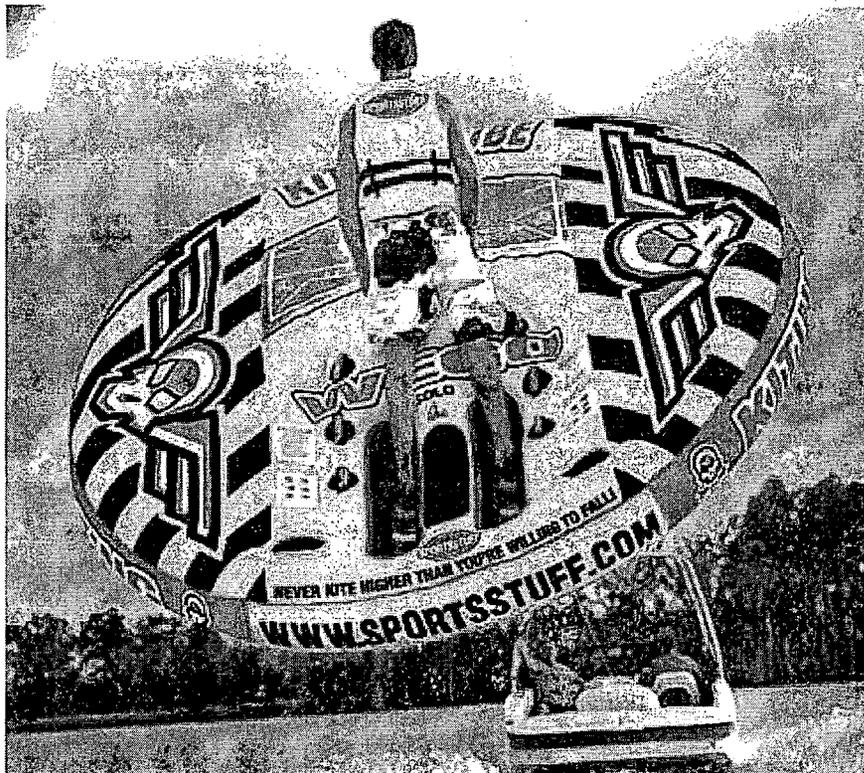
(Date)

7/7/08



HOME TOWABLES LIFE VESTS INFLATION GUIDE LUNGES SNOW SPORTS FISHING RIVER TUBING FUN
INDEX NEW STUFF SHOP BAGS ROPES PUMPS ACCESSORIES COOLERS FAQ WARRANTY MO
YOU ARE HERE: HOME - TOWABLES - WEGO KITE TUBE

new stuff | kite tube | acrobats | half-pipes | mables | motopods | speedzones | patriots | world class | decks | my-t | concepts | bo tubes



Wego Kite Tu

10ft diameter flying tu
Take flight with the WE
action towable is here,
excitement! Whip acro
through the air like a b
rise above the water, r
nothing but adrenaline
has been raised with t
beneath it...

Model 53-5000 Sug. R

KITE TUBE W MARKET - CL

Features:

- 120 inch inflat configuration
- 840D full body
- Computerized
- Nylon zippered adjustment
- Multiple mesh
- Two heavy-duty cockpit
- Reinforced tow connector for e
- Speed safety v
- Parallel slotting neoprene padd use
- 8 padded, non
- Heavy-duty sta
- Reflective Safe outside top tap
- Variable loops
- Panoramic see
- Adjustable leng rope included
- High visibility, watersports sa caution accent
- Instructional D included



WATCH VIDEO FULL COVER 2H RECOMMENDED TOW ROPE 1 MAX RIDERS GET MANUAL

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Stern, Richard L.
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 8:06 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0670578A - Wego Kite tube

Richard L. Stern
Associate Director
Fuel, Electrical & Recreational Products U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
voice: 301-504-7620
fax: 301-504-0359
e:mail: rstern@cpsc.gov

-----Original Message-----
From: Topping, John C.
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 12:11 PM
To: EH-FER
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.
Subject: FW: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0670578A - Wego Kite tube

-----Original Message-----
From: Noble, Laura EW
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 10:33 AM
To: Emerging Hazards; Internet Incident Reports; Incident Reports; Cohn, Murray S.
Subject: Internet Form Complaint - Doc #I0670578A

07/31/2006 17:02:41

Name = [REDACTED]
Address = [REDACTED]
City = [REDACTED]
State = [REDACTED]
Zip = [REDACTED]
Email = g [REDACTED]
Telephone = [REDACTED]
Name of Victim =
Victim's Address =
Victim's City =
Victim's State =
Victim's Zip =
Victim's Telephone =

Incident Description: kite tube pulled behind a boat. i fell off and broke 4 ribs filling my chest cavity with over 2-1/2 liters of blood. i underwent emergency surgery and spent 3 days in a hospital. i am still suffering from pain in my chest and back.

Victim's age at time of incident =
Victim's sex =
Date of incident = 4/30/2006
Product involved = wego kite tube
Product brand name/manufacturer = sportstuff. inc Manufacturer street address = Place where manufactured (City and State or Country) = Product involved still available = Yes
Product model and serial number, manufacture date = Date product purchased = middle of April Name Release = Do not release name

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Mele, Stephen V.
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 5:43 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: FW: Video clip for kite tube IDI (060706HBB1616)

Attachments: Kite Tube Short.mpg

I couldn't find a way to attach this video clip of the kite tube to the IDI report as Exhibit 1 so, as stated in the narrative to this IDI, I'm emailing it to those of you on the IDI distribution list [see attachment below].

Steve

From: Mele, Stephen V.
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 4:04 PM
To: Cash, Helen T.
Subject: Video clip for kite tube IDI (060706HBB1616)



Kite Tube
Short.mpg (1 MB)

Helen,

This video clip is referred to as Exhibit 1 in the IDI narrative. I stated in the report that this clip would be sent to the distribution list by separate email. Do you want me to send it out to everyone on the distribution list (Blasius; Ingle; Topka-Ivins) after you've reviewed/endorsed the IDI or are you going to send it out at that time?

Steve

Stephen V. Mele
Product Safety Investigator
U.S. CPSC
Raleigh/Durham Field Office
P.O. Box 52054
Durham, NC 27717
(919) 403-0281
email: smele@cpsc.gov

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Gomez, Marissa [MGomez@SYSINTEGRATION.COM]
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 1:03 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

Good afternoon Tanya - I noticed Marc will be out until next week and I wasn't sure if I should send this to you. The consumer (below) is dissatisfied with the handling of the recall. Should I hold onto this memo until Marc gets back?

Thank you for your help,

Marissa

-----Original Message-----

From: James, Erica
Sent: Tuesday, August 01, 2006 12:48 PM
To: Gomez, Marissa
Subject: Release #06-210 Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

Rodney Fite
415-462-1632
1934 Stockton Street
San Francisco, CA 94133

Model: unknown
Dealer: Ken Sports

7/31/2006 Consumer contacted the manufacturer to participate in the recall and left a message.

7/31/2006 Manufacturer's rep., Erica (last name unknown) contacted consumer and told him that he would have to pick from selected products.

Consumer believes that the manufacturer should refund his money or offer credit in the amount of the kite tube to pick from any manufacturer products.

Please forward.

Thanks,

Erica M. James

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 4:00 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Vallese, Julie M.; Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Streeter, Robin A.; Elder, Jacqueline
Subject: Kite tube Update
Attachments: KiteTubeIncidents_060727.pdf

Marc,

Attached is a listing, prepared by Robin Streeter, of Wego kite tube incidents where the report (either an IDI or a source document) specified the kite tube as a Wego, SportsStuff or Wego/SportsStuff kite tube. As of July 27, 2006, CPSC staff is aware of 84 victims involved in 77 incidents associated with these kite tubes.

CPSC staff is aware of a total of 102 incidents involving 109 victims associated with kite tubes, including those mentioned above. Brands are unknown in many of the cases not known to be Wegos.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333



KiteTubeIncidents_
060727.pdf (...)

Summary of Reported Wego Kite Tube Incidents¹
(Reported as of July 27, 2006)

Record Number	Incident Date	State	Location	Number of Victims	Injury
342	6/4/2006	AZ	Gilbert	1	fractured vertebrae (back)
409	5/27/2006	CA	Sacramento	2	Victim 1: nerve damage Victim 2: chest injury
351	6/12/2006	CA	Whiskeytown Lake	1	broken hip
405	6/27/06	CA	Simi Valley	2	Victim 1: possible concussion Victim 2: minor injuries
386	7/5/2006	CA	Ramona	1	fractured ribs
349	6/11/2006	CO	Castle Rock	1	fractured femur
389	7/7/2006	CT	Enfield	1	ankle sprain
396	7/9/2006	CT	Somers	2	Victim 1: neck injury Victim 2: bruised ribs
327	5/4/2006	FL	Indian Rocks Beach	1	loss of consciousness
408	5/14/2006	FL	Odessa	1	eye injury
370	7/1/2006	FL	Crystal Beach	1	punctured lung
380	7/3/2006	FL	Jacksonville	1	concussion
417	7/3/2006	FL	Land O Lakes	1	fractured ribs
359	6/20/2006	GA	Lake Harding	2	Victim 1: loss of consciousness Victim 2: concussion
390	7/7/2006	GA	Braselton	1	broken foot
343	6/4/2006	IA	Jefferson	1	fractured femur
361	6/25/2006	IA	Davenport	1	broken ankle
383	7/4/2006	IA	Bettendorf	1	head injury
392	7/8/2006	ID	Owyhee Reservoir	1	broken back
362	6/25/2006	IL	Huntley	1	concussion
336	6/1/2006	IN	Terre Haute	1	concussion
375	7/2/2006	IN	Evansville	1	fractured vertebra (back)
397	7/9/2006	IN	Indianapolis	1	concussion
421	7/15/2006	IN	Indianapolis	1	fractured collar bone
371	7/1/2006	MA	Wrentham	1	fractured femur
350	6/11/2006	MD	Port Deposit	1	severe injuries
398	7/9/2006	MD	Assateague Island	1	eye injury
376	7/2/2006	ME	unknown	1	possible eye injury
326	5/3/2006	MI	Sanford	1	concussion
332	5/27/2006	MI	Oak Park	1	neck injury
353	6/17/2006	MI	Big Rapids	1	chest injury
406	6/24/2006	MI	Saginaw	2	Victim 1: ear injury Victim 2: broken leg
377	7/2/2006	MI	Big Rapids	1	concussion
381	7/3/2006	MI	Westland	1	traumatic aortic tear
388	7/6/2006	MI	Fowlerville	1	broken ankle
347	6/7/2006	MN	Excelsior	1	unknown
352	6/15/2006	MN	Fridley	1	back pain
363	6/25/2006	MN	Tower	1	ruptured aorta
366	6/27/2006	MN	Alexandria	1	minor injuries
367	6/27/2006	MN	Alexandria	1	collapsed lung
384	7/4/2006	MN	Willmar	1	ear injury
357	6/18/2006	MO	Hannibal	1	loss of consciousness
399	7/9/2006	MT	Lakeside	1	fractured ribs

¹Listing includes only those incidents where report documentation specified "Wego," "Wego/SportsStuff," or "SportsStuff."

Summary of Reported Wego Kite Tube Incidents,¹ continued
(Reported as of July 27, 2006)

Record Number	Incident Date	State	Location	Number of Victims	Injury
329	5/20/2006	NC	Raleigh	1	fractured femur
344	6/4/2006	NC	Stedman	1	concussion
348	6/8/2006	NC	Raleigh	1	broken ankle
354	6/17/2006	NC	Roanoke Rapids	1	loss of consciousness
416	7/2/2006	NC	Raleigh	1	fractured vertebra (back)
385	7/4/2006	NC	Salisbury	1	loss of consciousness
387	7/5/2006	NC	Sanford	1	ankle injury
400	7/9/2006	NC	Salisbury	1	fractured vertebra (neck)
401	7/9/2006	NC	Franklin	1	minor injuries
337	6/1/2006	NE	Omaha	1	unknown
358	6/18/2006	NY	Lake Luzerne	1	fractured vertebrae (neck)
330	5/20/2006	OH	Bethel	1	loss of consciousness
334	5/30/2006	OH	Beaver Creek, OH	1	fractured vertebra (neck)
355	6/17/2006	OH	Centerville	1	ear injury
393	7/8/2006	OH	Oakwood	1	broken ankle
410	5/27/2006	OK	Hinton	1	broken leg and ankle
394	7/8/2006	OR	Salem	3	Victim 1: minor injuries Victim 2: minor injuries Victim 3: minor injuries
404	7/16/2006	OR	Salem	1	fractured vertebrae (neck)
364	6/25/2006	SD	Aberdeen	1	shoulder injury
379	7/2/2006	TN	Murfreesboro	1	ear injury
423	5/27/06 w/e	TX	Houston	1	broken leg
411	5/29/2006	TX	McKinney	1	foot injury
345	6/4/2006	TX	Neches River	1	death
373	7/1/2006	TX	Palmer	1	fractured vertebrae
323	4/7/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	fractured rib
331	5/22/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	punctured lung
339	6/2/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	fractured vertebra (neck)
341	6/3/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	minor injuries
356	6/17/2006	UT	Farmington	1	minor injuries
324	4/16/2006	VA	Cross Junction	1	shoulder injury
328	5/7/2006	WI	Pewaukee	1	severe injuries
335	5/31/2006	WI	Greenfield	1	neck injury
365	6/26/2006	WI	St. Germain	1	death
407	7/4/06 w/e	UNKNOWN	unknown	1	fractured vertebra (neck)

¹Listing includes only those incidents where report documentation specified "Wego," "Wego/SportsStuff," or "SportsStuff."

Source: CPSC databases, Directorate for Epidemiology, July 27, 2006

CONSUMER PRODUCT INCIDENT REPORT

Region: EASTERN

1. NAME OF RESPONDENT ████████████████████	2. PHONE NO. (HOME) (WORK) ████████████████████
3. STREET ADDRESS ████████████████████	4. CITY ST ZIPCODE ████████████████████ NC 27607
4a. EMAIL ADDRESS	4b. INCIDENT CITY ST ZIPCODE Raleigh NC 27607

5. DESCRIBE INCIDENT OR HAZARD, INCLUDING DATA ON INJURIES
Kite tube is under recall for CAP NR#06-210.

- cont -

6. DATE OF INCIDENT (S) 07/02/2006	7. IF INJURY OR NEAR MISS, OBTAIN AGE/SEX 33 Y/M AND DESCRIBE INJURY burst L1 vertebrae	8. IF VICTIM DIFFERENT FROM RESPONDENT, PROVIDE NAME self RELATIONSHIP self
---------------------------------------	--	---

9. DESCRIPTION OF PRODUCT kite tube	10. BRAND NAME Wego
--	------------------------

11. MFR/DISTRIBUTOR NAME, ADDR. & PHONE Sportsstuff unknown unknown unknown unknown	12. MODEL, SERIAL #'s, DATE OF MFR M# unknown, DOM unknown
	13. DEALER'S NAME, ADDRESS & PHONE unknown

ISSUE 43
07/27/2006

14. WAS THE PRODUCT DAMAGED, REPAIRED OR MODIFIED? NO IF YES, BEFORE OR AFTER THE INCIDENT? DESCRIBE:	15. PRODUCT PURCHASED NEW DATE PURCHASED 06/24/2006 AGE 8 D
	16. DOES PRODUCT HAVE WARNING LABELS? IF SO, NOTE: unknown

17. HAVE YOU CONTACTED THE MANUFACTURER? NO IF NOT, DO YOU PLAN TO CONTACT THEM? yes	18. IS THE PRODUCT STILL AVAILABLE? NO IF NOT, ITS DISPOSITION with manufacturer	19. MAY WE USE YOUR NAME WITH THIS REPORT? YES
---	---	---

FOR ADMINISTRATION USE

20. DATE RECEIVED 07/26/2006	21. RECEIVED BY (NAME & OFFICE) emj/HL	22. DOCUMENT NO. H0670247A
23. FOLLOW-UP ACTION		24. PRODUCT CODE(S) 1200
25. DISTRIBUTION	26. ENDORSER'S NAME & TITLE emj 07/26/2006	

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Narrative Continued

6'2" tall, 190 lb. respondent was riding a friend's kite tube being pulled by a boat traveling at approximately 30 MPH. Respondent was approximately 8' in the air when a gust of wind took respondent up to 15-17'. Kite tube flipped and landed in the water. Respondent landed backward on the edge of the kite tube and injured his back. Respondent then landed in the water. Consumer and friends helped respondent out of the water and onto the boat.

7/2/2006 Respondent returned home and contacted 911. Emergency medical technicians arrived at respondent's home and placed him on a backboard with a neck brace. EMT personnel took respondent by ambulance to Lake Norman Regional Medical Center where several x-rays and CT scans were taken by physician (name unknown). Physician told respondent that his back was broken.

7/2/2006 Respondent was taken by ambulance to the trauma center at Carolina Medical Center in Charlotte, NC where he was examined by surgeon, (name unknown). Surgeon told respondent that the L1 vertebrae in his back burst.

7/3/2006 Respondent had surgery on his back where seven titanium screws and multiple titanium rods were used to connect the T11 through L3 vertebrae.

7/7/2006 Consumer was discharged from the hospital and continues to wear a back brace.

7/26/2006 Consumer also experience chronic leg pain.

Distributor Phone #:

CPSC Source: TV

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060714CRM 1017
RECALL # CA 060037

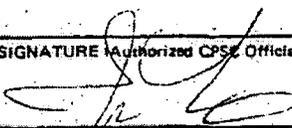
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION NOTICE OF INSPECTION	
1. DATE 8/2/06	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION 25422 Trabuco Rd., #105-394 Lake Forest, CA 92630
2. TIME A.M. 4 ⁰⁰ P.M.	
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL Dolores Nolasco, Customer Service	
B. FIRM NAME Diversified Marine Products	
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS 3528 Garfield Ave	
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Commerce, CA 90040	
Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 <i>et seq.</i>);• Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 <i>et seq.</i>);• Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)• Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 <i>et seq.</i>)] and/or• Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).	
Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.	
5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED. The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.	
6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations, 16 CFR Part 1015.	
7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official) Maurea Kerr	

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

CA 060037

1. DATE July 26, 2006		3. FROM (Area Office and Address) U.S. CPSC P.O. Box 751 DANVILLE IN 46122	
2. TIME — A.M. 2:15 P.M.			
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL DARRELL & BONNIE SMITH, CO OWNERS			
B. FIRM NAME CHECKER'S BOUTIQUE			
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS P.O. Box 29134 / 11724 Crabapple Road			
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Indianapolis IN 46239			
<p>Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 <i>et seq.</i>); • Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 <i>et seq.</i>); • Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076) • Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 <i>et seq.</i>)] and/or • Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)). <p>Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.</p>			
<p>5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED.</p> <p>The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.</p>			
<p>6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations, 16 CFR Part 1015.</p>			
<p>7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)</p> 			

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Smith, Judy H.

From: Lewis, Johnnie
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 8:34 AM
To: Smith, Judy H.
Cc: Poyer, Julie A.
Subject: Recall/Chelsea's Boutique/CA060037
Attachments: CA060037-NOI.pdf

060714CRM0992 On-site conducted on 7-26-06. Chelsea's Boutique, P.O. Box 29134/11724 Crabapple Road, Indianapolis, IN 46239.

Assignment source doc had PO Box address only. Street address obtained from the US Postal Service.

Business is an on-line retailer with eBay. They do not have a physical store front.

The co-owners assert that they received an email with three attachments from Sportsstuff on July 12, 2006 regarding the recall. The co-owners were unable to open an attachment titled "WEGO_RETURNS.doc". The co-owners assert that they did not stock the recalled unit but would place an order a unit when one was sold through their eBay store. The co-owners claim that they stopped selling the unit upon receipt of the recall information. The co-owners assert that they were confused by the recall instructions the company cited in the email and the instructions contained in the email attachments. After presenting their recall email notification to this investigator, the co-owners stated that they would forward the recall information to the two persons that purchased the unit via certified mail.

Of the two units sold by the firm, one was drop shipped by the manufacturer and the other was shipped to the residence of the firm and picked up by a local purchaser.

John Lewis
Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Indianapolis Field Office
Ph. 317-745-4093 Fax. 317-745-4098
www.cpsc.gov

7/31/2006

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Smith, Judy H.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 4:23 PM
To: Kohen, Beverly J.
Cc: Smith, Judy H.; Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube Recall

Thanks this is great.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Kohen, Beverly J.
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2006 4:03 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube Recall

FL completed 2 for us (not under contract, just as a favor to us so I said I'd fill out the form) and they were effective. I just have'nt finished the forms because I wanted a bit more info but the inspector wasn't in this week. I will speak with him on Monday & finish the forms.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 9:23 AM
To: Ault, Eric B.; Kohen, Beverly J.; Kelly, J.R.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.; Stern, Richard L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.; Wolfson, Scott J.; Vallese, Julie M.; Cave, Carol J.
Subject: Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube Recall

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - NOT TO BE DISTRIBUTED:

Eric/Bev/JR:

I've attached the customer list provided to me by Sportsstuff. Sportsstuff distributes the recalled kite tube through both distributors and some retailers. As a result, there may not be a lot of Florida retailers listed on the attached list. It appears as if the primary distribution to Florida may be through distributors. Any assistance Florida or other State's can provide through recall checks is appreciated.

I am also attaching a copy of the recall poster that was agreed to by CPSC and Sportsstuff just yesterday. The posters may not yet be in stores. Again, distributors will be asked to send the posters to any retailers they sold the products to (primarily marine supply and boating stores) and those retailers may not be as familiar with CPSC and posting recall posters as the mass merchandisers and other retailers. Yesterday, I talked to at least 3 of the marine supply stores

who were unfamiliar with their responsibilities to notify end users and display posters. Any assistance Florida can give us in that regard would be appreciated. I will ask Judy Smith to start assigning recall checks based on the attached list provided by the firm. In the meantime Florida and other States with wide use of this product can begin checks now.

So that we can coordinate these activities, please copy Dennis Blasius on such checks and results.

Over the next couple weeks I will be reporting results weekly to the Commission and this information will be helpful and Dennis will be providing me frequent updates of incidents and the effectiveness of the notice.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Ault, Eric B.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 8:29 AM
To: Kohen, Beverly J.; Beatty, Denise P; Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.; Stern, Richard L.
Subject: RE: Emailing: 06210

Via IFS I see that we have completed one IDI in FL and are in the process of doing two others in FL, all three involving the Wego Sportstuff tube kite. This is the kind of information that the designee could use to localize a state press release if they were inclined to issue one. Bev is correct about the distribution list if we want them to do any recall checks.

From: Kohen, Beverly J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 6:40 AM
To: Beatty, Denise P; Ault, Eric B.; Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.
Subject: RE: Emailing: 06210

Marc, is there a list available yet of the retailers so that FL can act on this recall?
JR Kelly is our designee.

From: Beatty, Denise P
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 6:18 AM
To: Kohen, Beverly J.; Ault, Eric B.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Bev and Eric:

See the email below about recall checks. Can you coordinate with JR/Sue Gabriel? Since these are very popular in Florida, please keep OIPA in the loop about any press in Florida. Thanks.

Denise P. Beatty, Director
State and Local Programs
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
(301) 504-7676
dbeatty@cpsc.gov

From: Kelly, J.R. [mailto:kellyjr@doacs.state.fl.us]
Sent: Thu 7/13/2006 4:21 PM
To: Gabriel, Susan S.
Cc: Beatty, Denise P
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Sue -- what do you think?.....if you want to discuss, please give me a call at 850-922-2966.....JR



J.R. Kelly
Director, Division of Consumer Services
2005 Apalachee Parkway
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 922-2966
(800) HELP-FLA
www.800helpfla.com

From: Driggers, Paul
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 2:48 PM
To: Kelly, J.R.
Cc: Mcelroy, Terry
Subject: RE: Emailing: 06210

JR---If we can find out what retailers may have been selling these tubes, do you think it is worth our inspectors in South Florida looking around for them? Paul

-----Original Message-----

From: Mcelroy, Terry
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 2:38 PM
To: Driggers, Paul
Subject: FW: Emailing: 06210

Paul -- By the way, this is the recall notice upon which the press release I sent you is based.
tmc

From: Mcelroy, Terry
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 1:07 PM
To: Kelly, J.R.
Cc: Salario, Mike; Steckler, Tom
Subject: Emailing: 06210

JR - Al Sunshine of CBS TV in Miami called about this today, and said it's a pretty big deal - that these things are really popular in South Florida. Do you think we should put out a press release on it, reinforcing the recall notice that the CPSC has issued?

Terry

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NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2006

Release #06-210

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 83-

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 63-

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 50-

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Sportsstuff, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska is voluntarily recalling about 19,000 Wego Kite Tubes.

CPSC staff is aware of 39 injury incidents with 29 of those resulting in medical treatment. Those injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries. Sportsstuff has received reports of two deaths in the United States and a variety of serious injuries. Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the cause of the incidents. Nevertheless, the company has withdrawn the kite tube from the market and is undertaking this voluntary recall out of an abundance of caution.

The Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube is a 10-foot-wide, circular, yellow inflatable watercraft designed to be towed behind a power boat. A rider in the tube becomes airborne by pulling on handles attached to the floor of the tube. Model 53-5000 is printed on the tube near the product valve. The floor of the tube has black caution warning stripes. The cover for the product bears a skull and crossbones and the statement "Never Kite higher than you are willing to fall." The tubes were imported and sold through marine distributors, mail order catalogs, and various retailers from approximately October 1, 2005 to July 11, 2006 for about \$500 to \$600.

Consumers should immediately stop using the kite tubes and contact Sportsstuff at (866) 831-5524 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday to learn how to obtain free replacement products. Consumers can also visit the firm's Web site at www.sportsstuff.com for more information.



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

CA 060037

1. DATE <u>July 28, 2006</u>	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) U.S. CPSC P.O. Box 751 Danville IN 46122
2. TIME A.M. <u>3:10</u> P.M.	

4. TO	A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL <u>Mike Wilson, General Manager</u>
	B. FIRM NAME <u>Bart's Water Sports</u>
	C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS <u>7581 E. 800 N</u>
	D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE <u>North Webster, IN 46555</u>

Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:

- Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*);
- Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 *et seq.*);
- Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)
- Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*)] and/or
- Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).

Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.

5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED.

The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS

Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations. 16 CFR Part 1015.

7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)

[Handwritten Signature]

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Smith, Judy H.

From: Lewis, Johnnie
Sent: Sunday, July 30, 2006 12:12 PM
To: Smith, Judy H.
Cc: Poyer, Julie A.
Subject: Recall/Barts Water Sports/CA060037
Attachments: CA060037 NOI.pdf

060714CRM0991 On-site conducted on 7-28-06. Barts Water Sports, 7581 E 800 N, North Webster, IN 46555

Firm has a physical store front and also catalog and internet sales.

Mr. Wilson (Gen Mgr) asserts that the company began selling the product earlier this year. The firm sold 64 units prior to May 17, 2006, at which time the firm discontinued the item. Wilson claims that the firm found reports on the internet regarding the safety of the product and decided to stop selling it. Wilson asserts that the firm did not receive any reports of injury or safety issues regarding the product. Wilson asserts that most of their 20 returned units were received prior to the recall and were in unused condition. The firm currently has 6 units in their warehouse and will be taking the pieces off per the recall and submitting them to the manufacturer for credit. Wilson claims that the firm followed the recall instructions from the manufacturer and sent out 64 recall notice letters to their customers on 7-14-06. Recall notice is also posted on the main page of the firm's internet site (www.barts.com).

John Lewis
Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Indianapolis Field Office
Ph. 317-745-4093 Fax. 317-745-4098
www.cpsc.gov

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CA060037

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

1. DATE 7/24/06	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) Raleigh/Durham Field office P.O. Box 52054 Durham, NC 27717
2. TIME A.M. 12:30 P.M.	
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL Drew Ward / Asst - MGR	
B. FIRM NAME Overton's	
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS 111 Red Banks Rd.	
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Greenville, NC 27835	
<p>Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 <i>et seq.</i>); • Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 <i>et seq.</i>); • Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076) • Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 <i>et seq.</i>)] and/or • Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)). <p>Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.</p>	
<p>5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED.</p> <p>The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.</p>	
<p>6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS</p> <p>Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations. 16 CFR Part 1015.</p>	
<p>7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)</p> <p><i>Stephen V. Imole</i></p>	

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION	
NOTICE OF INSPECTION	
1. DATE <i>7/20/06</i>	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) <i>San Antonio Office PO. Box 460324 San Antonio, TX 78246</i>
2. TIME <i>2:30</i> P.M.	
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL <i>Buzz Watkins, Sales Manager</i>	
B. FIRM NAME <i>Sail & Ski</i>	
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS <i>12971 Research Blvd</i>	
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE <i>Austin, TX 78750</i>	
Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 et seq.);• Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.);• Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)• Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.)] and/or• Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).	
Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.	
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7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official) <i>Karla Blackwell</i>	

060714CRM 1018

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

NOTICE OF INSPECTION

CA060037

1. DATE 7/21/06	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) 12605 W. North Ave. Brookfield, WI 53005
2. TIME A.M. 12:30 P.M.	

A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL Todd Wagner, Sales Manager
B. FIRM NAME Appleton Scheels
4. TO C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS 4301 W. Wisconsin Ave.
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Appleton, WI 54913

Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:

- Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 *et seq.*);
- Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 *et seq.*);
- Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076)
- Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 *et seq.*)] and/or
- Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)).

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7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)

Rosemary Purz 414-302-0844

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Tel: 301-504-7520
Email: mschoem@cpsc.gov

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director

July 14, 2006

Telecopy (202-237-5259)

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
Suite 242
Washington, D.C. 20016

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Mr. Gidding:

The staff of the Office of Compliance and Field Operations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has reviewed the actions proposed and implemented by Sportsstuff Inc. concerning its Wego Kite Tube. Acting under delegation from the Commission, the staff has accepted the plan as adequate. The recall plan accepted by the staff includes the following actions:

- Discontinue production and distribution of the Wego Kite Tube
- Stop sale to all accounts – 7/12/06
- Recall Posters be sent to all accounts – 7/14/06
- Joint Press Release withdrawing products from market and recalling all products from consumers issued 7/13/06
- Agreed upon replacement products to be provided for return of designated parts of the Wego Kite Tube
- Consumers wishing a refund in lieu of a replacement product will be accommodated
- Toll free hotline and on line registration established for consumers

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- Firm to consider and propose other methods of notification including advertisements in various magazines targeted towards likely users
- Renegotiate this corrective action plan should the CPSC staff determine the effectiveness to be less than adequate.

We also acknowledge the speed in which the firm implemented the above corrective actions upon receipt of the staff's request. As a result of our focus on corrective actions we extended the due date for submission of a full report. Please submit the full report as soon as possible.

Please continue the corrective actions implemented and initiate any others contained in the plan accepted by the staff. The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations will be monitoring the firm's corrective action plan. Please submit progress reports of the recall to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance and Field Investigations, Judy Smith, 4330 East West Highway, Room 613, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408 by the first of each month or fax to (301) 504-0359. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Smith on (301) 504-7525. **Please reference the CPSC file number in your response.**

The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations will evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. The staff could seek broader corrective action if the corrective action plan does not prove effective.

If the firm receives or learns of any information concerning other incidents or injuries, or information affecting the scope, prevalence or seriousness of the defect or hazard, it must report that information to this Office immediately. Additionally, if the firm receives information that might indicate that its corrective actions are not satisfactory in eliminating the defect or hazard or that the effectiveness of the recall program is less than has been anticipated, it must report that information to the Recalls and Compliance Division immediately.

When the firm determines the corrective action plan has been implemented to the best of its ability and as many products as possible have been removed from the marketplace, it may submit a final progress report, referencing the file number, and request that the file be closed. At that time the staff will review the plan's progress and decide whether the file should be closed. When the staff closes its file on a recall, we ask that the firm continue its corrective action program until as many products as possible have been removed from the marketplace. Please continue to maintain your toll-free recall number as a means for consumers to reach you about your recall. Should the firm decide to change or discontinue its toll-free recall number, you must notify the Recalls and Compliance Division and provide a new recall contact number for the firm. If the firm wishes to change the terms of the recall you must also discuss any proposal with us before it makes any change. This information will be maintained by CPSC and provided to consumers and others seeking information on your recall.

Section 6(b)(1) requires the Commission to give notice thirty days in advance of the intended disclosure of information that identifies the manufacturer or private labeler of a product. The staff is enclosing a summary of the corrective action plan, which may be made public by the

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Commission. This letter gives the firm its opportunity under section 6(b)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2055(b)(1), and 16 C.F.R. Part 1101, to comment on the accuracy of the information.

The staff will also investigate and assess whether it believes the firm has complied with the reporting requirements of Section 15(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b). That section requires every manufacturer, importer, distributor, and retailer of a consumer product who obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that the product (1) contains a defect which could create a substantial product hazard, (2) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death, or (3) fails to comply with an applicable consumer product safety rule immediately to inform the Commission of the defect, risk, or violation unless the firm has actual knowledge the Commission has been adequately informed of the defect, risk or violation. See 16 C.F.R. Part 1115. The CPSA makes it a prohibited act to violate the reporting requirement. Firms may be liable for a civil penalty of \$8000 for each product involved up to a maximum of \$1,825,000 for any related series of violations. Section 15(b), 19(a)(4), 20 and 21 of the CPSC, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b), § 2068(a)(4), § 2069 and § 2070, describe the obligation of manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers to furnish information to the Commission and the penalties for failing to furnish such information.

The staff has made every effort to assure that the enclosed information is accurate. If, however, the firm believes that the information is not accurate, please send comments to me. The firm's comments must be received within twenty-three calendar days of your receipt of this certified letter if they are to be considered. Please include with any comments specific information to support any claim that the information is not accurate. If the Commission decides to disclose the information, unchanged, over any accuracy objections, it will give the firm ten (10) working days notice, as required by section 6(b)(2) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2055(b)(2).

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-504-7520. To respond to this letter using the U.S. Postal Service, please address your correspondence to: Office of Compliance and Field Investigations, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 613, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408. The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations telefax number is (301) 504-0359.

Sincerely,



Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director

Enclosures:
Corrective Action Summary
Progress Report Form

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cc: Tanya Topka, CRC
Judith Hayes, CRC
Judy Smith, CRM

Voluntary Corrective Action Plans Under Section 15
of the Consumer Product Safety Act and
Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act

The following is a list of voluntary corrective action plans recently accepted by the Commission (or the staff acting under authority delegated by the Commission). A firm's taking corrective action does not constitute admission by the firm that a substantial product hazard exists.

Space does not permit the staff to give a complete list of the specific model numbers of the products involved in each of these corrective actions. Consumers who believe that they have a product affected by one of these actions should follow the instructions given in this list or contact either the manufacturer or the Commission to determine if their product is one of those affected.

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**Voluntary Corrective Action Plans Under
Section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act and
Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act**

DATE	FIRM AND PRODUCT	ALLEGED HAZARD	REMEDY
07/06	Sportsstuff Inc. Omaha, NE 68137 Wego Kite Tube	39 incidents involving 29 injuries resulting in medical treatment and two deaths. Injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries	Withdrawn from market and recalled from consumers for free replacement products

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Monthly Progress Report for Corrective Action Plan & Incident Update

CASE #: CA060037

Compliance Officer: Tanya L. Topka

Company Name: Sportsstuff Inc.

Product: Kite Tube

Reporting Dates, From: _____ To: _____

Total# of Affected Products: _____

D) PRODUCTS CORRECTED/CAPTURED BY YOUR FIRM:

Location of Products	Total Products	Corrections This Period	Total Corrections	Percent Corrected
With Manufacturer	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Distributor	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Retailers	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Consumers	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL:	_____	_____	_____	_____

II) NOTIFICATION MEASURES:

(Using the categories listed below, records the numbers of notifications attempted by your firm during this reporting period, and records the total number of notifications to date.)

III) CONSUMER AWARENESS: (Using the

categories below, record the way, by numerical quantity, Consumers told you they learned of the corrective action, i.e. consumer received direct mail, read magazine, etc.)

	Number for This Reporting Period	Total
Billing Insert	_____	_____
Direct Mail Letter	_____	_____
Magazine	_____	_____
Newspaper	_____	_____
Pediatrician Poster	_____	_____
Phone Call	_____	_____
Product Catalog	_____	_____
Radio	_____	_____
Retail Store Poster	_____	_____
Television	_____	_____
Web Site	_____	_____
Post Office	_____	_____
Thrift Store	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

	Number for This Reporting Period	Total
Billing Insert	_____	_____
Direct Mail Letter	_____	_____
Magazine	_____	_____
Newspaper	_____	_____
Pediatrician Poster	_____	_____
Phone Call	_____	_____
Product Catalog	_____	_____
Radio	_____	_____
Retail Store Poster	_____	_____
Television	_____	_____
Web Site	_____	_____
Post Office	_____	_____
Thrift Store	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

IV) Calls to 800 Number/Correspondence

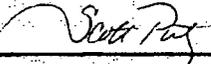
	# From Customers This Reporting Period	Total
800 Number	_____	_____
E-mail	_____	_____
Written Requests	_____	_____

V) Incident Update:

	# For This Reporting Period	Total
# Incidents	_____	_____
# Injuries	_____	_____
# Deaths	_____	_____

NOTE: Submit completed form by the **FIRST** of EACH MONTH to Judy Smith, Recall Coordinator, at: United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance
 4330 East West Highway, Room 613 Bethesda, MD 20814
 OR, fax report to (301) 504-0359 or e-mail to jsmith@cpsc.gov. Address any questions to Ms. Smith at 301- 504-7525

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION	
NOTICE OF INSPECTION	
CA 060037 # 060714CRM 1026	
1. DATE 7/18/06	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) CPSC MSP-RP P.O. Box 213 Minneapolis, MN 55341
2. TIME 11:15 A.M. _____ P.M.	
4. TO	
A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL Marty Heikes President	B. FIRM NAME Lake Elmo Sports
C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS 451 E. Cliff Road Suite 104	
D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE Burnsville MN 55337	
<p>Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 <i>et seq.</i>); • Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 <i>et seq.</i>); • Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076) • Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 <i>et seq.</i>)] and/or • Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)). <p>Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.</p>	
5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED:	
<p>The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information: to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.</p>	
6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS	
<p>Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations. 16 CFR Part 1015.</p>	
7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official)	
	

U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION NOTICE OF INSPECTION	
1. DATE <i>7-19-2006</i>	3. FROM (Area Office and Address) United States Government Consumer Product Safety Commission 14175 W. Indian School Road Suite B4 PMB 410 Goodyear, Arizona 85338 phone# 623-877-3924
2. TIME <i>10:40</i> A.M. _____ P.M.	
4. TO	A. NAME AND TITLE OF INDIVIDUAL <i>Christine Aguilera - Pres</i>
	B. FIRM NAME <i>Sky Mail</i>
	C. NUMBER AND STREET ADDRESS <i>1520 E. Pima St.</i>
	D. CITY, STATE AND ZIP CODE <i>Phoenix, AZ 85034</i>
Notice of Inspection is hereby given pursuant to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flammable Fabrics Act (15 U.S.C. 1191 <i>et seq.</i>); • Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 <i>et seq.</i>); • Sections 16, 19 and 27 of the Consumer Product Safety Act (15 U.S.C. 2065, 2068 and 2076) • Section 704(a) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 374(a)) [Authority for inspections in connection with the Poison Prevention Packaging Act of 1970 (15 U.S.C. 1471 <i>et seq.</i>)] and/or • Section 11(b) of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act as Amended (15 U.S.C. 1270(b)). 	
Refer to the back of this form for a discussion of inspectional authority and for pertinent statutory language.	
5. PURPOSES OF INSPECTION AND NATURE OF INFORMATION TO BE OBTAINED AND/OR COPIED. The purpose of this inspection is to obtain information; to review and obtain copies of items including but not limited to records, reports, books, documents; and labeling; and to obtain samples, in order to enforce or determine compliance with the Acts administered by the Consumer Product Safety Commission.	
6. FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUIREMENTS Those from whom information is requested should state whether any of the information submitted is believed to contain or relate to a trade secret or other matter which should be considered by the Commission to be confidential and whether any of the information is believed to be entitled to exemption from disclosure by the Commission under the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act (15 U.S.C. 552). Any statement asserting this claim of confidentiality must be in writing, and any request for exemption of the information from disclosure must be made in accordance with the Commission's Freedom of Information Act regulations. 16 CFR Part 1015.	
7. SIGNATURE (Authorized CPSC Official) <i>James E. Waver</i>	

Smith, Judy H.

From: Weaver, Zannie E.
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 4:38 PM
To: Smith, Judy H.
Subject: REC # CA060037 and Assign # 060714CRM1005
Attachments: 060714CRM1005.pdf

This assignment covered an REC visit to SkyMall, Phoenix, AZ on the Wego Kite Tube recall by Sportsstuff.

Copies of the Inspection Notice, photos of the building where the firm is located, copies of e-mail notice to the firm about the recall, etc. are attached.

FYI:

SkyMall is not a retail store but a catalog ordering center. They do not have any stock of the items being sold in the catalog. They receive the orders and send them off to the vender to be filled.

SkyMall said they sold 200 of the Kite Tubes which were sent to the customer by Sportsstuff.

They did receive notice about the recall, stopped selling the product and sent letters to their customers about the recall, see attachments.

SkyMall received the recall poster but did not post the sign.

Zannie Weaver, Investigator
United States Government
Consumer Product Safety Commission
14175 W. Indian School Road
Suite B4 PMB 410
Goodyear, Arizona 85338
Phone # 623-877-3924
Fax # 623-877-3971

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Assign # 060714CRM1005
Recall # CA060037
Page 2 of 8
Business Card

Christine A. Aguilera
President



SkyMall Corporate Office
1520 East Pima Street
Phoenix, AZ 85034-4639
p 602.528.3249 f 602.254.6544 e aguilera@skymall.com

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Assign #:060714CRM1005
Recall #: CA060037
Page 3 of 8 - E-mail notice of recall from
Sportsstuff to SkyMail

Christine Aguilera

From: Alicia Williams
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 10:47 AM
To: Christine Aguilera
Subject: FW: Wego Kite Tube

Attachments: Wego Dealer letter.doc; Wego Consumer letter final 07-10-06.doc



Wego Dealer letter.doc (21 KB)...
Wego Consumer letter final 07-...

Original email from Sportsstuff.

Alicia

-----Original Message-----

From: Rollie Newcomb [mailto:rnewcomb@sportsstuff.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 12:01 PM
To: Alicia Williams
Subject: RE: Wego Kite Tube

Alicia:

Attached are several letters regarding the withdrawal of the Wego Kite Tube from the market. Please review carefully and contact me with any questions you may have. Please do not forward the Return Procedures letter to consumers, as we want as many as possible to contact us directly for product replacement.

Sportsstuff apologizes for the inconvenience.

Thanks,

Rollie Newcomb
Sales Director
Sportsstuff, Inc.
888-814-8833 x235
rnewcomb@sportsstuff.com

Assign # 060714CRM1005
Recall # CA060037
Page 4 of 8 - e-mail received with recall
poster from Sportsstuff to SkyMail

Christine Aguilera

From: Alicia Williams
Sent: Wednesday, July 19, 2006 10:48 AM
To: Christine Aguilera
Subject: FW: RE: Wego Posters

Attachments: Poster draft.doc



Poster draft.doc
(71 KB)

Wego Kite Tube poster information.

Alicia

-----Original Message-----
From: Rollie Newcomb [mailto:rnewcomb@sportsstuff.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 3:33 PM
To: Alicia Williams
Subject: FW: RE: Wego Posters

Alicia:

Attached is the poster that needs to be displayed in any retail establishment that has sold the Wego Kite Tube. If the item was sold on the internet, it should be posted there.

We request confirmation that the posters have been received and want to inform you that the CPSC does actively monitor to assure that the posters are posted. You can also see the poster at:

<http://www.sportsstuff.com/news/07-13-06/index.shtml>

Rollie Newcomb
Sales Director
Sportsstuff, Inc.
888-814-8833 x235
rnewcomb@sportsstuff.com

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

WEGO KITE TUBES (LETTER "A")

Dear _____:

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, Sportsstuff, Inc. sold you Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes. In recent weeks, we have received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. To date, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

To accomplish this, Sportsstuff is requesting that all retailers who are currently in possession of these products **IMMEDIATELY** take the following steps:

- (1) CEASE FURTHER SALES of the products;
- (2) RETURN ALL INVENTORY of the products to (a) the distributor the goods were purchased from; or (b) to Sportsstuff if the goods were purchased direct, to the following address:

11111 E. Circle
Omaha, NE 68137

for a full credit, and

- (3) FORWARD A COPY OF THE ATTACHED LETTER (B) TO ALL CONSUMERS to whom you have sold the kite tubes.

We are asking the consumer to contact us directly so we can replace the product with products of comparable value. In the event consumers contact you directly, please ask them to contact Sportsstuff. If they insist upon a refund, please comply and request a credit through your distributor or Sportsstuff, based upon where you purchased the product, following the procedures attached.

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission will be monitoring the implementation of this action.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sportsstuff immediately at 1-866-831-5524. Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Sincerely Yours,

Leroy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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SAFETY RECALL

SPORTSSTUFF WEGO KITE TUBES



Reports of death and serious injury have been received.

IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE KITE TUBES,
STOP USING IT IMMEDIATELY

Contact Sportsstuff, Inc. between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central
Standard Time Monday through Friday at

(866) 831-5524

OR AT

www.sportsstuff.com

to learn how to obtain free replacement products or for more
information.

Assign # 060714CRM1005
Recall # CA060037
Page 7 of 8 - Template of
letters sent out by SkyMall to
its customers about the recall.

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

Dear _____:

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, you purchased a Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube. In recent weeks, Sportsstuff has received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. To date, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

We therefore request that you stop using your kite tube and contact us at 1-866-831-5524 for instructions how to obtain the replacement product(s).

Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

* Template of letter sent to
Sky Mall customers

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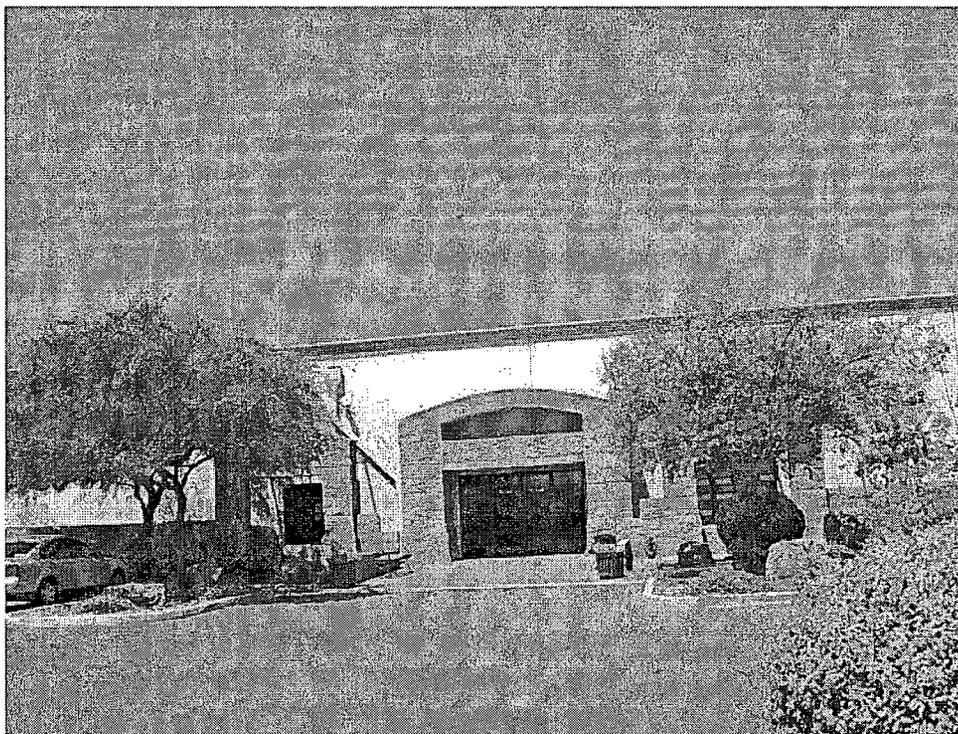


Photo # 1 – The firm SkyMall is located inside this building.

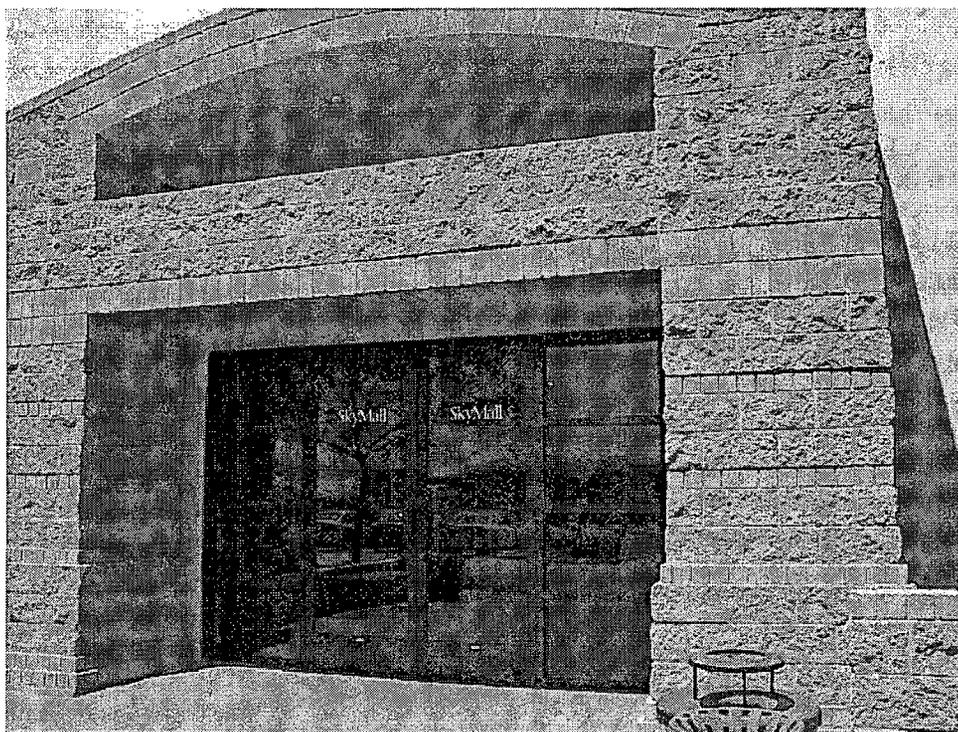


Photo # 2 – The name SkyMall appears on the glass doors leading into this building.

Smith, Judy H.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Saturday, July 15, 2006 3:48 PM
To: Smith, Judy H.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: Wego recall
Attachments: signature.jpg

FYI

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 3:46 PM
To: Beatty, Denise P; Ault, Eric B.; Nava, Frank J.; Cave, Carol J.
Subject: Wego recall

I just requested 39 Wego recall checks (yes, including three from the retailer list in FL!) I put in a two week target date; do the best you can with them. Have a good weekend.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

7/17/2006

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News from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20207

For Immediate Release
July 13, 2006
Release # 06-210

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 831-5524
CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772
CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Sportsstuff, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska is voluntarily recalling about 19,000 Wego Kite Tubes.

CPSC staff is aware of 39 injury incidents with 29 of those resulting in medical treatment. Those injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries. Sportsstuff has received reports of two deaths in the United States and a variety of serious injuries. Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the cause of the incidents. Nevertheless, the company has withdrawn the kite tube from the market and is undertaking this voluntary recall out of an abundance of caution.

The Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube is a 10-foot-wide, circular, yellow inflatable watercraft designed to be towed behind a power boat. A rider in the tube becomes airborne by pulling on handles attached to the floor of the tube. Model 53-5000 is printed on the tube near the product valve. The floor of the tube has black caution warning stripes. The cover for the product bears a skull and crossbones and the statement "Never Kite higher than you are willing to fall." The tubes were imported and sold through marine distributors, mail order catalogs, and various retailers from approximately October 1, 2005 to July 11, 2006 for about \$500 to \$600.

Consumers should immediately stop using the kite tubes and contact Sportsstuff at (866) 831-5524 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday to learn how to obtain free replacement products. Consumers can also visit the firm's Web site at www.sportsstuff.com for more information.

-more-

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The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or visit CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

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SAFETY RECALL

SPORTSSTUFF WEGO KITE TUBES



Reports of death and serious injury have been received.

IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE KITE TUBES,
STOP USING IT IMMEDIATELY

Contact Sportsstuff, Inc. between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central
Standard Time Monday through Friday at

(866) 831-5524

OR AT

www.sportsstuff.com

to learn how to obtain free replacement products or for more
information.

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

WEGO KITE TUBES

(LETTER "B")

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, you purchased a Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube. In recent weeks, Sportsstuff has received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. To date, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

We therefore request that you stop using your kite tube and contact us at 1-866-831-5524 for instructions how to obtain the replacement product(s).

Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely yours,

Leroy Peterson
Chief Executive Officer

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Smith, Judy H.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 11:48 AM
To: Ault, Eric B.; Kohen, Beverly J.; Nava, Frank J.; Ross, Robin M.; Vâllese, Julie M.; Wolfson, Scott J.; 'Kelly, J.R.'
Cc: Stern, Richard L.; Beatty, Denise P; Smith, Judy H.; Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Mullan, John G.
Subject: Sportsstuff Website Registration and Poster

FYI,

Sportsstuff has now added the Recall Poster to its website so Investigators can download it and give it to stores if the store does not have the poster (or the store itself can download it and post it).

The firm has also put a consumer registration form on its website so consumers can go directly to the website (avoiding the 800 number) and find out how to return pieces of the kite tube and register to receive the replacement products being offered. Use of the firm's website is much easier then trying to get through on the 800 number.

www.sportsstuff.com

Marc J. Schoem

Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Suite 610
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

7/14/2006

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From: Gordon Harting [gordonh@sportsstuff.com]
 Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:54 PM
 To: Jim Koranda (E-mail)
 Subject: Addresses.xls

IVM_BillName	IVM_BillAddress	IVM_BillAddr2	IVM_BillAddr3	IVM_BillCity	IVM_BillState	IVM_BillPostalCode
41st Street Scheels	2101 W 41st St			Sioux Falls	SD	57105
Al Boom Marine	212 Al Ramool Showroom #7	United Arab Emirates		Dubai		04-289 4858
Alan Petersen	604 Pearl St			Elkhorn	NE	68022
Ample Harvest International Co Ltd	No. 32-2 Wunsvue St			Fongshan City	KAOSHUNG	830
Appleton Scheels	Fox River Mail	4301 W. Wisconsin Ave		Appleton	WI	54913
AquaFun Inc	PO Box 137			Scales Mound	IL	61075
Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL	60102
Bart's Water Sports	7581 E. 800 N.	P.O. Box 294		North Webster	IN	46555
Bass Pro. L.P.	2500 E. Kearney			Springfield	MO	65898
Bay Marine & Sportscenter	PO Box 7880			Horseshoe Bay	TX	78657
Bell Industries	580 Yankee Doodle Rd. Ste 1200			Eagan	MN	55121-2286
Big Bear Sports Center	2616 King Ave W			Billings	MT	59102
Big Daddy D's	502 Hazelview Rd			Bruceton Mills	WV	26525
Bilson's Sport Shop	201 Lander Ave			Turlock	CA	95380
Boater's World	6711 Ritz Way			Beltsville	MD	20705
Body Sculpture	PO Box 141	Unit 44, Trevalyn Industrial Park	Corr Hans Strydom & River Rd	Kya Sand		2163
Byggplast & Batsbylar Sverige AB	Lowbacksvagen 4	SE-141 71		Segeltorp	SE	69160-0001
Cabela's, Inc.	3200 Rd 101			Sidney	NE	68106
Carol Christensen	3055 S. 46th Ave			Omaha	NE	68106
Chelsea's Boutique	P.O. Box 29134			Indianapolis	IN	46229
Coast Distribution	P.O. Box 1449			Morgan Hill	CA	95038
College Square Scheels	College Square Mall	6301 University Ave		Cedar Falls	IA	50613
Crown Enterprises	DBA. Sportsman & Ski Haus	40 E. Idaho St		Kalispell	MT	59901
Dakota Square Scheels	Minot Dakota Square	2400 10th St SW		Minot	ND	58701
Den Bol Sport & Recreatie BV	Heerewaardestraat 30			Heerewarden	JA	6624 KK
Des Moines Scheels	Jordan Creek Town Center	101 74th St	Bldg 4000	West Des Moines	IA	50266
Dick's Sporting Goods	PO Box 6700			Corapolis	PA	15108
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA	90040
Diversified Marine	1914 S. Matco St.			Los Angeles	CA	90021
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA	90040

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Dolphin Marine Co	666 Eltaweniate Smouha			Alexandria	SD	57064
Domeyer Implement	46950 100th St			Tea	LA	70123
Donovan Marine, Inc	6316 Humphreys St			Harahan	NE	68803
Dub's Sporting Goods	1917 N. Broadwell			Grand Island	WI	54701
Eau Claire Scheels	4710 Golf Rd			Eau Claire	SC	29036
Elliott Brothers	267 Columbia Ave			Chapin	CA	92121
Exceed Int'l / Hot Products	8949 Kenamar Dr. Ste 111			San Diego	VA	22901
Freestyle	475 Westfield Road			Charlottesville	MI	49423
Fun, Inc	254 S. River Ave.			Holland	AR	72211
Gene Lockwoods Sportmart	12101 W. Markham			Little Rock	TN	37040
Hardware City	1060 S Riverside Dr			Clarksville	IA	82109
Imidex Ltd	Prinhova 32			Bratislava		52241
Iowa City Scheels	1461 Coral Ridge Ave			Coralville	Mn	55117
J. Osawa & Co., Ltd	521 Kobo, Misato/shi			Saitama ken	PA	17864
Joe's Sporting Goods	33 E County Rd B			St Paul	CT	06371
Keller Marine	P.O. Box 190			Port Trevorton	Victoria	03730
Kellogg Marine Supply	5 Enterprise Dr			Old Lyme	PQ	J2B 6V4
Ken Williams Marine Supplies	R.M.B. 1550 Yarrawonga			Bundalong	ND	58504
Kimpex	5355 Rue St-Roch			Dunsmoondville	MN	55337
Kirkwood Scheels Sports	802 Kirkwood Mall			Bismarck	AR	72015
Lake Elmo Sports	1121 E Cliff Rd			Burnsville	FL	33064
Land N Sea Dist Inc Benrock Region	6900 Alcoa Road			Pompano Beach		0
Land 'N' Sea Distributing	3131 N Andrews Ave Ext			Allingsas	NE	68516
Lifestyle Sport	N Fiskaregatan 16			Lincoln	OH	45203
Lincoln Scheels	2960 Pine Lake Rd., Suite B			Cincinnati	NV	89104
Links Unlimited Inc	1249 W 7th Street			Las Vegas	IA	50021-1028
Little Chapel of the Flowers	1717 Las Vegas Blvd S			Ankeny	NJ	08086
Lorenz & Jones Marine	PO Box 1028			Thorofare	KS	67202
Marine Equipment & Supply Co	1401 Metropolitan Ave			Wichita		CVA 8DA
Marine World, Inc.	601 E. First St			Canley, Coventry	MI	49512
Mark Dowland Marine	Park Wood House			Grand Rapids	MO	63010
MC Sports	3070 Shaffer Ave SE			Arnold	MN	55401
Medart Marine	124 Manufacturers Dr			Brainerd	MN	55560
Mills Fleet Farm	P.O. Box 971			Moorhead		
Moorhead Downtown Scheels	505 Center Ave					

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Morgan Recreational Supply	6013 Denny Dr			Farrington	NY	14425
Omaha Marine Center	9610 L Street			Omaha	NE	68127
Omaha Scheels All Sports	17202 Davenport St			Omaha	NE	68118
Oriental Wakeboard Group	Ground Floor	46 Tai Tam Tuk Village		Tai Tam	HONG KONG	
Outfitters, Ltd	3027 Beard St			Monroe	LA	71201
Overtor's Inc	P.O. Box 8228			Greenville	NC	27835
Park's Sportsman	644 N. State			Orem	UT	84057
Pelican Leisure Sports Pa Inc.	620 North Saint Cloud St			Allentown	PA	18104
Platinum Direct Source LLC	2907 Burnbrae Ln			San Ramon	CA	94582
Pro Boating Supplies	7712 Parkwood Plaza Dr			Fort Worth	TX	76137
Resuco USA, Inc	23011 Moulton Pkwy, Suite 1-6			Laguna Hills	CA	92653
Retail Concepts Inc - DIP	4001 Greenbriar Suite 100			Stafford	TX	77477
River Hills Scheels	River Hills Mall	1850 Adams St #404		Mankato	MN	56001
Sail & Ski #1	12971 Research Blvd.			Austin	TX	78750
Sav-On Drugs Inc	21118 Bridge St			Southfield	MI	48034
Scheels - Fargo	3202 13th Ave S			Fargo	ND	58103
Seacoast Distributors LLC	684 N Queens Ave			Lindenhurst	NY	11757
Seacoast Distributors LLC	105 Warburg Ave			Coplaque	NY	11726
Seas and Deserts	Amity Trade Center	Shuwaikh Bank Street		Safat	UT	13002
SK-n-See	772 E. 9400 S.			Sandy	UT	84094
SkyMail	1520 E. Pima St			Phoenix	AZ	85034
Southern Hill Scheels	4400 Sergeant Rd, Suite 54			Sioux City	IA	51106
Southern Marine Supply	6600 Murray St Suite 1			Little Rock	AR	72209
Speed Marine	WMI Advice			Doha		0
Sports Imports	249 Cumberland St			Dunedin	MN	00000
St. Cloud Scheels	40 North Waite Avenue			Waite Park	MN	56387
Studio Marina SAS	DI Rodio Evaristo & C	Via T Tasso 7		Veglie	LE	73010
Sunmit Sports Inc	330 Enterprise Court			Bloomfield Hills	MI	48302
Target Stores	33 S. 6th St			Minneapolis	MN	55402
The Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL	60102
The Brenmar Company, Inc	8523 S. 1171th St.			LaVista	NE	68128
Thinexus Aqua	Szabadkikoto ut 2			Budapest		H-1211
Thrilly Sport	Vorontzovo Polye St	5/7 Bldg. 9		Moscow	*	*
Unipart Automotive Limited	Park Wood House	Charter Ave		Canby	COVENTRY	CV4 8DA
Utah Water Toys	395 W 400 N			Manti	UT	84642

V & V Marine	6642 Baker Blvd		Fort Worth	TX	76118
Vita Plate Battery	304 Buckeye Blvd		Port Clinton	OH	43452
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	702 S.W. 8th St		Bentonville	AR	72716
Watermark Trading Australia	Unit 6/1 Akuna Drive		Williamstown	VIC	3016
WCDI, Inc.	P.O. Box 527525		Miami	FL	33152
West Marine Products	P.O. Box 50011		Watsonville	CA	95077-5011
WM&K Enterprises Inc	d/b/a Play It Again Sports	PO Box 944	Brookfield	CT	06804

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Smith, Judy H.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 12:00 PM
To: Smith, Judy H.
Cc: Schwartz, Bruce E.; Cave, Carol J.; Ault, Eric B.; Nava, Frank J.; Kohen, Beverly J.; Stern, Richard L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Request for recall check assignments
Attachments: SportstuffAddresses xls (2).htm

Judy,

This was meant for you!

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 11:57 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Request for recall check assignments

Hi, Judy--

I'd like to assign recall checks from the attached list, with a two week target date. The states are:

- NE - 3 ✓
- NC - 1 ✓
- MO - 2 ✓
- MN - 3 ✓
- AZ - 1 ✓
- CA - 3 ✓ - 12
- FL - 2 ✓
- IA - 3 ✓
- IN - 2 ✓
- TN - 1 ✓
- NY - 3 ✓
- MD - 1 ✓
- VA - 1 ✓
- MI - 3 ✓
- WI - 2 ✓
- UT - 3 ✓ 23
- TX - 3 ✓
- OH - 2 ✓

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You can use the attached retailer list as the source document; the assignment message can be:

Conduct effectiveness checks from the attached list. Determine the number of units received by the firm, the number of units sold and the number of units in inventory. Determine if the recalling firm has notified its customers and whether any units have been returned to the retailer. Check to see if the safety notice is displayed in a visible area. This recall was just publicized on 7/13/06, and the retailers may not have the recall poster; if that is the case, provide them a copy of the recall announcement and poster. If the firm has specific knowledge of injury incidents involving this product please obtain the basic details. Note: While on-site visits are preferred, If travel distance is excessive the check can be made by telephone. Contact Tanya Topka (ttopka@cpsc.gov) or Dennis Blasius (dblasius@cpsc.gov) with questions.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

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V & V Marine	6642 Baker Blvd		Fort Worth	TX	76118
Vita Plate Battery	304 Buckeye Blvd		Port Clinton	OH	43452
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	702 S.W. 8th St		Bentonville	AR	72716
Watermark Trading Australia	Unit 6/1 Akuna Drive		Williamstown	VIC	3016
WCDI, Inc	P O Box 527525		Miami	FL	33152
West Marine Products	P.O. Box 50011		Watsonville	CA	95077-5011
WM&K Enterprises Inc	d/b/a Play It Again Sports	PO Box 944	Brookfield	CT	06804

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Morgan Recreational Supply	6013 Denny Dr			Farmington	NY	14425
Omaha Marine Center	9610 L Street			Omaha	NE	68127
Omaha Scheels All Sports	17202 Davenport St			Omaha	NE	68118
Oriental Wakeboard Group	Ground Floor	46 Tai Tam Tuk Village		Tai Tam	HONG KONG	
Outfitters, Ltd.	3027 Breard St			Monroe	LA	71201
Overton's Inc	P. O. Box 8228			Greenville	NC	27835
Parks Sportsman	644 N. State			Orem	UT	84057
Pelican Leisure Sports Pa Inc.	620 North Saint Cloud St			Allentown	PA	18104
Platinum Direct Source LLC	2907 Burnbrae Ln			San Ramon	CA	94582
Pro Boating Supplies	7712 Parkwood Plaza Dr			Fort Worth	TX	76137
Resuco USA, Inc	23011 Moulton Pkwy Suite I-6			Laguna Hills	CA	92653
Retail Concepts Inc - DIP	4001 Greenbriar Suite 100			Stafford	TX	77477
River Hills Scheels	River Hills Mall	1850 Adams St #404		Mankato	MN	56001
Sail & Ski #1	12971 Research Blvd.			Austin	TX	78750
Sav-On Drugs Inc	21118 Bridge St			Southfield	MI	48034
Scheels - Fargo	3202 13th Ave S			Fargo	ND	58103
Seacoast Distributors LLC	684 N Queens Ave			Lindenhurst	NY	11757
Seacoast Distributors LLC	105 Wartburg Ave			Copliague	NY	11726
Seas and Deserts	Army Trade Center	Shuwaikh Bank Street		Safat		13002
SKi-n-See	772 E. 9400 S.			Sandy	UT	84094
SkyMail	1520 E. Pima St			Phoenix	AZ	85034
Southern Hill Scheels	4400 Sergeant Rd Suite 54			Sioux City	IA	51106
Southern Marine Supply	6600 Murray St Suite 1			Little Rock	AR	72209
Speed Marine	Will Advise			Doha		0
Sports Imports	249 Cumberland St			Dunedin		00000
St. Cloud Scheels	40 North Waite Avenue			Waite Park	MN	56387
Studio Marina SAS	Di Rodio Evaristo & C	Via T Tasso 7		Veglie	LE	73010
Summit Sports Inc	330 Enterprise Court			Bloomfield Hills	MI	48302
Target Stores	33 S. 6th St			Minneapolis	MN	55402
The Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL	60102
The Brenmar Company, Inc	8523 S. 117th St.			Lavista	NE	68128
Trinexus Aqua	Szabadkikoto ut 2			Budapest		H-1211
Trinity Sport	Vorontzovo Polye St	5/7 Bldg. 9		Moscow	*	*
Unipart Automotive Limited	Park Wood House	Charter Ave		Canley	COVENTRY	CV4 8DA
Utah Water Toys	395 W 400 N			Manti	UT	84642

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From: Gordon Haring [gordonh@sportsstuff.com]
 Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:54 PM
 To: Jim Koranda (E-mail)
 Subject: Addresses.xls

IVM BillName	IVM BillAddress	IVM BillAddr2	IVM BillAddr3	IVM BillCity	IVM BillState	IVM BillPostalCode
41st Street Scheels	2101 W 41st St			Sioux Falls	SD	57105
Al Boom Marine	212 Al Ramool Showroom #7			Dubai		04-289 4858
Alan Petersen	604 Pearl St			Elkhorn	NE	68022
Ample Harvest International Co Ltd	No 32-2 Wunsyue St			Fongshan City	KAOHSIUNG	830
Appleton Scheels	Fox River Mall			Appleton	WI	54913
AquaFun Inc	PO Box 137			Scales Mound	IL	61075
Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL	60102
Bart's Water Sports	7581 E. 800 N.			North Webster	IN	46555
Bass Pro, L.P.	2500 E. Kearney			Springfield	MO	65898
Bay Marine & Sportscenter	PO Box 7880			Horseshoe Bay	TX	78657
Bell Industries	580 Yankee Doodle Rd. Ste 1200			Eagan	MN	55121-2286
Big Bear Sports Center	2618 King Ave W			Billings	MT	59102
Big Daddy D's	502 Hazelview Rd			Bruceston Mills	WV	26525
Bison's Sport Shop	201 Lander Ave			Turnock	CA	95380
Boater's World	6711 Ritz Way			Beltsville	MD	20705
Body Sculpture	PO Box 141			Kya Sand		2163
Bygplast & Batprylar Sverige AB	Lovbacksvagen 4			Segeltorp		
Cabelas, Inc.	3200 Rd 101			Sidney	NE	69160-0001
Carol Christensen	3055 S 46th Ave			Omaha	NE	68106
Chelsea's Boutique	P.O. Box 29134			Indianapolis	IN	46229
Coast Distribution	P.O. Box 1449			Morgan Hill	CA	95038
College Square Scheels	College Square Mall			Cedar Falls	IA	50613
Crown Enterprises	DBA: Sportsman & Ski Haus			Kalispell	MT	59901
Dakota Square Scheels	Minot Dakota Square			Minot	ND	58701
Den Bol Sport & Recreative BV	Heerwaardensestraat 30			Heerwaarden		6624 KK
Des Moines Scheels	Jordan Creek Town Center			West Des Moines	IA	50266
Dick's Sporting Goods	PO Box 6700			Coraopolis	PA	15108
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA	90040
Diversified Marine	1914 S. Mateo St.			Los Angeles	CA	90021
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA	90040

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Dolphin Marine Co	66 Eltaweniate Smouha			Alexandria			0
Domeyer Implement	46950 100th St			Tea	SD		57064
Donovan Marine, Inc	6316 Humphreys St.			Harahan	LA		70123
Dub's Sporting Goods	1917 N. Broadwell			Grand Island	NE		68803
Eau Claire Scheels	4710 Golf Rd			Eau Claire	WI		54701
Elliott Brothers	267 Columbia Ave			Chapin	SC		29036
Exceed Intri / Hot Products	8949 Kenamar Dr. Ste 111			San Diego	CA		92121
Freestyle	475 Westfield Road			Charlottesville	VA		22901
Fun, Inc	254 S. River Ave.			Holland	MI		49423
Gene Lockwoods Sportmart	12101 W. Markham			Little Rock	AR		72211
Hardware City	1060 S Riverside Dr			Clarksville	TN		37040
Imidjex Ltd	Pribinova 32			Bratislava			82109
Iowa City Scheels	1461 Coral Ridge Ave			Coralville	IA		52241
J. Osawa & Co., Ltd	521 Kobo, Misato'shi			Saitama ken			341-0026
Joe's Sporting Goods	33 E County Rd B			St Paul	Mn		55117
Keller Marine	P.O. Box 190		Routes 11 & 15	Port Trevorton	PA		17864
Kellogg Marine Supply	5 Enterprise Dr			Old Lyme	CT		06371
Ken Williams Marine Supplies	R.M.B. 1550 Yarrowonga		Lewington's Rd	Bundalong	Victoria		03730
Kimpex	5355 Rue St-Roch			Drummondville	PQ		J2B 6V4
Kirkwood Scheels Sports	802 Kirkwood Mall			Bismarck	ND		58504
Lake Elmo Sports	1121 E Cliff Rd			Burnsville	MN		55337
Land N Sea Dist Inc Benrock Region	6900 Alcoa Road			Benton	AR		72015
Land 'N' Sea Distributing	3131 N Andrews Ave Ext			Pompano Beach	FL		33064
Lifestyle Sport	N Fiskaregatan 16		SE-441 50	Alingsas			0
Lincoln Scheels	2960 Pine Lake Rd., Suite B			Lincoln	NE		68516
Links Unlimited Inc	1249 W 7th Street			Cincinnati	OH		45203
Little Chapel of the Flowers	1717 Las Vegas Blvd S			Las Vegas	NV		89104
Lorenz & Jones Marine	PO Box 1028			Ankeny	IA		50021-1028
Marine Equipment & Supply Co	1401 Metropolitan Ave			Thorofare	NJ		08086
Marine World, Inc.	601 E. First St			Wichita	KS		67202
Mark Dowland Marine	Park Wood House		Charter Ave	Canley, Coventry			CV4 8DA
MC Sports	3070 Shaffer Ave SE			Grand Rapids	MI		49512
Medart Marine	124 Manufacturers Dr.			Arnold	MO		63010
Mills Fleet Farm	P.O. Box 971			Brainerd	MN		56401
Moorhead Downtown Scheels	505 Center Ave			Moorhead	MN		56560

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NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 13, 2006

Release #06-210

Firm's Recall Hotline: (866) 831-5524

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: (301) 504-7908

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes Withdrawn from Market after Reports of Deaths and Injuries

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Sportsstuff, Inc., of Omaha, Nebraska is voluntarily recalling about 19,000 Wego Kite Tubes.

CPSC staff is aware of 39 injury incidents with 29 of those resulting in medical treatment. Those injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries. Sportsstuff has received reports of two deaths in the United States and a variety of serious injuries. Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the cause of the incidents. Nevertheless, the company has withdrawn the kite tube from the market and is undertaking this voluntary recall out of an abundance of caution.

The Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube is a 10-foot-wide, circular, yellow inflatable watercraft designed to be towed behind a power boat. A rider in the tube becomes airborne by pulling on handles attached to the floor of the tube. Model 53-5000 is printed on the tube near the product valve. The floor of the tube has black caution warning stripes. The cover for the product bears a skull and crossbones and the statement "Never Kite higher than you are willing to fall." The tubes were imported and sold through marine distributors, mail order catalogs, and various retailers from approximately October 1, 2005 to July 11, 2006 for about \$500 to \$600.

Consumers should immediately stop using the kite tubes and contact Sportsstuff at (866) 831-5524 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. CST Monday through Friday to learn how to obtain free replacement products. Consumers can also visit the firm's Web site at www.sportsstuff.com for more information.



Send the link for this page to a friend! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

SAFETY RECALL

SPORTSSTUFF WEGO KITE TUBES



Reports of death and serious injury have been received.

**IF YOU HAVE ONE OF THESE KITE TUBES,
STOP USING IT IMMEDIATELY**

**Contact Sportsstuff, Inc. between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Central
Standard Time Monday through Friday at**

(866) 831-5524

OR AT

www.sportsstuff.com

**to learn how to obtain free replacement products or for more
information.**

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Friday, July 14, 2006 11:57 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Request for recall check assignments
Attachments: SportstuffAddresses xls (2).htm

Hi, Judy--

I'd like to assign recall checks from the attached list, with a two week target date. The states are:

NE - 3
NC - 1
MO - 2
MN - 3
AZ - 1
CA - 3
FL - 2
IA - 3
IN - 2
TN - 1
NY - 3
MD - 1
VA - 1
MI - 3
WI - 2
UT - 3
TX - 3
OH - 2

You can use the attached retailer list as the source document; the assignment message can be:

Conduct effectiveness checks from the attached list. Determine the number of units received by the firm, the number of units sold and the number of units in inventory. Determine if the recalling firm has notified its customers and whether any units have been returned to the retailer. Check to see if the safety notice is displayed in a visible area. This recall was just publicized on 7/13/06, and the retailers may not have the recall poster; if that is the case, provide them a copy of the recall announcement and poster. If the firm has specific knowledge of injury incidents involving this product please obtain the basic details. Note: While on-site visits are preferred, if travel distance is excessive the check can be made by telephone. Contact Tanya Topka (ttopka@cpsc.gov) or Dennis Blasius (dblasius@cpsc.gov) with questions.

Dennis Blasius
Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Ph. # 262-650-1216
Fax # 262-650-1217
Cell # 202-595-4619
dblasius@cpsc.gov

7/17/2006

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From: Gordon Harting [gordonh@sportsstuff.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:54 PM
To: Jim Koranda (E-mail)
Subject: Addresses.xls

IVM BillName	IVM BillAddress	IVM BillAddr2	IVM BillAddr3	IVM BillCity	IVM Bill
41st Street Scheels	2101 W 41st St			Sioux Falls	SD
Al Boom Marine	212 Al Ramool Showroom #7	United Arab Emirates		Dubai	NE
Alan Petersen	604 Pearl St			Elkhorn	NE
Ample Harvest International Co Ltd	No 32-2 Wunsyue St			Fongshan City	KAOHSIUNG
Appleton Scheels	Fox River Mail	4301 W. Wisconsin Ave		Appleton	WI
AquaFun Inc	PO Box 137			Scales Mound	IL
Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL
Bart's Water Sports	7581 E. 800 N.	P. O. Box 294		North Webster	IN
Bass Pro, L.P.	2500 E. Kearney			Springfield	MO
Bay Marine & Sportcenter	PO Box 7880			Horseshoe Bay	TX
Bell Industries	580 Yankee Doodle Rd. Ste 1200			Eagan	MN
Big Bear Sports Center	2618 King Ave W			Billings	MT
Big Daddy D's	502 Hazelview Rd			Bruceston Mills	WV
Bilson's Sport Shop	201 Lander Ave			Turlock	CA
Boater's World	6711 Ritz Way			Beltsville	MD
Body Sculpture	PO Box 141	Unit 44, Trevallyn Industrial Park Cnr Hans Strydom & River Rd		Kya Sand	
Byggplast & Batpylar Sverige AB	Lovbacksvagen 4	SE-141 71		Segeltorp	
Cabela's, Inc.	3200 Rd 101			Sidney	NE
Carof Christensen	3055 S 46th Ave			Omaha	NE
Chelseas's Boutique	P. O. Box 29134			Indianapolis	IN
Coast Distribution	P. O. Box 1449			Morgan Hill	CA
College Square Scheels	College Square Mall	6301 University Ave		Cedar Falls	IA
Crown Enterprises	DBA: Sportsman & Ski Haus	40 E. Idaho St		Kalispell	MT
Dakota Square Scheels	Minot Dakota Square	2400 10th St SW		Minot	ND
Den Bol Sport & Recreative BV	Heerewaardensestraat 30			Heerwaarden	
Des Moines Scheels	Jordan Creek Town Center	101 74th St Bldg 4000		West Des Moines	IA
Dick's Sporting Goods	PO Box 6700			Coraopolis	PA
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA
Diversified Marine	1914 S. Mateo St.			Los Angeles	CA
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA
Dolphin Marine Co	66 Eltaweriate Smouha			Alexandria	CA
Domeyer Implement	46950 100th St			Tea	SD
Donovan Marine, Inc	6316 Humphreys St.			Harahan	LA

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Dub's Sporting Goods	1917 N. Broadwell			Grand Island	NE
Eau Claire Scheels	4710 Golf Rd			Eau Claire	WI
Eliett Brothers	267 Columbia Ave			Chapin	SC
Exceed Int'l / Hot Products	8949 Kenamar Dr. Ste 111			San Diego	CA
Freestyle	475 Westfield Road			Charlottesville	VA
Fun, Inc	254 S. River Ave.			Holland	MI
Gene Lockwoods Sportmart	12101 W. Markham			Little Rock	AR
Hardware City	1060 S. Riverside Dr			Clarksville	TN
Imidlex Ltd	Pribinova 32			Bratislava	
Iowa City Scheels	1461 Coral Ridge Ave			Coralville	IA
J. Osawa & Co., Ltd	521 Kobo, Misato'shi			Saitama ken	
Joe's Sporting Goods	33 E County Rd B			St Paul	Mn
Keller Marine	P.O. Box 190	Routes 11 & 15		Port Trevorton	PA
Kellogg Marine Supply	5 Enterprise Dr			Old Lyme	CT
Ken Williams Marine Supplies	R.M.B. 1550 Yarrowonga	Lewington's Rd		Bundalong	Victoria
Kimpex	5355 Rue St-Roch			Drummondville	PQ
Kirkwood Scheels Sports	802 Kirkwood Mall			Bismarck	ND
Lake Elmo Sports	1121 E Cliff Rd			Burnsville	MN
Land N Sea Dist Inc Benrock Region	6900 Alcoa Road			Benton	AR
Land 'N' Sea Distributing	3131 N Andrews Ave Ext			Pompano Beach	FL
Lifestyle Sport	N Fiskaregatan 16	SE-441 50		Alingsas	
Lincoln Scheels	2960 Pine Lake Rd., Suite B			Lincoln	NE
Links Unlimited Inc	1249 W 7th Street			Cincinnati	OH
Little Chapel of the Flowers	1717 Las Vegas Blvd S			Las Vegas	NV
Lorenz & Jones Marine	PO Box 1028			Ankeny	IA
Marine Equipment & Supply Co	1401 Metropolitan Ave			Thorofare	NJ
Marine World, Inc.	601 E. First St			Wichita	KS
Mark Dowland Marine	Park Wood House	Charter Ave		Canley, Coventry	
MC Sports	3070 Shaffer Ave SE			Grand Rapids	MI
Medart Marine	124 Manufacturers Dr			Arnold	MO
Mills Fleet Farm	P.O. Box 971			Brainerd	MN
Moorhead Downtown Scheels	505 Center Ave			Moorhead	MN
Morgan Recreational Supply	6013 Denny Dr			Farmington	NY
Omaha Marine Center	9610 L Street			Omaha	NE
Omaha Scheels All Sports	17202 Davenport St			Omaha	NE
Oriental Wakeboard Group	Ground Floor	46 Tai Tam Tuk Village		Tai Tam	HONG KONG
Outfitters, Ltd.	3027 Beard St			Monroe	LA
Overton's Inc	P.O. Box 8228			Greenville	NC

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Parks Sportsman	644 N. State			Orem	UT
Pelican Leisure Sports Pa Inc.	620 North Saint Cloud St			Allentown	PA
Platinum Direct Source LLC	2907 Burnbrae Ln			San Ramon	CA
Pro Boating Supplies	7712 Parkwood Plaza Dr			Fort Worth	TX
Resuco USA, Inc	23011 Moulton Pkwy Suite I-6			Laguna Hills	CA
Retail Concepts Inc - DIP	4001 Greenbriar Suite 100			Stafford	TX
River Hills Scheels	River Hills Mall	1850 Adams St #404		Mankato	MN
Sail & Ski #1	12971 Research Blvd.			Austin	TX
Sav-On Drugs Inc	21118 Bridge St			Southfield	MI
Scheels - Fargo	3202 13th Ave S			Fargo	ND
Seacoast Distributors LLC	684 N Queens Ave			Lindenhurst	NY
Seacoast Distributors LLC	105 Wartburg Ave			Copliague	NY
Seas and Deserts	Amiry Trade Center	Shuwalkh Bank Street		Safat	
Ski-n-See	772 E. 9400 S.			Sandy	UT
SkyMail	1520 E. Pima St			Phoenix	AZ
Southern Hill Scheels	4400 Sergeant Rd Suite 54			Sioux City	IA
Southern Marine Supply	6600 Murray St Suite 1			Little Rock	AR
Speed Marine	Will Advise			Doha	
Sports Imports	249 Cumberland St			Dunedin	
St. Cloud Scheels	40 North Waite Avenue			Waite Park	MN
Studio Marina SAS	DI Rodio Evaristo & C	Via T Tasso 7		Veglie	LE
Summit Sports Inc	330 Enterprise Court			Bloomfield Hills	MI
Target Stores	33 S. 6th St			Minneapolis	MN
The Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL
The Brenmar Company, Inc	8523 S. 117th St.			LaVista	NE
Trinexus Aqua	Szabackkoto ut 2			Budapest	
Trinity Sport	Vorontzovo Polye St	5/7 Bldg. 9		Moscow	*
Unipart Automotive Limited	Park Wood House	Charter Ave		Canley	COVENTRY
Utah Water Toys	395 W 400 N			Manti	UT
V & V Marine	6642 Baker Blvd			Fort Worth	TX
Vita Plate Battery	304 Buckeye Blvd.			Port Clinton	OH
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	702 S.W. 8th St			Bentonville	AR
Watermark Trading Australia	Unit 6/1 Akuna Drive			Williamstown	VIC
WCDI, Inc.	P.O. Box 527525			Miami	FL
West Marine Products	P.O. Box 50011			Watsonville	CA
WM&K Enterprises Inc	d/b/a Play it Again Sports	PO Box 944		Brookfield	CT

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NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, DC 20207

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 30, 2006

Release #06-202

CPSC Recall Hotline: (800) 638-2772

CPSC Media Contact: Julie Vallese, (301) 504-7800

CPSC Warns Consumers about Dangers of Tube Kiting *Two Deaths over the Past 3 Months Attributed to New Water Sport*

WASHINGTON, D.C. – In advance of the July 4th holiday weekend, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is warning consumers about the possible dangers associated with a new type of water recreation known as “tube kiting.”

CPSC is concerned about death and injury reports associated with tube kiting. It is currently investigating two versions of these products to determine if there is a significant product hazard.

Tube kiting is a relatively new form of extreme water sport which is fast growing in popularity, but also extremely dangerous. CPSC is aware of at least two deaths associated with tube kiting this year. A 33-year-old Texas man was killed in late April 2006 while tube kiting, and a 42-year-old man died from injuries associated with tube kiting on June 26, 2006 in Wisconsin.

CPSC is also aware of 12 serious injuries associated with tube kiting. The injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, broken ribs, broken femur, chest and back injuries, and facial injuries, such as jaw fractures. A 14-year-old girl who was tube kiting lost consciousness when it fell about 15 feet and struck the water.

Tube kites are very large, sometimes round, inflatable water devices that can be more than 10 feet in diameter. The tube is hooked to the back of a boat by a tow rope, and the tube rider pulls back on a rope as the boat travels at speeds between 25 and 35 miles per hour. The ride begins when the tube is lifted into the air trailing the boat. Possible reasons for incidents and injuries include: 1) rider's difficulty in controlling the tube, 2) boat operator inexperience, and 3) how the tube reacts in certain weather conditions. The conditions of highest concern are wind gusts that can cause the tube to spin out of control, or sudden slowing or stopping by the boat operator, which can cause the tube to nose dive into the water. In some cases, the sudden stopping of the boat might cause the tube rider to continue past the boat and hit it or hit other boats or stationary objects, such as a bridge.

The National Park Service has banned the inflatable devices in at least one of its parks, Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which includes Lake Powell where there have been at least four serious injuries.

Send the link for this page to a friend! The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction. Deaths, injuries and property damage from consumer product incidents cost the nation more than \$700 billion annually. The CPSC is committed to protecting consumers and families from products that pose a fire, electrical, chemical, or mechanical hazard or can injure children. The CPSC's work to ensure the safety of consumer products - such as toys, cribs, power tools, cigarette lighters, and household chemicals - contributed significantly to the 30 percent decline in the rate of deaths and injuries associated with consumer products over the past 30 years.

To report a dangerous product or a product-related injury, call CPSC's hotline at (800) 638-2772 or CPSC's teletypewriter at (800) 638-8270, or visit CPSC's web site at www.cpsc.gov/talk.html. To join a CPSC email subscription list, please go to www.cpsc.gov/cpscclist.asp. Consumers can obtain this release and recall information at CPSC's Web site at www.cpsc.gov.

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 12:47 PM
To: Perrizo, Rosemary; Wilson, Barbara B.
Subject: FW: Tube Kiting Warning

Thought you both would like to see as well

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Fri 6/30/2006 12:29 PM
To: Kerr, Marcia; Bernstein, Marc M.; Loera, Richard
Cc: Cave, Carol J.; Topka, Tanya L.; Barton, Keven J.; Ault, Eric B.; Nava, Frank J.; Stern, Richard L.
Subject: Tube Kiting Warning

Marcia,

I think Tanya may have had a conversation with you concerning our planned warning on Tube Kiting seeking your assistance in publicizing this warning through the National Drowning Prevention Alliance. The warning has been issued and is now on our website. Your assistance in publicizing it through the Alliance is appreciated. Please see the line below about 6(b) as well.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06202.html>

Marc/Richard/Zannie:

Anything you can do to help notify any of the Park or other officials that you may have been in contact with concerning our investigation of these products would be helpful. Please be careful not to call it a Kite Tube since that is a registered trade mark and we don't want to run afoul of 6(b) of the CPSA!

Thanks

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Suite 610
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 12:46 PM
To: White, Sharon R.
Cc: Bell, Belinda V.
Subject: FW: Tube Kiting Warning

FYI CPSC just issued a press release on this.

From: Schoern, Marc J.
Sent: Fri 6/30/2006 12:19 PM
To: pcappel@comdt.uscg.mil
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Tube Kiting Warning

Phil,

I wanted you to be aware of a warning we issued today on Tube Kiting. We are continuing to investigate if further actions by CPSC are warranted. Thanks for your continued assistance.

<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/prerel/prhtml06/06202.html>

Marc J. Schoern

Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Suite 610
Bethesda, MD 20814
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.

Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 12:45 PM

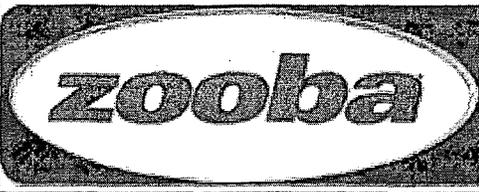
To: Kerr, Marcia

Subject: Press Release on Tube Kiting

Please send this out to your group.

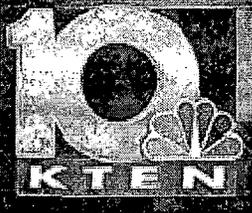
<http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml06/06202.html>

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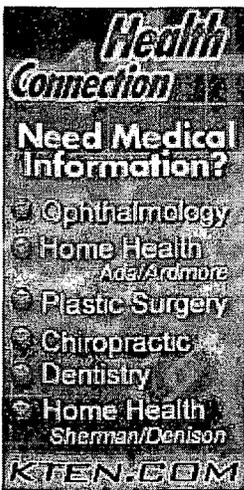


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Army Corps bans kite tubing for safety reasons

- KTEN Local News**
- Unlicensed Teens Involved in Major Accident**
 - Man Drowns at Carter County Lake**
 - Police Officers Training Money Pulled**
 - Deadly Collision in Marshall County**
 - Districts in Oklahoma Wait on Budget Plan**

TULSA, Okla. The U-S Army Corps of Engineers is banning kite tubing at all lakes it controls.

Yesterday's announcement by the Corps comes after a person died last week while kite tubing at a lake in Texas.

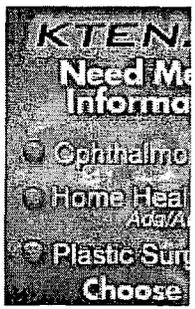
Kite tubing is a relatively new take on traditional tubing, in which people ride on large inner tubes while being towed behind speed boats.

In kite tubing, the inner tubes become airborne, reaching heights of 30 feet and speeds of 25 miles per hour.

Officials say if the kite tube goes into an uncontrolled dive, it can hit the water at more than 50 miles per hour and cause serious injury.

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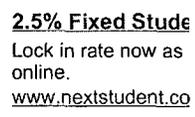
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- Former Substitute Teacher Sentenced for Sex Crimes Against Child**
- Deputies Stop an Attempted Escape from Bryan Co. Jail**
- Carter Co. Law Officers Looking for Suspected Murderer, Kidnapper**
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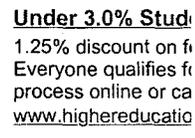
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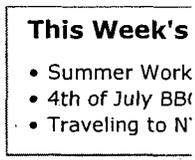
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- 4th of July BBQ
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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 8:24 AM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Perrizo, Rosemary; Bellenfant, Kathleen L.; Bell, Belinda V.
Subject: FW: Army Corps bans kite tubing for safety reasons

From: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Fri 6/30/2006 7:16 AM
To: Vallese, Julie M.; Mullan, John G.; Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.; Bernstein, Marc M.
Subject: Army Corps bans kite tubing for safety reasons

<http://www.kten.com/Global/story.asp?S=5099178>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Bernstein, Marc M.
Sent: Sunday, July 02, 2006 1:27 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Vallese, Julie M.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Staebell, Eugene E.; Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Sports stuff statement on tube kite

Mr. Schoem,

I have also read that blog written by the representative of Sportstuff, and inquired to his statement, "Sportstuff follows the guidelines set forth by the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA)...". The executive director of WSIA stated to me that while the WSIA warnings are intended as guidance for manufacturers of water-related products, the product manufacturer made no prior attempts to seek confirmation with WSIA regarding the product or any tow rope standards. The director stated that regarding tube kites, the WSIA has never "crafted any language" as related to tube kites or endorsed the product in anyway. Furthermore, the director stated that the tube rope standards and warnings promulgated by WSIA are not intended for tube kites tow ropes as pertinent factors, such as tensile strength and capacity may differ between regular (inner) tubes and tube kites. This information will be included in my final report (IDI).

Respectfully,

Marc Bernstein
Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
1212-H El Camino Real, PMB 582
San Bruno, CA 94066
Tel: 650-871-0995
Fax: 775-278-5863

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Sat 7/1/2006 9:48 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Bernstein, Marc M.; Kerr, Marcia; Loera, Richard; Stern, Richard L.
Subject: Fw: Sports stuff statement on tube kite

Fyi

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - work
240-638-6955 - cell

Sent from my BlackBerry Wireless Handheld

-----Original Message-----
From: Vallese, Julie M.
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Mullan, John G.
CC: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Fri Jun 30 20:17:22 2006
Subject: Sports stuff statement on tube kite

I found this statement from Sportsstuff about tube kiting in an on-line chat room. It has been posted elsewhere as well.

7/3/2006

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JV

Given the recent online discussions of using flying tubes like the Wego Kite Tube on this and other forums, we at Sportsstuff would like to reiterate the importance of its proper usage.

There are inherent risks with any water sport, these risks are significantly reduced when the item is properly used under the recommended guidelines.

The Wego kite tube is an extremely popular item and is unlike any other watersport activity. This means that the boat driver, spotter and rider are all beginners, take it easy, learn in light steady wind, start slow. Do not over-estimate your ability, Kiting takes a practiced level of skill.

No other towable inflatable on the market has such an extensive system of warnings and instruction - starting with the packaging, the user's manual, the included instructional DVD, the three segment tow rope that is specifically designed to allow a progression of rope length and height relative to user experience, and many warning patches printed on the surface of the tube reiterating the proper usage guidelines. In addition, the slogans and markings on the item itself are there specifically to remind the rider of the possible dangers involved in the misuse of this item. To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow the rules.

The guideline manuals and instructional video that are packaged with the item are available directly from our website at: <http://www.sportsstuff.com> <<http://www.sportsstuff.com>>

Along with the impressive sales numbers and numerous accolades received on this item, the Wego Kite Tube was also awarded the prestigious Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association - Sports Product of the Year award for 2006.

SportsStuff follows the guidelines set forth by the Water Sports Industry Association (WSIA), is an active member of the safety board, and takes the safety and wellbeing of our customers very seriously.

So please follow the guidelines, use common sense, practice safe boating, and have fun!

If you are interested in learning more about the Kite Tube, please visit <http://www.sportsstuff.com> <<http://www.sportsstuff.com>> or call 888-814-8833 and let our friendly customer service staff answer your questions.

[June 21, 2006, 10:15 AM: Message edited by: Sportsstuff]

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Vallese, Julie M.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 8:18 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: Tube Kiting

Thanks. I think it's going to be an ongoing story throughout the summer. I don't know if you saw it, but the Army Corp of Engineers have banned tube kiting at all lakes under its control.

I found this posting from sportsstuff in an on-line chat room. It's been posted many places on the web. Thought you'd like to see it.

JV

Given the recent online discussions of using flying tubes like the Wego Kite Tube on this and other forums, we at Sportsstuff would like to reiterate the importance of its proper usage.

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[June 21, 2006, 10:15 AM: Message edited by: Sportsstuff]

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Fri 6/30/2006 8:13 PM
To: Vallese, Julie M.
Subject: Tube Kiting

I just wanted to say great job on getting that release out so quickly. My mom called me and said she saw a news cast in the Pittsburgh area on this. So I assume it has gotten a good bit of media attention.



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Glen Canyon National
Recreation Area

691 Scenic View Dr.
PO Box 1507
Page, AZ 86040-1507

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 14, 2006 06-14

CONTACT: Marianne Karraker
928-608-6208

Glen Canyon News Release

National Park Service Prohibits "Kite Tubing" at Glen Canyon

Measure Deemed Necessary after Evaluation of Recent Accidents

Page, Ariz. –The National Park Service has prohibited "kite tubing" at Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, after careful evaluation of recent accidents involving this new activity. The restriction is effective immediately and applies to the entire park, including Lake Powell.

"Kite tubing has proven itself to be extremely dangerous," said Glen Canyon National Recreation Area Superintendent Kitty Roberts. "Ensuring the safety of our visitors is always the top priority of the National Park Service. There are many other, far safer ways to enjoy Glen Canyon – from waterskiing, to fishing, to exploring narrow side canyons"

Kite tubes are large, round inflated tubes towed by a boat at 20-40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises into the air, 15-60 feet from the surface of the water. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging, and the slightest upset in its balance causes the kite tube to violently fall into the water. The fall can be particularly traumatic, due to the height (often 30 feet or higher), forward speed (35-40 mph), and the unusual position at which victims may hit the water.

Park rangers first observed kite tubes at Glen Canyon in April of this year. Since that time, four individuals have been airlifted from the park with serious injuries, and there have been reports of additional minor injuries.

The restriction applies to any device which is towed by a boat and allows the user to take flight. This includes the Wego Kite Tube, manufactured by SportsStuff, Inc., and the Manta, manufactured by Sevylor. The restriction also applies to parasailing and kite boarding.

The kite tubing restriction was instituted using the Superintendent's Compendium, which allows the park superintendent to establish regulations to provide for public health and safety, protect park resources, and to avoid conflicts among visitor uses. The Superintendent's Compendium is updated on an annual basis or more frequently when necessary. The complete 2006 Superintendent's Compendium is located on Glen Canyon National Recreation Area's website at: www.nps.gov/glca by clicking "Management Docs."

– www.nps.gov/glca –

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**Glen Canyon NRA
Determination of Public Access or Restriction**

Affected Area/Topic Common Name:

A restriction concerning kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing.

Location of Affected Area:

All waters, air, and land areas of Glen Canyon NRA.

Nature of Action/Restriction/Closure:

A general restriction specific to recreational activities commonly referred to as kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing. This restriction applies to any activity requiring a tow vessel for the purpose of sustained air travel above the water surface, and any water based recreational activity that relies on tethered parafoils, parachutes, kites, wings, or other tethered apparatus for propulsion across the water surface resulting in sustained air travel. This restriction is not intended to limit or curtail activities associated with conventional recreational pursuits including sailing, sail boarding, water skiing, knee boarding, or wake boarding.

Level of Scope of Closure/Restriction:

This is a general restriction specific to all waters and areas within Glen Canyon NRA to specific recreational activities known as kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing.

Proposed Regulatory Language (36 CFR section/wording):

36 CFR 1.5 (a)2

Kite tubing, parasailing, and similar activities requiring a tow vessel or tow vehicle for the purposes of providing air flight of participants and/or apparatus are prohibited within the boundaries of Glen Canyon NRA. Kite boarding, kite surfing, and similar tethered activities requiring a parasail, kite, wing, or similar tethered apparatus attached to the participant or floatation device, for the specific purpose of providing propulsion or air flight are prohibited.

Definitions:

Kite tubing is a generic term used to describe certain water based recreational pursuits involving the use of tethered floatation devices designed to rise above the surface of the

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water. This term is used to describe recreational activities associated with the use of manufactured devices such as the WEGO "Kite Tube", SEVYLOR "Manta", and similar apparatus.

Kite boarding is a generic category of recreational activities associated with floatation devices designed for water and air travel propelled by tethered parafoils, parachutes, wings, kites, or other similar apparatus.

Parasails are a generic family of devices dependent on parafoils, parachutes, wings, or similar apparatus towed by vessels with long tow lines for the purposes of sustained air travel.

Justification:

In April of 2006 the first observation of kite tubing was made at Glen Canyon NRA. This observation was made secondary to a call for EMS intervention to rescue a severely injured man who had been crushed by a Kite Tube inverting and crashing. This person suffered severe trauma to their neck and chest resulting in a near drowning incident. This incident was documented in CI# 06 0297. Since this first accident three other severe injuries, (CI# 06-941, 06-1301, 06-1334), and multiple minor accidents attributed to kite tubing have occurred within the recreation area. Glen Canyon staff have air lifted 4 patients from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Subsequent viewings of various kite tubing promotional materials indicates a steep learning curve for the "operator" to establish the correct balance and steering to keep the kite tube from veering violently from side to side and/or up and down. The manufacturer's videos show sequences where the kite tube appears to be primarily out of control. In addition numerous personal videos of actual accidents have been recorded and collected showing the unpredicted violent out of control nature of this activity. Due to the unpredictable nature of the crafts "flight", it is dangerous and inappropriate to permit this activity to occur in proximity to other visitors recreating on the lake, nor is it prudent to allow an inherently unstable and dangerous activity to establish a user/participant precedent.

Kite tubing presents many of the same risks as "cliff jumping" which is a prohibited activity in the NRA. Kite tubes have the potential to rise to 60' above the water surface while traveling at speeds of 35-40 mph. Because of the uncontrolled nature of kite tube falls or crashes, the "operator" often impacts the water surface at high speeds, near vertical angles, and unusual body positions, significantly increasing the risk of injury. (See attached list of case incidents.)

Kite boarding represents a separate, but similar, set of risks and dangers to visitors at Glen Canyon NRA because of the basic uncontrolled nature of the kite board and the attached operator which is dependent on wind to provide lift and propulsion. Kite boarders are dependent on air movement and have little control concerning the general direction of travel, which may interfere with other visitors engaged in traditional water recreation activities such as sailing, water skiing, fishing, etc. In addition the lines and

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cables attaching the kite boarder to the parafoil or wing pose potential safety concerns to other boaters or park visitors that may be struck or collide with these lines. Kite boarding, due to the generally uncontrolled speed and direction of travel of the kite board, requires large, open, and empty expanses of water, which often is not available at Glen Canyon NRA because of competing visitor uses.

Parasailing also represents potential risks and dangers to parasailing participants as well as other park visitors. Parasailing requires extremely long lines, often in excess of 1000', generally straight line boat travel, and large open spaces of shoreline or water surface for landing, which increases the risk of interference or collision with other park visitors. Because the parasail tow boat requires sustain forward momentum to keep the parasailer air borne, it is extremely difficult for the tow vessel to maneuver or stop quickly to avoid other vessels or water hazards. The NRA has responded to calls for emergency assistance and rescue services because of serious injuries sustained in parasailing accidents. (See attached list of case incidents.)

Kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing are incompatible with the current spectrum of permissible recreational opportunities available at Glen Canyon NRA. While Lake Powell offers what appears to be a vast expanse of open water and endless space, impacts and conflicts among various user groups occur frequently due to the relatively restricted water channels and high level of visitor use. Kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing require large amounts of space and unpopulated surface waters and have the potential to disrupt established recreational pursuits. Kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing may require long tow ropes, large open water surfaces for takeoffs and landings and, because of their air borne attachments can not maneuver or stop abruptly. To avoid inevitable accidents caused by kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing, as well as conflicts and accidents involving traditional park user groups not accustomed to the special operational needs of these dangerous air borne activities, the NRA has chosen to prohibit kite tubing, kite boarding, and parasailing.

(SEE ATTACHMENTS & DATA FILES)

NEPA, Cultural Resources Requirements:

None Required.

Proposed by: Mark Law, Law Enforcement Specialist, GCNRA

Proposal Implementation Date: 6-15-06

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Method of Public Notification:

Notification of this closure restriction pertaining to towed aerial watercraft will be made through local and regional media services, park publications, park web-site, and posted on area information bulletin boards. (See attachments.)

Reviewed By: Mike Mayer
Chief Ranger Visitor and Resource Protection

Date

Determination: Adopted Rejected

Kitty L. Roberts
Superintendent
Glen Canyon National Recreation Area

Date

[Code of Federal Regulations]

[Title 36, Volume 1]

[Revised as of July 1, 2005]

From the U.S. Government Printing Office via GPO Access

[CITE: 36CFR1.5]

[Page 9-10]

TITLE 36--PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC PROPERTY

CHAPTER I--NATIONAL PARK SERVICE, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

PART 1_GENERAL PROVISIONS--Table of Contents

Sec. 1.5 Closures and public use limits:

(a) Consistent with applicable legislation and Federal administrative policies, and based upon a determination that such action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, aid to scientific research, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities, the superintendent may:

(1) Establish, for all or a portion of a park area, a reasonable schedule of visiting hours, impose public use limits, or close all or a portion of a park area to all public use or to a specific use or activity.

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(2) Designate areas for a specific use or activity, or impose conditions or restrictions on a use or activity.

(3) Terminate a restriction, limit, closure, designation, condition, or visiting hour restriction imposed under paragraph (a) (1) or (2) of this section.

(b) Except in emergency situations, a closure, designation, use or activity restriction or condition, or the termination or relaxation of such, which is of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern of the park area, adversely affect the park's natural, aesthetic, scenic or cultural values, require a long-term or significant modification in the resource management objectives of the unit, or is of a highly controversial nature, shall be published as rulemaking in the Federal Register.

(c) Except in emergency situations, prior to implementing or terminating a restriction, condition, public use limit or closure, the superintendent shall prepare a written determination justifying the action. That determination shall set forth the reason(s) the restriction, condition, public use limit or closure authorized by paragraph (a) has been established, and an explanation of why less restrictive measures will not suffice, or in the case of a termination of a restriction, condition, public use limit or closure previously established under paragraph (a), a determination as to why the restriction is no longer

[[Page 10]]

necessary and a finding that the termination will not adversely impact park resources. This determination shall be available to the public upon request.

(d) To implement a public use limit, the superintendent may

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establish a permit, registration, or reservation system. Permits shall be issued in accordance with the criteria and procedures of Sec. 1.6 of this chapter.

(e) Except in emergency situations, the public will be informed of closures, designations, and use or activity restrictions or conditions, visiting hours, public use limits, public use limit procedures, and the termination or relaxation of such, in accordance with Sec. 1.7 of this chapter.

(f) Violating a closure, designation, use or activity restriction or condition, schedule of visiting hours, or public use limit is prohibited.

[48 FR 30275, June 30, 1983, as amended at 51 FR 29470, Aug. 18, 1986]

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Kite-tubing banned at Glen Canyon - Page, Arizona, June 16, 2006

PAGE -- A new and potentially hazardous practice of "kite tubing" has been banned from Glen Canyon National Recreation Area after accidents caused four people to be airlifted with serious injuries from Lake Powell since April.

"Kite tubing has proven itself to be extremely dangerous," said Glen Canyon superintendent Kitty Roberts. "Ensuring the safety of our visitors is always the top priority of the National Park Service. There are many other, far safer ways to enjoy Glen Canyon -- from waterskiing to fishing, to exploring narrow side canyons."

Kite tubes are large, round inflated tubes towed by boats at 20 to 40 miles per hour. The user holds onto the kite tube as it rises in the air, 15 to 60 feet from the surface of the water. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging, and the slightest upset in its balance causes the kite tube to fall violently into the water, said a Glen Canyon news release.

Accidents have been caused by the height of the falls coupled with awkward positions of victims at impact.

The restriction, which also includes parasailing and kite boarding, took effect Wednesday. Less than a year ago, the recreation area banned cliff jumping. "Teak surfing," or hanging onto the rear platform of moving boats, also was banned after carbon monoxide poisoning killed a Utah youth in June 2001.

Page works to find back paperwork

PAGE -- Bruised from years of mandates and fines from the state Department of Environmental Quality, the city of Page may have taken a low blow last week.

DEQ informed the city Wednesday that it wants 12 years of back paperwork recording Page's wastewater storage ponds. The records are needed to help Page gain a critical permit for the disposal of treated wastewater.

"I was sitting in my office yesterday afternoon at 3:30 all fat and happy when I was told that ADEQ wants all of the submittals from the ponds going clear back to 1994," said Fred Ladman, whose broad job description includes responsibility for the plant.

"They've changed their filing procedure...All of a sudden they can't find it so they expect the city of Page to get their records," Ladman said Thursday.

Ladman said he planned to check with the city attorney and manager. He added, "It's going to take some digging, but I don't think under state law the records retention applies."

Efforts to contact DEQ Thursday were unsuccessful.

Page paid more than \$2.7 million eight years ago to meet a DEQ consent order to expand its wastewater storage capacity. The city also paid more \$32,500 in fines from penalties assessed for failing to meet deadlines. Page is currently under a DEQ consent order to upgrade its drinking water. The city is budgeting funds for a filter media project that is expected to meet terms of the order.

Page officials learned in March that DEQ had renewed the Aquifer Protection Permit that protects land around the wastewater plant from potential contamination. The five-year reuse permit allows the city to spray treated wastewater onto Lake Powell National Golf Course and acreage on the since-closed Canyon 9 course adjacent to the plant.

The reuse permit has expired, but Ladman said the city is not at risk because the clock stops when governmental entities like Page apply for renewal. He added, "It's just as if you had the permit."

In the meantime, Ladman considers himself to have been blindsided.

"They were all set to issue the reuse permit and all of a sudden, I don't know what rock this crawled out from under.... They misplaced them or something; they said they went to a different system. All of a sudden they're calling us and wanting us to do something about their records."

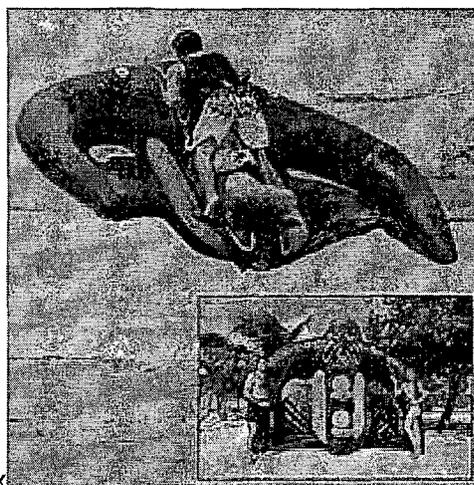
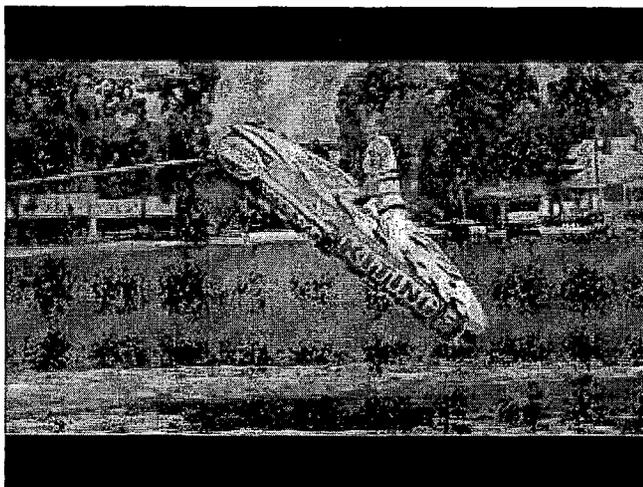
Daily Sun correspondent Todd Glasenapp can be contacted at dtglasenapp@Route89.com.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:15 PM
To: CFIW - Western Region; CFIE - Eastern Region; Cave, Carol J.; Schwartz, Bruce E.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

CPSC has recently received several reports of serious injury involving an inflatable raft/ toy that is pulled behind motor boats. The product is generically called a "kite tube" (a popular manufacturer's brand name.) The product is a nylon covered inflatable raft, designed in various wing-like shapes. Some you lay down on top of; others have seat/ footrest areas. 1-3 people can ride on them. When towed behind a boat quickly enough, the inflatable lifts off the water and hovers like a kite. In theory, the rider would stay close to the water; however, the rider apparently has limited ability to control the raft, and like a kite the flight can be erratic and take the rider very high.



There have been several serious injuries and one reported death attributed to these products. Reports suggest that the inflatable can fly quite high, and that a wind gust or other change in direction can cause the rider to topple from significant height. CPSC would like to take a look at these incidents. Tanya Topka is the responsible compliance officer, and Robin Ingle (EPI emerging hazards) will both be assigning IDIs. If you receive a report or observe any news articles regarding an injury involving this product, please let Tanya, Robin or me know as soon as possible.

Dennis Blasius
 Special Assistant to the Deputy Director,
 Office of Compliance and Field Operations
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 Ph. # 262-650-1216
 Fax # 262-650-1217
 Cell # 414-899-8802
dblasius@cpsc.gov

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this

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6/12/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 11:12 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Kite Tubes for OEX/Commissioners
Importance: High

There are 7 incidents as of right now.
 4 in Lake Powell between AZ and UT (all were serious injuries one was a neck fracture)
 1 in FL man rendered unconscious
 1 in TX was a fatality due to neck and head injuries
 I am still trying to get info on 3rd report

There are more incidents out there based on a message board discussing the product that lists at least 15 injuries most bruised ribs.

2 Manufacturers at this point Wego and Sevylor. Target is a main retailer for Wego. All incidents listed above have been assigned except the one we are just getting details on that appears to have happened in ST. Louis or MI.

The cost about \$500 there are two styles one that looks like bat wings and one that looks like a tube but has the hand bar in the middle and foot wells. Lake Powell park rangers are looking to ban them within the next three months on Lake Powell. Coast Guard has complied information on the product and some incidents. I got limited incident information from them (very silly that this is our jurisd. If they are keeping an eye on it). Two cases are in the process of being opened against the manufacturers listed above (CAs) and Target will get a letter and phone call (it might become a PI case I will see).

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
 U.S. CPSC
 301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Tuesday, June 13, 2006 8:48 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Stern, Richard L.
Subject: Kite Tubes for OEX/Commissioners

Tanya,

Do you have any initial information such as number of incidents/injuries/manufacturers - where sold etc. Anything you can send me so I can use to brief OEX and the Commissioners tomorrow would be great. If you need Demar or Stephen to put anything together for you, let me know. Thanks

Marc J. Schoem

Deputy Director
 Office of Compliance and Field Operations
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 4330 East West Highway, Suite 610
 Bethesda, MD 20814
 301-504-7520 - phone
 240-638-6955 - cell

6/13/2006

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National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

NPS Digest
NPS Gateway for Partners, Friends and Alumni



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GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Kite Tubing Safety Alert

Over the past month, the park has experienced a sharp upswing in visitor accidents and injuries due to kite tubing on the lake.

Kite tubes were introduced into the market this past winter and have proven to be extremely dangerous. During the past three weeks, Glen Canyon staff have airlifted four people from the lake, with three suffering life threatening injuries. Kite tubes are large, round, ten-foot tubes with a solid fabric floor in the bottom. As the tube is pulled forward, the front of the tube is lifted and air catches the floor of the tube and lifts it out of the water with the rider on top of the tube.

In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, the riders were being pulled at 25 to 35 mph with a head on or quartering wind. The tubes would rise uncontrollably 15 to 25 feet into the air and immediately invert and accelerate back to the water. The combined forward speed of the boat, plus the additional accelerated downward speed is driving these victims into the water at speeds near 50+ mph. For additional details on the accidents, see the related incident report in today's edition.

Interviews with friends and family members of accident victims have shown a disturbing trend with this use. In all cases at Glen Canyon NRA, multiple minor injury accidents occurred prior to the incidents that required advanced life support. All victims were using the kite tubes as directed when they suddenly lifted to dangerous heights, became unstable, and plunged down to the water surface. The injuries seen are consistent with deceleration impact events that cause internal trauma. Victims have reported coughing up blood, torn muscles, whiplash type injuries, broken ribs, punctured lungs and cervical fractures.

Glen Canyon NRA has initiated discussion and contact with the National Association of State Boating Law Administrators (NASBLA) and will be providing a national safety alert through their organization very soon. In addition, the Consumer Product Safety Commission has been notified regarding this emerging threat and efforts are being made to disseminate more information on this activity through them.

One of the park's weekend accidents resulted in a major neck injury. A news video from KUTV in Salt Lake City and a second KUTV video clip on an incident at Lake Mead can be viewed by clicking on the links listed below (a flash player is needed to view them):

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16192@kutv.dayport.com>

<http://www.kutv.com/video/?id=16155@kutv.dayport.com>

A prohibition on cliff jumping was put in place at Glen Canyon last year after an increase in injuries and fatalities associated with this activity. Although controversial in the beginning, it has been widely accepted and the park has received many positive comments back on this prohibition. A review of the data indicated that a significant increase in injury and death occurred at jumps higher than 15 feet. The last cliff jumping fatality occurred from 70 feet, with a calculated speed of about 50 mph when the victim impacted the water.

Similar circumstances apply in this case. All kite tubers reported that they were traveling at 30 to 35 mph and most were 15 to 20 feet in the air when they were either ejected or turned upside down and accelerated back to the water. Another 10 to 20 mph of speed is added to their forward speed, so the victims are hitting the water at 45 to 55 mph. These accidents are therefore the equivalent of a 70 foot cliff jump, with the added component of the victims having no control over how they enter or impact the water.

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GLEN CANYON NATIONAL RECREATION AREA

Two Injured in Kite Tubing Accidents

[\[Printer-friendly text version\]](#)

Two people were injured in separate, unrelated "kite tubing" accidents in the park last week. In both cases, the victims were riding kite tubes towed by boats when they lost control of the tubes. Each then fell into Lake Powell from heights of between 10 and 40 feet. Kite tubes are inflated tubes that are towed by boats at 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the kite tube and the boat pulls it into the air from 15 to 60 feet. Controlling a kite tube is extremely challenging and the user must maintain its balance causes it to fall into the water. The first incident occurred on Friday, June 2, approximately 2:30 p.m. near the Bullfrog area. A 29-year-old man from St. George, Utah, was riding a kite tube when he lost control and fell from a height of 35 to 40 feet while moving at a speed of 35 to 40 mph. He suffered a broken neck and was flown by helicopter from the Bullfrog area to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction, Colorado. He was the third person in his park to be injured while kite tubing, but the other two sustained only minor injuries and were not hospitalized. The afternoon of Saturday, June 3rd, a 14-year-old girl from Houston, Texas, fell from 10 to 15 feet from her kite tube while being towed at 20 to 25 mph. She lost consciousness when she fell into the water. Park rangers immediately responded to the incident and she was flown by helicopter from Lake Powell to St. Mary's Hospital in Grand Junction. After further examination at the hospital, she was released without serious injuries. These were the third and fourth accidents this year involving kite tubes. The first accident occurred on April 7th and resulted in a punctured lung and broken ribs; the second was on May 22nd, when another person sustained injuries to her head and back while using a kite tube. Both of these incidents involved kite tube riders losing control of the device and falling into the water while moving at a high rate of speed. The individuals involved in these accidents were also transported by helicopter to the hospital. This is the first time park rangers at Glen Canyon have seen kite tubes on the lake. Please see the related safety information in this issue for additional information and for links to two TV news videos on kite tubing accidents.

[More Information...](#)

Contact Information

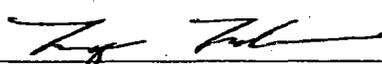
Name: Kevin Schneider, Management Assistant

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U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
SAMPLE COLLECTION REPORT

1. Sample Flag KITE TUBE		2. Date Collected 6/20/06		3. Sample Type and Number: 06-302-2486 <input checked="" type="radio"/> Physical <input type="radio"/> Documentary	
4a. Product Name KITE TUBE		4b Model WEGO KITE TU	4c NEISS 3200	5. Assignment Number	
6. Complete for Import Samples Port of Entry: _____ Country of Origin: _____ Entry No. and Date: _____ Customs Contact: _____			7. MIS 32402	8. Hours Activity <u> 1 </u> Travel <u> 0 </u>	
			9a Home RO CFIW	9b Collecting RO CRC	
10. Sample Cost \$0.00		11. Invoice Value of Lot \$0.00		12. Size of Lot Units 1 unt	
13. Manufacturer/Importer # SPO041 SPORTSSTUFF INC. 111213 EAST CIRCLE #A OMAHA, NE. 68137		14. Shipper/Foreign Manufacturer		15. Dealer/Import Broker # SPO041 SPORTSSTUFF INC. 111213 EAST CIRCLE #A OMAHA, NE 68137	
16. Supporting documents attached: Invoice No. and Date: _____ Shipping Record and Date: _____ Affidavit Signer's name, title and date: _____					
17. Product Identification: Sample consists of one unit of a Sportstuff "Wego Kite Tube". The product is a 10' diameter tube to be used in the water and pulled behind a boat. The tube is red, yellow, and black in color. The sample					
18. Reason for collection/analysis needed: <input type="radio"/> FHSA <input checked="" type="radio"/> CPSC <input type="radio"/> FFA <input type="radio"/> PPPA <input type="radio"/> RSA CA060037 Potential impact/fall hazard					
19. Summary of Field Screening: none					
20. Sample size/Method of Collection: Sample shipping in a cardboard box with full packaging from the manufacturer to compliance. Sample shipped via ups.					
21. Identification on sample: "06-302-2486 TLT 6/20/06"			22. Identification on seal and date: "06-302-2486 Tanya L. Topka 6/20/06"		
23a. Sample delivered to: TANYA TOPKA		23b Date 6/20/06	24. Report/Record Sent to: CFIW		
25. Laboratory/Office: LSE <input type="checkbox"/> LSM <input type="checkbox"/> CRC <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SIU <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ LSC <input type="checkbox"/> LS <input type="checkbox"/> CLD <input type="checkbox"/> SSF <input type="checkbox"/>					
26. Remarks: Sample collected in connection with CA 060037.					
27. Related Samples:					
28a Collector's name/title: Tanya L. Topka Compliance Officer			28b Collector's signature/date:  6/21/06		
29a Reviewer's name/title:			29b Reviewer's signature/date:		

ON COLLECTION REPORT (LAB COPY)



06-302-2486
CPSC

INV/DATE

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WEGO KITE TUBE OWNER'S MANUAL

Important information is enclosed in this manual. Please read these materials prior to assembling and using this product. Keep for future reference.

For questions on assembly, parts or warranty, contact the experts at Sportsstuff. DO NOT RETURN this product to the store!

Contact us TOLL FREE: 888-814-8833 (USA) (8am-5pm, CST Monday-Friday)

Congratulations on your new towable purchase! Sportsstuff prides itself in making the most innovative inflatable products on the planet. Your high performance towable is designed to provide an exciting and unique riding experience for the whole family.



WARNING

A RELEASE OF LIABILITY A

By assembling and inflating the Kite Tube, you agree that you have read and understand the entire Sportsstuff's product manual, including all instructions and warnings contained in that material prior to using the Kite Tube. You additionally agree that you will ensure any additional or subsequent users of the Kite Tube will read and understand the entire owner's manual. Misuse or improper use of the Kite Tube could result in risks, dangers and hazards which may result in serious injury or death. The risks and dangers that may be encountered through the improper use of the Kite Tube can be avoided by reading and following the warning guidelines listed within the owner's manual and by proper use of the Kite Tube. Your assembly and use of this product shall be evidence of your agreement, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to properly follow the instructions and abide by the warnings set forth within the product manual. Your assembly and use of the Kite Tube shall also constitute a release, to the extent permitted by law, by you and by any third party permitted by you to use, in any manner, the Kite Tube, to Sportsstuff from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury and/or expense that you or any user of the Kite Tube may suffer as a result of the use of the Kite Tube. This release shall extend to any loss, damage, injury or expense due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence or breach of contract on the part of Sportsstuff and/or any party participating in the design and/or manufacture

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TOWABLE OWNER'S MANUAL

Important information is enclosed in this manual. Please read these materials prior to assembling and using this product. Keep for future reference.

For questions on assembly, parts or warranty, contact the experts at Sportsstuff. DO NOT RETURN this product to the store!

Contact us TOLL FREE: 888-814-8833 (USA) (8am-5pm, CST Monday-Friday)

Congratulations on your new towable purchase! Sportsstuff prides itself in making the most innovative inflatable products on the planet. Your high performance towable is designed to provide an exciting and unique riding experience for the whole family.

! WARNING !

To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow these rules:

- Not a lifesaving device. Never leave children unattended. Use only under competent supervision.
- Read the owner's manual carefully before using your Sportsstuff towable.
- Not for use by children under six (12) years of age.
- The watercraft driver is responsible for the towable and riders since the towable cannot be controlled by the rider(s). The rider(s) may not be able to see where he/she is going.
- Always have an experienced watercraft driver at the helm and always have three or more people present for safe tubing—one to drive the watercraft, one to observe and one or more to ride.
- Observer in the boat/watercraft should keep the driver aware of the towable rider(s) status.
- Always keep a lookout for other boats/watercrafts, swimmers, towables, and other obstructions in the water. Stay away from other boats and personal watercraft, docks, pilings, bridges, shallow water and the shore.
- The watercraft driver should avoid excessive speed or sharp turns which might cause the towable to flip over, resulting in serious injury to the rider.
- Never exceed 20 mph when towing adults or 15 mph with children.
- Use a tow rope specifically designed for the WEGO
- Never operate the boat/watercraft or ride the towable under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Never place wrists or feet through the handles or towing harness.
- Riders should keep arms and feet out of the water.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommended number of riders for your particular tube.
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person, 2375 lbs average tensile strength for pulling two people, 3350 lbs average

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- Do Not pull a towable without a rider. A towable is designed to have a rider in order to balance the weight distribution of the product
- Be aware of water conditions along with changes in the weather. The condition of the water greatly influences the type of ride the rider will have. Please take into consideration the age and physical ability of your rider.
- It is the boat/watercraft driver's responsibility to instruct the riders how to ride a towable. The boat/watercraft driver should carefully instruct the riders of potential risks and possible injury that may occur if they partake in careless behavior.
- At the beginning of the ride, carefully take the slack out of the tow rope. Never jerk start a towable. After the rider has signaled that he/she is ready, the driver can slowly bring the towable to a planing point.
- Most towables will plane out at 10 to 20 mph, depending on the weight of the rider. It is important to keep the nose of the item up until the item is planing.
- The resistance of the product varies widely with these factors: boat speed, turns, water conditions, number of riders and their weight, towable size, shape and function. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat speed to fit these situations to minimize resistance of the towable.
- Use in wide, open spaces. Stay at least 100 yards from shallow water, shore, rocks, boats, docks and buoys. Most accidents happen on turns and in congested areas.
- The boat/watercraft driver determines the speed and the action of the towable in turns and when crossing the boat/watercraft wake. In the straight-a-ways, the boat/watercraft towing speed is the same as the towable speed. The towable speed will increase when the boat/watercraft makes a 90 to 180 degrees turn without increasing the boat/watercraft speed. If the boat/watercraft speed is 20 mph, the towable speed can be 30-40 mph. The "slingshot effect" sends the user outward from the center of the towable. Be aware of the limitations of the rider.
- Large wakes combined with the wave action and speed can contribute to a rough ride. Use a safe speed that enables the towable to plane out. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat/watercraft speed and turns to fit the water conditions and the age, experience, skill and physical strength of the rider.
- Excessive speed or sharp turns might cause the tube to flip over abruptly, possibly causing serious injury to the rider.
- If the towable overturns, the boat/watercraft driver should not exceed 5 mph until the towable is upright again.
- Under normal conditions, the maximum safe speed for adults is 20 mph. Safe speeds for children are less than 15 mph, depending on the age and physical capability of the child.
- Please make sure your boat/watercraft is tow-worthy and has the appropriate horsepower to pull rider(s) and the tow tube. Do not exceed the boat/watercraft passenger capacity.
- Extreme drag forces can develop when pulling this tube. Please use towable in calm water. Heavy waves or choppy conditions can create more drag or even result in a submarine or anchor effect.
- Extreme drag forces may also result if: the rider(s) fall off, the tube noses in or tips over and water fills cockpit/seating area. The boat/watercraft operator should immediately slow or stop to eliminate this factor.
- Death or serious injury can result from the submarine or anchor effect causing more extreme drag forces on the tow rope and/or tow point. The tow rope might have too much stress and either break and snap back at the rider(s) or other occupants of the boat. It is the boat driver's responsibility to make sure this does not occur.

- Do not exceed the weight guidelines of your boat. Do not allow passengers to hang outside the boat or side on the gunwales (sides/edges of the boat) outside the normal seating area of the boat. Uneven weight distribution or additional weight may affect the handling of the boat. Never allow water to overflow the gunwales (sides/edges of the boat) of the boat.

A WARNING! BOAT OWNERS WITH HIGH TOWER AND PYLONS A

- Tow/Ski towers are not designed for use with any inflatable tube towing.
- Use only jiffing eyes/transoms or tournament-rated ski pylons for towing tubes.
- Consult your boat's manufacturer if you are unsure of its tournament rating.
- Do not tow any inflatable from a ski eye.
- Any tow pylon or ski pylon installed after market is not intended for inflatable tube towing.
- Death or serious injury may result if an unapproved ski/tow pylon is used.

A WARNING! SPOTTERS NOTICE: A

- Always use a spotter (observer) in the boat to communicate the needs of the rider to the driver.
- The spotter must be the eyes of the driver and the rider, always alert to recognize possible danger so proper action can be taken to avoid any risk to the rider.
- If the towable overturns, the boat/watercraft driver should not exceed 5 mph until the towable is upright again.
- The spotter should hold up a safety flag cautioning all other boaters that riders are in the water.

A WARNING! RIDERS NOTICE: A

- Do not use this item as a personal flotation device.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommended number of riders for your particular tube.
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person, 2375 lbs average tensile strength for pulling two people, 3350 lbs average tensile strength for pulling three people and 4100 lbs average tensile strength for pulling four people on an inflatable tube. The tow rope should be at least 45 feet length but not to exceed 65 feet.
- Only use this product with a responsible boat/watercraft operator who knows how to effectively operate the equipment.
- This product should be used in water only. Do not launch from dock or land.
- Do not use near piling, docks, shores or shallow water or other obstructions that could cause serious injury to the rider.
- Carefully instruct the other riders the proper way to attach rope and operate the towable.
- DO NOT strap or attach arms or legs to cover or tube. Never place hands or feet in between the tube or cover.
- This item has no braking or steering mechanism and can develop high speeds under certain towing conditions. Use at your own risk!
- This product is not a life saving device.
- Take necessary breaks when you are tired.
- Never get near the propeller with the engine running, even if it is in neutral.

Your WEGO towable is equipped with the Speed Safety Valve pictured below:



Speed Safety Valve - A hybrid valve utilizing the best of both the Oversized Safety Valve and the Speed Valve. Pulls out for fast inflation/deflation, then can be pushed in flush with the tube. For use with standard electric pumps, shop vac, wet vac, leaf blowers, and vacuums with a 2-way switch for fast inflation/deflation.

Secure the valve by firmly inserting the bottom portion of the valve into the base. To inflate, open only the top portion of the valve. Using the hose from your inflator, inflate through the top opening of the valve.

The optimal inflator is a 2.5 psi or higher electric pump. You may also use a 1.1 or 3.0 psi pump. Using the 12v pump (model #57-1510) followed by the LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) to top off the unit takes about 3.5 minutes. The 1.1 psi 110v pump followed by using the LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) to top off the unit will inflate the WEGO in a few minutes. The 2.5 electric pump (model #57-1504A) will inflate the WEGO in just over 3 minutes. The 3.0 pump (model #57-1508) will inflate the WEGO in as little as 2 minutes.

Please call Sportsstuff at 1-888-814-8833 to order directly.

1. Open the box and locate Owner's manual information and instructional DVD.
2. Review owner's manual and instructional DVD first and share the information with all other users and or spotters.
3. Locate a flat, wide-open, clean and clear area to open and assemble the product.
4. Unfold the nylon cover so the yellow cover with winged skulls is completely unfolded along with slotting system cockpit.
5. Please notice the bladders have already been assembled in the cover. There are two valves total. One on the slotting portion and another on the outside ring.
6. Locate and open the padded valve cover on the slotting portion (cockpit area). Open the valve and inflate until firm and the cover is wrinkle free and taut. It may be necessary to adjust the cover to fit the inflation holes. Use the zippered openings in the cover to adjust bladder position if necessary.
7. Close valve completely and secure valve cover.
8. Locate the valve on the outer ring and repeat steps 6-7.
9. Please note that the window panels are not supported by an internal bladder, so stay off of this portion of the cover.
10. With assistance, carefully lift the unit into water.
11. Do not drag across harsh surfaces, as this will damage the unit.
12. Once at the water entry point attach tow rope to unit and hook up to the boat. Make sure leash is attached to the nose loop.
13. Enjoy your Kiting experience.

PLEASE NOTE OVER INFLATION WILL CAUSE THE BLADDER TO HAVE A CONCAVE EFFECT ON THE UNDERSIDE, CAUSING THE KITE TUBE TO SUBMARINE.

PLEASE NOTE UNDER INFLATION WILL CAUSE KITE TUBE TO NOT PERFORM AS DESIGNED. WHEN KITING, YOU CAN TELL VISUALLY IF YOU ARE CORRECTLY INFLATED

Proper inflation means you'll have a wonderful flight experience, so follow the above instructions closely.

A KITE TUBE CARE AND MAINTENANCE 11

- You may clean your towable using a soap and water or mild detergent.
- You should inspect your unit frequently for wear and tear. If you need parts replacement please contact Sportsstuff 1-888-814-8833.
- Before each use always check inflation, tow connection and boat connection.
- After using the Kite Tube do not leave out in direct sunlight, but keep in a shaded area.
- When the unit is not in use NEVER leave this unit in direct Sunlight at any time.
- The strong UV rays will quickly destroy and downgrade the nylon cover and age the materials prematurely.
- Monitor and adjust bladder pressure on warm days.
- Never use strong cleaning agents.
- The towable, when clean and dry, can be deflated and stored in a cool, dry area out of direct sunlight. (In between uses and at the end of the boating season.)
- To deflate, simply open red valve.
- Avoid storing this product in areas of extreme temperatures and please take precautions against animals and rodents.
- Bright colored fabric covers used on the towables may bleed or fade when initially wet. Protect all boat interiors, docks and car interiors from possible staining.

A KITE TUBE TETHER TOW ROPE 11

We have included a new style tether tow rope for use with the Kite Tube. Overall the tow rope is 65 foot length, but can be adjusted to 55 foot length and 45 foot length. Since the Kite Tube is unlike any previous towable tube with the added dimension of sustained height. We believe that the boat driver, rider and spotter are all beginners. We recommend the following to get the hang of Kiting, how the Kite reacts being towed by the boat, how the wind affects the flight while being ridden by different size riders. Experience is the best teacher.

Step one: BEGINNER LEVEL

All beginners start with 45 foot tow rope to get some experience. Use at least 12 times for a minimum of 20 minutes per use.

- Avoid excessive boat speed at all times.
- Have pre-ride meeting with spotter and rider to discuss the type of ride to be given.
- Determine the best conditions for Kite tubing based on rider weight, boat speed and wind speed.
- Give-way to all other watercraft, especially sailboats.
- The Kite Tube can sustain flight with steady head wind and boat speed. Head into the wind
- Be aware of cross winds and wind gusts.
- Use the large, panoramic window to monitor and communicate with the rider.
- Don't gamble with rider safety. Driver must accept 100% responsibility for the safety of the rider.
- Instruct the rider to lean back and pull on the leash to keep the nose up until the boat and tube plane out, as the boat planes out and the tube rises out of the water, there will be almost no drag on the boat.
- Most boating accidents happen in less than 2 seconds.
- Reaction time varies from 120 to 255 feet of boat length.
- Do not be in-attentive. Do not let your mind wander. Focus on what you are doing
- Never use the Kite Tube with wind forces so strong that you are unable to maintain control.
- Don't Kite in electrical storms.
- The Kite Tube is an air foil of extremely limited capabilities with regard to wind and turbulence.
- Instruct all riders of rules and warnings, plus how to ride.
- In riding position, the rider and tube are at a 45° angle to the water's surface.
- Avoid floating objects and all immovable objects.
- All riders should be towed at speeds that allow for reasonable control.
- Avoid submarining the towable when first starting out or on spills.
- Slow boat down to 5 mph to turn around and pick up the rider.
- In many cases when the rider falls off, the Kite will continue to be airborne
- Don't be a gunner; slamming the throttle forward and forgetting about the towable and your rider. Focus
- In no-wind conditions, use zig-zags, whips, figure eights and circles that the Kite Tube will Kite in, but remember the Kite Tube is designed to Kite into the wind.
- Do not throw away your owners manual or DVD. You must review periodically and especially when allowing others to use or borrow your Kite Tube.
- Unlike most towables that ride on the water's surface and have tremendous drag, when the Kite Tube is Kiting or flying there is almost no drag and the boat has a tendency to go faster, so watch out for this effect (a lot of drag to no drag).
- Don't overload your boat with a lot of passengers.
- Like many towables, rider balance too far forward can cause towable to nose under. This is called submarining. When the you start moving forward, make sure the rider holds the leash on the tube to help keep the nose up during takeoff, till the boat reaches planing speed and lift occurs on the Kite Tube. If the boat driver, spotter and rider are not paying attention, the towable could nose in. This causes the submarine effect, which results in the towable acting like an anchor. Reduce speed immediately, otherwise you will create too much drag on the boat and tube, causing something to break.

- Pay attention when starting out to prevent this effect. Let's say everything goes right and the Kite Tube and rider are traveling at a sustained height above the water and the rider falls off. The Kite might continue its flight or crash down into the water. We suggest that you slow the boat down to 5mph, otherwise the towable might again act like a submarine, because it is upside down or wind conditions have forced it into a weird position where it cannot be towed at any speed other than 5 mph.
- It is the obligation of the boat driver to operate the boat in responsible safe manner and not try to "dump the rider".
- Experience safe Kiting.

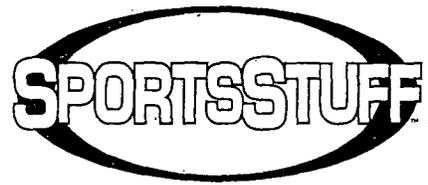
A SUBMARINE EFFECT WARNING ▲

LIKE MANY TOWABLES, A RIDER'S BALANCE TOO FAR FORWARD CAN CAUSE TOWABLE TO NOSE UNDER. THIS WE CALL SUBMARINING. WHEN THE BOAT DRIVER STARTS FORWARD, HE OR SHE SHOULD MAKE SURE THE RIDER HOLDS THE LEASH TO HELP KEEP THE NOSE UP DURING TAKEOFF TILL THE BOAT REACHES PLANING SPEED AND LIFT OCCURS ON THE KITE TUBE. IF THE BOAT DRIVER, SPOTTER AND RIDER ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION THE TOWABLE COULD NOSE IN. THIS CAUSES THE SUBMARINE EFFECT, WHICH RESULTS IN THE TOWABLE ACTING LIKE AN ANCHOR. REDUCE SPEED IMMEDIATELY, OTHERWISE YOU WILL CREATE TOO MUCH DRAG ON THE BOAT AND TUBE CAUSING THE SOMETHING TO BREAK. PAY ATTENTION, WHEN STARTING OUT TO PREVENT THIS EFFECT.

LET'S SAY, EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT AND THE KITE TUBE AND RIDER ARE TRAVELING A SUSTAINED HEIGHT ABOVE THE WATER AND THE RIDER FALLS OFF. THE KITE MIGHT CONTINUE IT'S FLIGHT OR CRASH DOWN INTO THE WATER. WE SUGGEST YOU SLOW THE BOAT DOWN TO 5MPH, OTHERWISE THE TOWABLE MIGHT ACT LIKE A SUBMARINE BECAUSE IT IS UPSIDE DOWN OR WIND CONDITIONS HAVE FORCED IT INTO A WEIRD POSITION WHERE IT CANNOT BE TOWED AT ANY SPEED OTHER THAN 5 MPH. BOAT DRIVER SHOULD TURN TO PICK UP RIDER AND START ALL OVER AGAIN. IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE BOAT DRIVER TO OPERATE THE BOAT IN RESPONSIBLE SAFE MANNER AND NOT TRY TO "DUMP THE RIDER". THE KITE TUBE IS DESIGNED TO BE RIDDEN AT SAFE LEVEL WITHOUT HAVING TO HAVE SOME CRAZY BOAT DRIVER TRYING TO CREATE PROBLEMS. EXPERIENCE SAFE KITING.

A SPOTTER OR OBSERVER INSTRUCTION ▲

- Have watersports safety flag
- Keep driver aware of other boating traffic, obstacles, etc
- Keep driver aware of towable state and rider conditions and how the towable is doing
- Keep tow ropes from getting caught on protrusion from the boat
- We have found that small megaphone helps to communicate with rider prior to takeoff and give last minute instructions



**WARRANTY
INFORMATION**

The Distributor and Warrantor of the product is:

SPORTSSTUFF, INC.
11213 E Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137 - USA
Tel: 402.592.9085
Fax: 402.592.1354

Website: <http://www.sportsstuff.com>

Customer Service:
888.814.8833
USA ONLY

The following information should be filled in and kept for your records.

Date of Purchase:

Model:

Purchased From:

City: _____, **State:** _____

Zip Code: _____, **Country:** _____

Tel:



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TOWABLE OWNER'S MANUAL

Important information is enclosed in this manual. Please read these materials prior to assembling and using this product. Keep for future reference.

For questions on assembly, parts or warranty, contact the experts at Sportsstuff. DO NOT RETURN this product to the store!

Contact us TOLL FREE: 888-814-8833 (USA) (8am-5pm, CST Monday-Friday)

Congratulations on your new towable purchase! Sportsstuff prides itself in making the most innovative inflatable products on the planet. Your high performance towable is designed to provide an exciting and unique riding experience for the whole family.

WARNING

To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow these rules:

- Not a lifesaving device. Never leave children unattended. Use only under competent supervision.
- Read the owner's manual carefully before using your Sportsstuff towable.
- Not for use by children under six (12) years of age.
- The watercraft driver is responsible for the towable and riders since the towable cannot be controlled by the rider(s). The rider(s) may not be able to see where he/she is going.
- Always have an experienced watercraft driver at the helm and always have three or more people present for safe tubing-one to drive the watercraft, one to observe and one or more to ride.
- Observer in the boat/watercraft should keep the driver aware of the towable rider(s) status.
- Always keep a lookout for other boats/watercrafts, swimmers, towables, and other obstructions in the water. Stay away from other boats and personal watercraft, docks, pilings, bridges, shallow water and the shore.
- The watercraft driver should avoid excessive speed or sharp turns which might cause the towable to flip over, resulting in serious injury to the rider.
- Never exceed 20 mph when towing adults or 15 mph with children.
- Use a tow rope specifically designed for the WEGO
- Never operate the boat/watercraft or ride the towable under the influence of alcohol or other drugs.
- Never place wrists or feet through the handles or towing harness.
- Riders should keep arms and feet out of the water.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommended number of riders for your particular tube.
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person, 2375 lbs average tensile strength for pulling two people, 3350 lbs average

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tensile strength for pulling three people and 4100 lbs average tensile strength for pulling four people on an inflatable tube. The tow rope should be at least 45 feet in length but not exceed 65 feet.

- The stress on the rope is different from the stress on the tube, and will vary with the weight of the passengers, design, and surface area of the tube.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved Type III (PFD) ski vest or as recommended by proper government authorities.
- Use this product only on water.
- Know your limits. Stop when you're tired. Act responsibly. Be in good physical condition and be cautious in your use of this or any other towable.
- Do not use this unit when it is under-inflated. The risks involved with this could include entrapment which may result in death or serious injury.

The manufacturer, Sportsstuff, Inc., does not have control over the use of this product and assumes no liability therein. Under no circumstances is Sportsstuff or the seller, liable for any loss, damage, injury, or expenses of any kind arising out of the use of this product. It is the responsibility of the user to determine the proper suitability and safety of the product during normal use. This product is subject to age, wear and deterioration from use and weather conditions. We strongly recommend that you inspect the product on a regular basis.

REPLACING PRODUCT PARTS:

If a leak or problem is suspected with your tube, locate the valves, deflate the item and remove the inflatable PVC bladder to inspect possible problem areas. Contact Sportsstuff warranty department for prompt parts replacement if a problem is located. For non-warranty parts replacement, follow the same procedure. When a replacement is received, follow the steps below:

1. Unfold the cover and lay the bladder out.
2. Locate the bladder and the inflation valve. Carefully place the PVC bladder inside the cover of the product in the appropriate location.
3. Line up the valve with the valve opening in the cover.
4. Refer to the WEGO manual for further assembly information.

MAINTENANCE:

Very little care is required for the bladder or cover.

- You may clean your towable using soap and water or mild detergent.
- Never use strong cleaning agents.
- The towable, when clean and dry, can be deflated and stored in a cool, dry area out of direct sunlight.
- To deflate, simply unfasten the entire valve from the base.
- Avoid storing this product in areas of extreme temperatures and please take precautions against animals and rodents.
- Bright colored fabric covers used on the towable may bleed or fade when initially wet. Protect all boat interiors and all other surfaces from possible staining.

TOW ROPE RECOMMENDATIONS FOR SPORTSSTUFF PRODUCTS:

- The watercraft owner/operator is responsible for informing all the persons riding or using tow ropes of the WSIA Recommendations for tow ropes. Improper use of your tube and rope could result in serious injury or death.
- Following are the WSIA (Water Sport Industry Association) Recommendations for tow ropes (Do not exceed recommended rider capacity for your tube):

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Number of Riders	Combined Weight of Riders	Rope Tensile Strength
One	min 100lbs - max 200 lbs	1500 lbs

- A standard tow rope should not exceed 65 feet.
- The tow rope should be assembled in a manner appropriate for the watercraft and tow tube.
- Please check all rope connections for frays, cuts, sharp edges, knots and wear and tear before each use. Discard any ropes that appear to be worn. It is recommended that you replace each tow rope at the beginning of the boating season.
- Tow ropes are subject to stretching during use. Please warn riders and persons in the boat/watercraft of the danger of ropes recoiling.
- DO NOT place arms, legs or head in the handle section as serious injury may result.
- Ensure that the tow rope is free from all body parts prior to towing a rider and while the tube is in use.
- Do not use a tow rope with a bungee material to pull skiers or riders. This type of apparatus could also result in serious injury or death to the tube rider or passengers in the boat/watercraft.
- Ropes will deteriorate with direct sunlight exposure. Please store away from direct sunlight and discard any rope that is frayed, discolored or raveling.
- Do not add hardware to this product that is not supplied by Sportsstuff.
- Avoid the propeller and engine at all times. Should the rope become tangled in the propeller, shut off the engine and remove key from ignition before retrieving rope from propeller.

▲ WARNING! GENERAL USE AND SAFETY: ▲

- When using a Sportsstuff product, you are engaging in an exciting recreational activity with inherent risks. Act responsibly and only use your product with the awareness of and willingness to accept the risks involved.
- Read all instructions and warnings provided to you in this owner's manual and those printed on the product. Do not discard this manual.
- As in any recreational activity, reckless use, misuse, inexperience and/or neglect of the proper equipment used may result in serious injury or death.
- Visually inspect the towable and tow rope before each use. Do not use if product or tow rope is damaged in any way.
- This product is NOT for use by children under 12 years of age.
- Never leave children unattended. Use only under competent supervision.
- Sportsstuff products are NOT to be used for rental use.
- Do not consume alcohol or other drugs while using this product. Even small quantities of alcohol and other drugs can impair judgment, balance, and coordination which can greatly affect one's performance.
- Make sure all riders are wearing a U.S. Coast Guard Type III (PFD) approved life vest at all times.
- Be conscious of the weather conditions as weather changes can occur very quickly.
- Check with your state or local government to learn their specific legal requirements concerning towables and towing.
- Use tow ropes that are designed specifically for towables with WSIA (Water Sports Industry Association) break strength guidelines.

▲ WARNING! BOAT DRIVERS NOTICE: ▲

- The boat/watercraft driver has the ultimate responsibility for the safety of the riders.
- Carefully survey the water before you begin towing riders.

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- Do Not pull a towable without a rider. A towable is designed to have a rider in order to balance the weight distribution of the product
- Be aware of water conditions along with changes in the weather. The condition of the water greatly influences the type of ride the rider will have. Please take into consideration the age and physical ability of your rider.
- It is the boat/watercraft driver's responsibility to instruct the riders how to ride a towable. The boat/watercraft driver should carefully instruct the riders of potential risks and possible injury that may occur if they partake in careless behavior.
- At the beginning of the ride, carefully take the slack out of the tow rope. Never jerk start a towable. After the rider has signaled that he/she is ready, the driver can slowly bring the towable to a planing point.
- Most towables will plane out at 10 to 20 mph, depending on the weight of the rider. It is important to keep the nose of the item up until the item is planing.
- The resistance of the product varies widely with these factors: boat speed, turns, water conditions, number of riders and their weight, towable size, shape and function. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat speed to fit these situations to minimize resistance of the towable.
- Use in wide, open spaces. Stay at least 100 yards from shallow water, shore, rocks, boats, docks and buoys. Most accidents happen on turns and in congested areas.
- The boat/watercraft driver determines the speed and the action of the towable in turns and when crossing the boat/watercraft wake. In the straight-a-ways, the boat/watercraft towing speed is the same as the towable speed. The towable speed will increase when the boat/watercraft makes a 90 to 180 degrees turn without increasing the boat/watercraft speed. If the boat/watercraft speed is 20 mph, the towable speed can be 30-40 mph. The "slingshot effect" sends the user outward from the center of the towable. Be aware of the limitations of the rider.
- Large wakes combined with the wave action and speed can contribute to a rough ride. Use a safe speed that enables the towable to plane out. The boat/watercraft driver should adjust the boat/watercraft speed and turns to fit the water conditions and the age, experience, skill and physical strength of the rider.
- Excessive speed or sharp turns might cause the tube to flip over abruptly, possibly causing serious injury to the rider.
- If the towable overturns, the boat/watercraft driver should not exceed 5 mph until the towable is upright again.
- Under normal conditions, the maximum safe speed for adults is 20 mph. Safe speeds for children are less than 15 mph, depending on the age and physical capability of the child.
- Please make sure your boat/watercraft is tow-worthy and has the appropriate horsepower to pull rider(s) and the tow tube. Do not exceed the boat/watercraft passenger capacity.
- Extreme drag forces can develop when pulling this tube. Please use towable in calm water. Heavy waves or choppy conditions can create more drag or even result in a submarine or anchor effect.
- Extreme drag forces may also result if the rider(s) fall off, the tube noses in or tips over and water fills cockpit/seating area. The boat/watercraft operator should immediately slow or stop to eliminate this factor.
- Death or serious injury can result from the submarine or anchor effect causing more extreme drag forces on the tow rope and/or tow point. The tow rope might have too much stress and either break and snap back at the rider(s) or other occupants of the boat. It is the boat driver's responsibility to make sure this does not occur.

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- Do not exceed the weight guidelines of your boat. Do not allow passengers to hang outside the boat or side on the gunwales (sides/edges of the boat) outside the normal seating area of the boat. Uneven weight distribution or additional weight may affect the handling of the boat. Never allow water to overflow the gunwales (sides/edges of the boat) of the boat.

▲ WARNING! BOAT OWNERS WITH HIGH TOWER AND PYLONS ▲

- Tow/Ski towers are not designed for use with any inflatable tube towing.
- Use only lifting eyes/transoms or tournament-rated ski pylons for towing tubes.
- Consult your boat's manufacturer if you are unsure of its tournament rating.
- Do not tow any inflatable from a ski eye.
- Any tow pylon or ski pylon installed after market is not intended for inflatable tube towing.
- Death or serious injury may result if an unapproved ski/tow pylon is used.

▲ WARNING! SPOTTERS NOTICE: ▲

- Always use a spotter (observer) in the boat to communicate the needs of the rider to the driver.
- The spotter must be the eyes of the driver and the rider, always alert to recognize possible danger so proper action can be taken to avoid any risk to the rider.
- If the towable overturns, the boat/watercraft driver should not exceed 5 mph until the towable is upright again.
- The spotter should hold up a safety flag cautioning all other boaters that riders are in the water.

▲ WARNING! RIDERS NOTICE: ▲

- Do not use this items as a personal flotation device.
- Do not exceed the manufacturers recommended number of riders for your particular tube.
- Use a tow rope of at least 1500 lbs average tensile strength for pulling a single person, 2375 lbs average tensile strength for pulling two people, 3350 lbs average tensile strength for pulling three people and 4100 lbs average tensile strength for pulling four people on an inflatable tube. The tow rope should be at least 45 feet in length but not to exceed 65 feet.
- Only use this product with a responsible boat/watercraft operator who knows how to effectively operate the equipment.
- This product should be used in water only. Do not launch from dock or land.
- Do not use near piling, docks, shores or shallow water or other obstructions that could cause serious injury to the rider.
- Carefully instruct the other riders the proper way to attach rope and operate the towable.
- DO NOT strap or attach arms or legs to cover or tube. Never place hands or feet in between the tube or cover.
- This item has no braking or steering mechanism and can develop high speeds under certain towing conditions. Use at your own risk!
- This product is not a life saving device.
- Take necessary breaks when you are tired.
- Never get near the propeller with the engine running, even if it is in neutral.

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GENERAL TROUBLE SHOOTING GUIDE:

Symptom: Product won't hold air.

Solution: Check to see that the valve is fastened properly. Re-fasten valve if needed. Check to see if the product was inflated fully from the beginning. If you suspect it wasn't inflated fully, add more air. PVC Repair Adhesive is available from Sportsstuff at www.sportsstuff.com or 888-814-8833 for small hole or seam repairs.

Symptom: Valve is leaking

Solution: Listen closely to hear if air is leaking. Be sure the valve and cap are screwed in or fastened straight and are tight. Leakage can occur if the valve is not fastened correctly.

Symptom: Product inflates but doesn't become firm.

Solution: Please check to make sure it was inflated firmly with a high volume air pump. If you are sure you inflated it properly, fully assess it for a leak or re-fasten the valve. If a leak is detected, the bladder may be patched by using Sportsstuff PVC Adhesive which can be purchased directly from Sportsstuff.

Symptom: Cover is very loose (Applies only to products with covers).

Solution: Please check to make sure that your product is inflated fully and the tube is in place. The cover should fit snugly over the well-inflated tube. If the cover remains loose, add more air. See also the INFLATION section of this manual.

WARRANTY POLICY:

Sportsstuff warrants, to the original purchaser only, that their high performance products, when used for normal recreational purposes, are free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. This warranty does NOT cover: products for rental, for hire and other uses not considered for normal recreational purposes; nor punctures, cuts, abrasions in normal use. For prompt parts replacement or warranty issues, contact Sportsstuff directly at 888-814-8833. Replacement parts are shipped within 48 hours of notification Monday through Friday. Do not return to your dealer (USA ONLY). This warranty is only valid in the USA.

If you have any questions about any Sportsstuff, Inc. product, replacement parts or locating a dealer in your area, contact us at:

Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137
Toll Free: 888-814-8833
Tel: 402-592-9085
Fax: 402-592-1354
E-mail: customer@sportsstuff.com

Warranty registration is available on-line at: <http://www.sportsstuff.com>

Prior authorization is required for returned merchandise. No credit will be given for a product that is sent back without prior authorization from Sportsstuff, Inc. After receiving an authorization number, please ship returned products to the following address:

Sportsstuff, Inc. Return Center
11213 E Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137
(Please label package with RA #)

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WATERSPORTS RESPONSIBILITY CODE

Be aware that there are elements of risk in boating, skiing, and riding that common sense and personal awareness can help reduce. Know your ability level and stay within it.

To increase your enjoyment of the sport follow the "Watersports Responsibility Code". It is your responsibility to:

- Familiarize yourself with all applicable laws, the risks inherent in the sport, and proper use of the equipment.
- Know the waterways where you will be skiing or riding. Do not ski or ride in shallow water, near shore, docks, pilings swimmers or other watercraft.
- Always have a person other than the boat driver as an observer and agree on hand signals before starting.
- Always wear a U.S. Coast Guard Type III (PFD) vest.
- Read your owner's manual and inspect your equipment prior to use.
- Ski or ride within your limits. Always ski or ride in control and at speeds appropriate for your ability.
- Always turn ignition off when anyone is near watercraft power drive unit.
- Carbon Monoxide (CO) poisoning from engine exhaust may cause injury or death. Never "Platform Drag" or touch a swim platform while the engine is running.
- Not operate watercraft, ski or ride under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Water Sports Industry Association

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WEGO KITE TUBE OWNER'S MANUAL

Important information is enclosed in this manual. Please read these materials prior to assembling and using this product. Keep for future reference.

For questions on assembly, parts or warranty, contact the experts at Sportsstuff. DO NOT RETURN this product to the store!

Contact us TOLL FREE: 888-814-8833 (USA) (8am-5pm, CST Monday-Friday)

Congratulations on your new towable purchase! Sportsstuff prides itself in making the most innovative inflatable products on the planet. Your high performance towable is designed to provide an exciting and unique riding experience for the whole family.



WARNING



RELEASE OF LIABILITY

By assembling and inflating the Kite Tube, you agree that you have read and understand the entire Sportsstuff's product manual, including all instructions and warnings contained in that material prior to using the Kite Tube. You additionally agree that you will ensure any additional or subsequent users of the Kite Tube will read and understand the entire owner's manual. Misuse or improper use of the Kite Tube could result in risks, dangers and hazards which may result in serious injury or death. The risks and dangers that may be encountered through the improper use of the Kite Tube can be avoided by reading and following the warning guidelines listed within the owner's manual and by proper use of the Kite Tube. Your assembly and use of this product shall be evidence of your agreement, to the fullest extent permitted by law, to properly follow the instructions and abide by the warnings set forth within the product manual. Your assembly and use of the Kite Tube shall also constitute a release, to the extent permitted by law, by you and by any third party permitted by you to use, in any manner, the Kite Tube, to Sportsstuff from any and all liability for any loss, damage, injury and/or expense that you or any user of the Kite Tube may suffer as a result of the use of the Kite Tube. This release shall extend to any loss, damage, injury or expense due to any cause whatsoever, including negligence or breach of contract on the part of Sportsstuff and/or any party participating in the design and/or manufacture of the Kite Tube. The terms of this release shall be effective and binding upon you, your heirs, next of kin, executors, administrators, assigns and representatives. Your assembly and use of the Kite Tube shall constitute your agreement to assume and accept any or all known or unknown risks of injury to you and/or to third parties through the use of the Kite Tube. Sportsstuff and related parties have not made and hereby expressly deny any oral or written representation and/or warranty, including warranty for a particular purpose, other than what is set forth herein and in the Sportsstuff's Kite Tube manual.

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▲ KITE TUBE DESCRIPTION ▲

Away Wego! "Kite Tubing", the mystery of flying, becomes a reality. The Kite Tube creates an air pocket on the under carriage bottom that enables lift via ground effect and the aerodynamic shape. Be prepared to reach new heights! Spend the summer gaining experience riding the Kite Tube. The Kite Tube is designed to glide, soar, and fly. You can use it like a regular deck tube in the whips, figure eights, and circles. It "kites" the best in a straight boat pattern into the wind and will rise out of the water slowly or quickly based on the rider weight, wind and boat speed. Expect the unexpected! The basic idea behind the Kite Tube is simple; The Kite rider kneels or stands on the tube that is tethered to the tow boat. As the boat moves forward into the wind, the Kite and the rider rise up from the water's surface to perform a water ballet in the air with the rider balancing on top. Kite Tubing is not as dangerous as some extreme sports, however it can be more dangerous than regular tubing with the added dimension of height. In Kite Tubing, safety has to be taken seriously. EVERYONE is a beginner, regardless of previous experience. Read all instruction and warnings before using the Kite Tube. Start slow and begin by using the 45 foot section of the included tow rope.

▲ KITE TUBE SPECIFICATIONS ▲

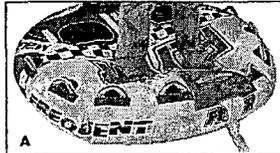
- 120 inch inflated diameter(10 foot) with slanted saucer configuration.
- 840D nylon double cover with pu coating(full body cover).
- Reinforced towing system with molded aluminum connector for easy tow rope connection.
- Computerized double-stitched sewing.
- Multiple mesh bar-tacked drain ports.
- Nylon zippered openings for bladder insertion and adjustment.
- Parallel slotting system with footsteps and neoprene padding for comfort.
- Reflective piping on all handles and on the outside top taping.
- Various loops for use of detachable leash(s).
- Panoramic see-through double windows.
- High visibility red and yellow watersports safety colors with checkerboard and caution accent striping.
- Easily seen bold, billboard-style graphics.
- Skull graphics is a reminder to pay attention and not to fool around, take nothing for granted.
- Two heavy duty pvc bladders, one supports the outer ring and the other is the slotting system cockpit for the rider. Both have speed safety valves for easy inflation/deflation.
- Leash with two sponge balls is included.
- Segmented tow rope is included. Adjustable length style in 45, 55, and 65 foot lengths.

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▲ KITE TUBE ASSEMBLY AND INFLATION ▲

Proper inflation is key to the optimum performance of this towable. The tube is designed to fit snugly in the cover, and there should be no wrinkles in the cover when the tube is properly inflated.

IMPROPER INFLATION



PROPER INFLATION

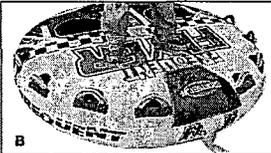


Photo "A" shows a severely underinflated tube. Note how the adult sinks in when standing on the tube. Under-inflation causes the towable to sit low in the water. Additional stress is applied to the tube, cover, rope and boat/watercraft, by being dragged through the water instead of pulled across it. This stress causes the air in tubes to be displaced and the tube may rupture. The same stress causes nylon covers to tear and ropes to stretch. The boat/watercraft cannot plane off and extra gas is consumed.

Photo "B" shows a properly inflated tube. Note how the cover is taut with few wrinkles, and how the adult barely sinks in when standing on the tube. This tube would ride high on the water, providing you with an exciting ride - less stress on the tube, cover, rope, and boat/watercraft. Proper inflation will insure a longer life-span for your product.

Inflation Maintenance:

Finally, it is not enough to simply fill it up and go! It is important to monitor the amount of air in this product as heat will cause the bladder to expand, possibly causing damage to the seams or I-beams. Don't let it sit on the beach, dock, or boat/watercraft full of air! If it is stored out of the sun in a cool place, you may need to add air. Check and adjust inflation levels each time you use your tube. You'll have more fun, and your toys will last longer.

The best air pumps to use are:

- 110v electric: 2.5 psi (model #57-1504A) or 3.0 psi (model #57-1508)
- Hand/foot pump specifically for towables: LP1 (model #57-1003)
- 12v pumps (model #57-1510) can also be used but a their maximum output is only .8 psi so a secondary pump such as the Sportsstuff LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) will need to be used.
- Leaf Blower
- Vacuum with two-way switch

Your WEGO towable is equipped with the Speed Safety Valve pictured below:



Speed Safety Valve - A hybrid valve utilizing the best of both the Oversized Safety Valve and the Speed Valve. Pulls out for fast inflation/deflation, then can be pushed in flush with the tube. For use with standard electric pumps, shop vac, wet vac, leaf blowers, and vacuums with a 2-way switch for fast inflation/deflation.

Secure the valve by firmly inserting the bottom portion of the valve into the base. To inflate, open only the top portion of the valve. Using the hose from your inflator, inflate through the top opening of the valve.

The optimal inflator is a 2.5 psi or higher electric pump. You may also use a 1.1 or 3.0 psi pump. Using the 12v pump (model #57-1510) followed by the LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) to top off the unit takes about 3.5 minutes. The 1.1 psi 110v pump followed by using the LP1 hand pump (model #57-1003) to top off the unit will inflate the WEGO in a few minutes. The 2.5 electric pump (model #57-1504A) will inflate the WEGO in just over 3 minutes. The 3.0 pump (model #57-1508) will inflate the WEGO in as little as 2 minutes.

Please call Sportsstuff at 1-888-814-8833 to order directly.

1. Open the box and locate Owner's manual information and instructional DVD.
2. Review owner's manual and instructional DVD first and share the information with all other users and or spotters.
3. Locate a flat, wide-open, clean and clear area to open and assemble the product.
4. Unfold the nylon cover so the yellow cover with winged skulls is completely unfolded along with slotting system cockpit.
5. Please notice the bladders have already been assembled in the cover. There are two valves total. One on the slotting portion and another on the outside ring.
6. Locate and open the padded valve cover on the slotting portion (cockpit area). Open the valve and inflate until firm and the cover is wrinkle free and taut. It may be necessary to adjust the cover to fit the inflation holes. Use the zippered openings in the cover to adjust bladder position if necessary.
7. Close valve completely and secure valve cover.
8. Locate the valve on the outer ring and repeat steps 6-7.
9. Please note that the window panels are not supported by an internal bladder, so stay off of this portion of the cover.
10. With assistance, carefully lift the unit into water.
11. Do not drag across harsh surfaces, as this will damage the unit.
12. Once at the water entry point attach tow rope to unit and hook up to the boat. Make sure leash is attached to the nose loop.
13. Enjoy your Kiting experience.

PLEASE NOTE OVER INFLATION WILL CAUSE THE BLADDER TO HAVE A CONCAVE EFFECT ON THE UNDERSIDE, CAUSING THE KITE TUBE TO SUBMARINE.

PLEASE NOTE UNDER INFLATION WILL CAUSE KITE TUBE TO NOT PERFORM AS DESIGNED. WHEN KITING, YOU CAN TELL VISUALLY IF YOU ARE CORRECTLY INFLATED

Proper inflation means you'll have a wonderful flight experience, so follow the above instructions closely.

▲ KITE TUBE CARE AND MAINTENANCE ▲

- You may clean your towable using a soap and water or mild detergent.
- You should inspect your unit frequently for wear and tear. If you need parts replacement please contact Sportsstuff 1-888-814-8833.
- Before each use always check inflation, tow connection and boat connection.
- After using the Kite Tube do not leave out in direct sunlight, but keep in a shaded area.
- When the unit is not in use NEVER leave this unit in direct Sunlight at any time.
- The strong UV rays will quickly destroy and downgrade the nylon cover and age the materials prematurely.
- Monitor and adjust bladder pressure on warm days.
- Never use strong cleaning agents.
- The towable, when clean and dry, can be deflated and stored in a cool, dry area out of direct sunlight. (In between uses and at the end of the boating season.)
- To deflate, simply open red valve.
- Avoid storing this product in areas of extreme temperatures and please take precautions against animals and rodents.
- Bright colored fabric covers used on the towables may bleed or fade when initially wet. Protect all boat interiors, docks and car interiors from possible staining.

▲ KITE TUBE TETHER TOW ROPE ▲

We have included a new style tether tow rope for use with the Kite Tube. Overall the tow rope is 65 foot length, but can be adjusted to 55 foot length and 45 foot length. Since the Kite Tube is unlike any previous towable tube with the added dimension of sustained height. We believe that the boat driver, rider and spotter are all beginners. We recommend the following to get the hang of Kiting, how the Kite reacts being towed by the boat, how the wind affects the flight while being ridden by different size riders. Experience is the best teacher.

Step one: BEGINNER LEVEL

All beginners start with 45 foot tow rope to get some experience. Use at least 12 times for a minimum of 20 minutes per use.

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Step two: INTERMEDIATE LEVEL

All intermediates can increase rope length to 55 foot to get more experience. Use at least 24 times for a minimum of 20 minutes per use.

Step three: MASTER LEVEL

All masters can increase length to 65 foot to get more experience.

You can spend all summer gaining experience Kiting and really still not have experienced all things, wind speed, rider weight and boat speed create many variables (different kinds of watercraft, lack of wind) etc. Attach the Kite Tube Tether tow rope to the aluminum connector on the tube and to a towable hook on the rear of the boat. We recommend you use a low tow point on the rear transom of the boat or tow hook.

▲ KITE TUBE HEIGHT INSTRUCTION ▲

NEVER KITE HIGHER THAN YOU ARE WILLING TO FALL

Just think of the fall, in normal tubing you can get thrown off and go up to 15 to 20 foot high, but in kiting you are already at a certain height above the water and can get thrown higher. At a boat speed of 10 and 20 mph the water gets harder the faster and higher you go so control the boat speed and tube height and watch out for gusty and cross winds. Many bodies of water have natural barriers or wind breaks, be aware of these situations. Due to the height factor, you must use the Kite Tube in waters at least 6 feet deep (a guideline could be 1 foot of water depth for every foot of tube height). For best kiting use against the wind in straight-line runs.

▲ RIDER INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNING ▲

To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow these rules:

- Avoid gusty and cross winds, use in light to moderate steady winds.
- Gusts and cross winds can cause this product to experience sudden changes in height or direction.
- Use in at least 6 feet of water depth, the higher you Kite, the deeper the water should be.
- Never use in shallow waters.
- Boat driver, spotter and rider are all beginners, take it easy, learn in light steady wind, start slow.
- Your body weight is a factor on balance and control, shifting helps to control kiting (rider is ballast).
- Have pre-ride discussion with rider, driver and spotter.
- Never Kite higher than you're willing to fall.
- Into a steady wind, flight occurs more easily.
- With the wind, flight is not so easy.
- Based on rider weight, a lighter person will Kite easier than heavier person.
- Do not over-estimate your ability, Kiting takes a practiced level of skill.
- Keep tube's nose up when starting out, pull back on the ball/leash to help hold the nose up until the boat reaches planing speed.
- Rider safety is in the hands of the boat driver and spotter.
- Stay 100 yards from shore, avoid other boat traffic, power lines and

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other immovable objects.

- Be aware of natural wind breaks and barriers that change the wind flow.
- Use rear transom tow point. Using higher tow point means the Kite can Kite higher.
- Maximum 1 rider capacity
- Do not exceed 200 pound maximum weight or 100 pounds minimum, be at least 12 years of age and a height of 5 feet or more.
- Balance to minimize movement while airborne. Too much movement can cause the Kite Tube to become wobbly and overturn. Maintain a good center of gravity.
- 10 and 2 o'clock are the best control hand positions.
- Hang time, Kite time, can be 1 second or many minutes.
- Length of hang time depends on the wind, boat speed and rider weight.
- A straight boat heading into the wind creates the optimum Kiting performance.
- Ballet performance is what you are looking for (up and down).
- Use the large panoramic window to see the boat and to view rider height.
- Force the tube down by pushing your weight down with a swift, sitting motion.
- Use your position within the slotting system cockpit to adjust pitch, or the angle by which the nose of the tube is inclined up or down from the horizontal.
- Use the handles to adjust left to right balance.
- Utilize a combination of foot and hand positions to accommodate the current wind and boat speed conditions.
- Do not use this tube if you are pregnant, could be pregnant, or if you have neck or back problems.
- Raise arms above head following a spill to signify to the boat driver and spotter that you are okay.
- A rider that falls or is ejected should try to fall away from the Kite Tube.
- Experience safe Kiting.

A BOAT DRIVER INSTRUCTIONS AND WARNING A

To lessen your risk of serious injury or death, follow these rules:

- Driver should be at least 16 years of age and pass a coast guard approved boating course.
- Utilize a large, wide angle, rear view mirror (20 inch width) to keep eye on Kite elevation.
- Slow speed to reduce height, a sudden gust of wind can send the rider up to 20 feet high or more in half a second.
- Maintain constant communication with spotter about the Kite Tube and its performance.
- Adjust boat speed to reduce the height of the Kite Tube.
- The Kite Tube is unlike any other towable tube, it can sustain flight at various heights for long periods of time.
- Wind, boat speed, rider weight and length of rope are big variables in Kiting performance.
- Pay attention and adjust the boat speed frequently to fit the conditions. You are the director.
- Never Kite higher than you want the rider to fall, adjust your speed.

- Avoid excessive boat speed at all times.
- Have pre-ride meeting with spotter and rider to discuss the type of ride to be given.
- Determine the best conditions for Kite tubing based on rider weight, boat speed and wind speed.
- Give-way to all other watercraft, especially sailboats.
- The Kite Tube can sustain flight with steady head wind and boat speed. Head into the wind
- Be aware of cross winds and wind gusts.
- Use the large, panoramic window to monitor and communicate with the rider.
- Don't gamble with rider safety. Driver must accept 100% responsibility for the safety of the rider.
- Instruct the rider to lean back and pull on the leash to keep the nose up until the boat and tube plane out, as the boat planes out and the tube rises out of the water, there will be almost no drag on the boat.
- Most boating accidents happen in less than 2 seconds.
- Reaction time varies from 120 to 255 feet of boat length.
- Do not be in-attentive. Do not let your mind wander. Focus on what you are doing
- Never use the Kite Tube with wind forces so strong that you are unable to maintain control.
- Don't Kite in electrical storms.
- The Kite Tube is an air foil of extremely limited capabilities with regard to wind and turbulence.
- Instruct all riders of rules and warnings, plus how to ride.
- In riding position, the rider and tube are at a 45° angle to the water's surface.
- Avoid floating objects and all immovable objects.
- All riders should be towed at speeds that allow for reasonable control.
- Avoid submarining the towable when first starting out or on spills.
- Slow boat down to 5 mph to turn around and pick up the rider.
- In many cases when the rider falls off, the Kite will continue to be airborne
- Don't be a gunner; slamming the throttle forward and forgetting about the towable and your rider. Focus
- In no-wind conditions, use zig-zags, whips, figure eights and circles that the Kite Tube will Kite in, but remember the Kite Tube is designed to Kite into the wind.
- Do not throw away your owners manual or DVD. You must review periodically and especially when allowing others to use or borrow your Kite Tube.
- Unlike most towables that ride on the water's surface and have tremendous drag, when the Kite Tube is Kiting or flying there is almost no drag and the boat has a tendency to go faster, so watch out for this effect (a lot of drag to no drag).
- Don't overload your boat with a lot of passengers.
- Like many towables, rider balance too far forward can cause towable to nose under. This is called submarining. When the you start moving forward, make sure the rider holds the leash on the tube to help keep the nose up during takeoff, till the boat reaches planing speed and lift occurs on the Kite Tube. If the boat driver, spotter and rider are not paying attention, the towable could nose in. This causes the submarine effect, which results in the towable acting like an anchor. Reduce speed immediately, otherwise you will create too much drag on the boat and tube, causing something to break.

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- Pay attention when starting out to prevent this effect. Let's say everything goes right and the Kite Tube and rider are traveling at a sustained height above the water and the rider falls off. The Kite might continue its flight or crash down into the water. We suggest that you slow the boat down to 5mph, otherwise the towable might again act like a submarine, because it is upside down or wind conditions have forced it into a weird position where it cannot be towed at any speed other than 5 mph.
- It is the obligation of the boat driver to operate the boat in responsible safe manner and not try to "dump the rider".
- Experience safe Kiting.

▲ SUBMARINE EFFECT WARNING ▲

LIKE MANY TOWABLES, A RIDER'S BALANCE TOO FAR FORWARD CAN CAUSE TOWABLE TO NOSE UNDER. THIS WE CALL SUBMARINING. WHEN THE BOAT DRIVER STARTS FORWARD, HE OR SHE SHOULD MAKE SURE THE RIDER HOLDS THE LEASH TO HELP KEEP THE NOSE UP DURING TAKEOFF TILL THE BOAT REACHES PLANING SPEED AND LIFT OCCURS ON THE KITE TUBE. IF THE BOAT DRIVER, SPOTTER AND RIDER ARE NOT PAYING ATTENTION THE TOWABLE COULD NOSE IN. THIS CAUSES THE SUBMARINE EFFECT, WHICH RESULTS IN THE TOWABLE ACTING LIKE AN ANCHOR. REDUCE SPEED IMMEDIATELY, OTHERWISE YOU WILL CREATE TOO MUCH DRAG ON THE BOAT AND TUBE CAUSING THE SOMETHING TO BREAK. PAY ATTENTION, WHEN STARTING OUT TO PREVENT THIS EFFECT.

LET'S SAY, EVERYTHING GOES RIGHT AND THE KITE TUBE AND RIDER ARE TRAVELING A SUSTAINED HEIGHT ABOVE THE WATER AND THE RIDER FALLS OFF. THE KITE MIGHT CONTINUE IT'S FLIGHT OR CRASH DOWN INTO THE WATER. WE SUGGEST YOU SLOW THE BOAT DOWN TO 5MPH, OTHERWISE THE TOWABLE MIGHT AGAIN ACT LIKE A SUBMARINE BECAUSE IT IS UPSIDE DOWN OR WIND CONDITIONS HAVE FORCED IT INTO A WEIRD POSITION WHERE IT CANNOT BE TOWED AT ANY SPEED OTHER THAN 5 MPH. BOAT DRIVER SHOULD TURN TO PICK UP RIDER AND START ALL OVER AGAIN.

IT IS THE OBLIGATION OF THE BOAT DRIVER TO OPERATE THE BOAT IN RESPONSIBLE SAFE MANNER AND NOT TRY TO "DUMP THE RIDER". THE KITE TUBE IS DESIGNED TO BE RIDDEN AT SAFE LEVEL WITHOUT HAVING TO HAVE SOME CRAZY BOAT DRIVER TRYING TO CREATE PROBLEMS. EXPERIENCE SAFE KITING.

▲ SPOTTER OR OBSERVER INSTRUCTION ▲

- Have watersports safety flag
- Keep driver aware of other boating traffic, obstacles, etc
- Keep driver aware of towable state and rider conditions and how the towable is doing
- Keep tow ropes from getting caught on protrusion from the boat
- We have found that small megaphone helps to communicate with rider prior to takeoff and give last minute instructions

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▲ WIND SPEED AND EFFECT ▲

We are providing you with the following information to help you evaluate your current conditions before Kite tubing.

Wind speed(mph)	Wind effect
0-1	smoke rises vertically
2-3	direction of the wind shown by smoke drift, but not by wind vanes
4-7	wind felt on face: leaves rustle: ordinary wind vane moved by wind
8-12	leaves and twigs in constant motion; wind extends a light flag
13-18	raises dust, loose paper: small branches are moved
19-24	small trees in leaf begin to sway; crested wavelets form on inland waters
25-33	large branches in motion; whistling heard in power lines; umbrella difficult to use
34-40	gale
41-47	strong gale
48-55	storm
56-63	violent storm
64+	hurricane

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Sportsstuff warrants, to the original purchaser only, that their high performance products, when used for normal recreational purposes, are free from defects in material and workmanship for a period of ninety (90) days from the date of purchase. This warranty does NOT cover: products for rental, for hire and other uses not considered for normal recreational purposes; nor punctures, cuts, abrasions in normal use. For prompt parts replacement or warranty issues, contact Sportsstuff directly at 888-814-8833. Replacement parts are shipped within 48 hours of notification Monday through Friday. Do not return to your dealer (USA ONLY). This warranty is only valid in the USA.

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Fax: 402-592-1354
E-mail: customercare@sportsstuff.com

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Wego Kite Tube Wins 2006 Sports Product of the Year

(PRWEB) - Saturday, Jun 3 2006, 5:39am
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Drum roll, please. And the winner of the 9th Ar Sporting Goods Manufacturers Association Sp Product of the Year Award is.....the Wego Kite SportsStuff, Inc.

The Sportstuff Wego Kite Tube is a ten-foot di flying tube. This one-rider inflatable tow tube w deck tube or glides like a kite while being pulle the first of its kind and is pioneering a new exc The retail price is \$599.95.

"Each year, the Sports Product of the Year Aw publicize many of the dynamic entrepreneurs ii said Tom Cove, president of the Sporting Goo (SGMA). "The inventors of these new products

Nominations for this program began last fall. Ir semifinalists of this program were released foll leading sporting goods industry retailers.

Additional Information:

Contact: Robert Gonsalves
Phone: 770-850-8254
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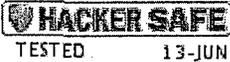
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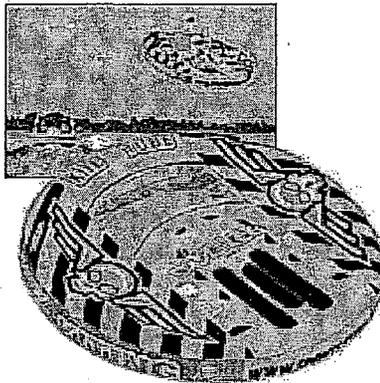
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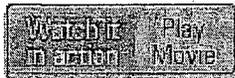
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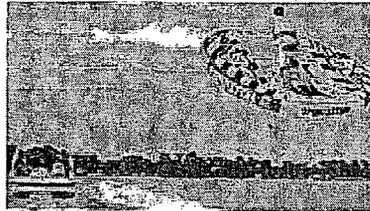
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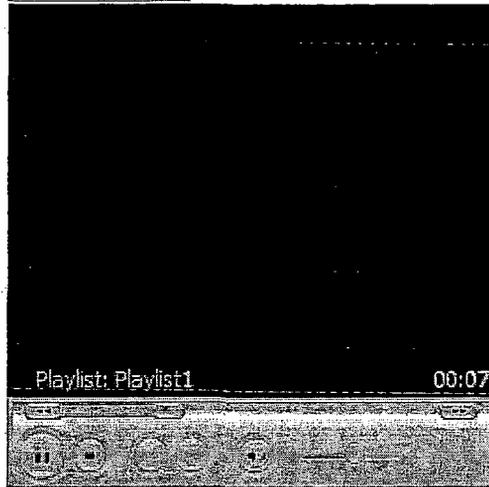
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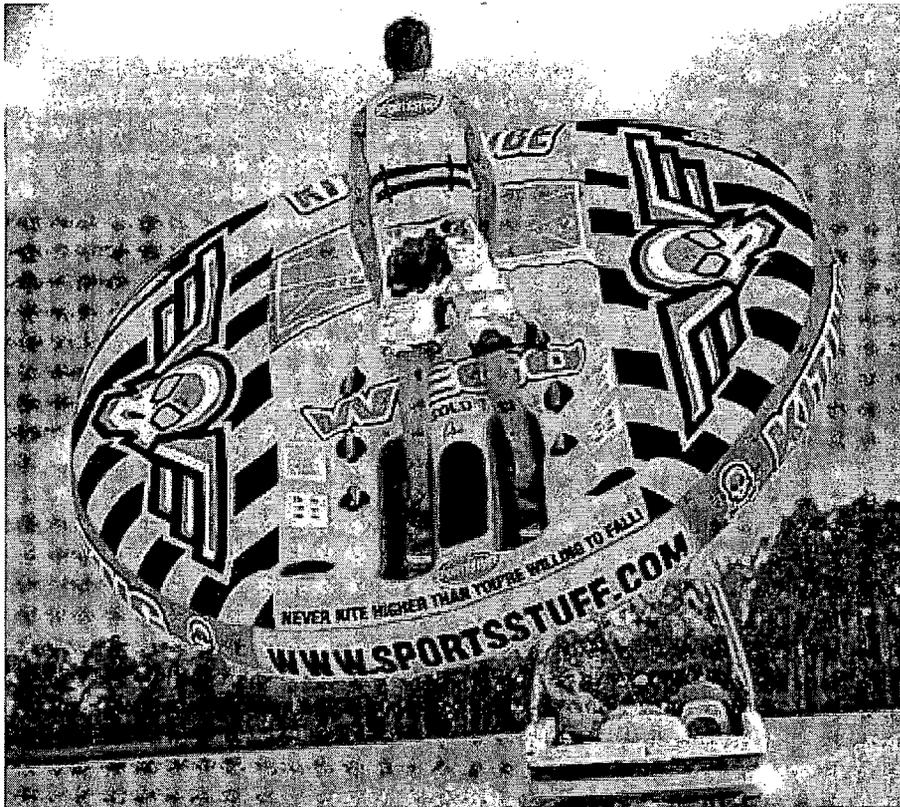
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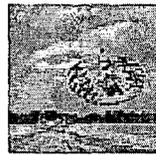
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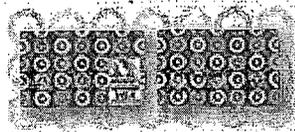
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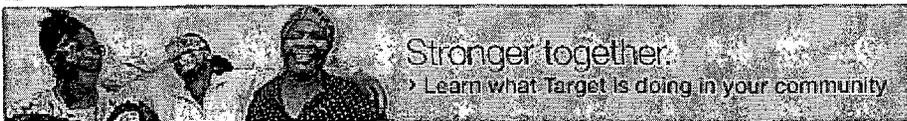
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Pamela Weller

Counsel to Commissioner Thomas H. Moore
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway, Room 725
Bethesda, MD 20814
Phone: (301) 504-7902 Fax: (301) 504-0813
Email: pweller@cpsc.gov

John M. Whalen

Senior Editor
BNA's Product Safety & Liability Reporter
1231 25th St., NW
Rm. 507, Bldg. 111
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: (202) 452-4413 Fax: (202) 331-5190
Email: JWhalen@BNA.com

Suzette Whyte

Legal Coordinator
ATICO International USA, Inc.
501 S. Andrews Avenue
Ft. Lauderdale, FL 33301
Phone: (954) 779-2500 Ext. 308 Fax: (954) 779-3901
Email: swhyte@aticousa.com

Bill Willen

Managing Counsel, Product Regulatory Office
American Honda Motor Co., Inc.
1919 Torrance Boulevard
Torrance, CA 90501-2746
Phone: (310) 783-3277 Fax: (310) 783-2999
Email: William_Willen@ahm.Honda.com

Denise R. Wilson

Director, Quality Assurance and Management
The Marketing Store
701 East 22nd Street
Lombard, IL 60148
Phone: (630) 693-1467 Fax: (630) 693-6973
Email: denise.wilson@tmsw.com

Peter L. Winik

Latham and Watkins LLP
555 Eleventh Street, NW
Suite 1000
Washington, DC 20004
Phone: (202) 637-2224 Fax: (202) 637-2201
Email: peter.winik@lw.com

Thomas L. Wise

Corporate Product Safety & Certification Engineer
Simplicity Manufacturing, Inc.
500 N. Spring Street
Port Washington, WI 53074
Phone: (262) 284-8598 Fax: (262) 284-8657
Email: tlw@smimail.com

Christine T. Wood

Principal Scientist
Exponent Failure Analysis Associates
149 Common Wealth Drive
Menlo Park, CA 94025
Phone: (650) 688-7134 Fax: (650) 328-2981
Email: cwood@exponent.com

Sandra C. Wright

Consumer Product Safety
Health Canada
123 Slater Street, 4th Floor
AL3504D
Ottawa, Ontario CANADA K1A 0K9
Phone: (613) 954-3889 Fax: (613) 952-9138
Email: sandra_wright@hc-sc.gc.ca

Taylor J. Wyand

Assistant General Counsel
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
702 Southwest 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-0185
Phone: (479) 277-9771 Fax: (479) 204-9575
Email: Taylor.Wyand@Walmartlegal.com

Rachelle Yazdani

Manager, Policy and Program Services
Health Canada
123 Slater Street
Ottawa, Ontario CANADA
Phone: (613) 954-0170 Fax: (613) 946-1100
Email: rachelle_yazdani@hc-sc.gc.ca

Jennifer S. Yelle

Senior Manager, Product Safety
Target Corporation
1000 Nicollet Mall
TPN - 632
Minneapolis, MN 55403
Phone: (612) 761-7903 Fax: (612) 761-7919
Email: Jennifer.yelle@target.com

Chris Zachwieja

Vice President, Quality
Hamilton Beach / Proctor-Silex, Inc.
4421 Waterfront Drive
Glen Allen, VA 23060
Phone: (804) 527-7313 Fax: (804) 527-7345
Email: chris.zachwieja@hamiltonbeach.com

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Spitler, Virginia R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:40 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Kite Tube

Tanya:

Here are two more places that sell the kite tubes. Skymall has a video in their ad.

<http://www.boatersworld.com/product/478302490.htm>

[http://www.skymall.com/webapp/skystore?
process=prodDisplay&action=&pid=102135333&catId=Homepage](http://www.skymall.com/webapp/skystore?process=prodDisplay&action=&pid=102135333&catId=Homepage)

*Virginia Spitler
Management & Program Analyst
US Consumer Product Safety Commission
Division of Hazard Analysis
301-504-7301*

6/13/2006

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BOATERSWORLD.com
A RITZ INTERACTIVE WEBSITE

FREE SHIPPING & NO SALES TAX
ON ORDERS OVER \$100 - CLICK FOR DETAILS >>

GO

Call us anytime! 1-877-690-0004

HOME | HELP | VIEW CART | ORDER STATUS | STORE LOCATOR

Electronics & Navigation | Boat & Motor Maintenance | Electrical & Plumbing | Dock & Anchor | Watersports | Apparel & Footwear

Search | Compare GPS | Coupons & Rebates | Gift Certificates | Looking for Photo, Video & Electronics? Shop RitzCamera.com >>

FURUNO | GARMIN | HUMMINBIRD | ICOM | LOWRANCE | OKUMA | PENN | RAYMARINE | SHAKESPEARE | UNIDEN

Home > SportsStuff Wego Kite Tube

- Click for Live Help
- Shop Catalog
- Search by Brand
- Gift Center

HACKER SAFE
TESTED 13-JUN

SHOP

Electronics & Navigation

Global Positioning Systems
Fishfinders & Depth Sounders
Radars & Autopilots
VHF & SSB Radios
>> See All

Fishing

Rod & Reel Combos
Reels
Rods
>> See All

Watersports

Wakeboards
Kneeboards
Skis
>> See All

Boat & Motor

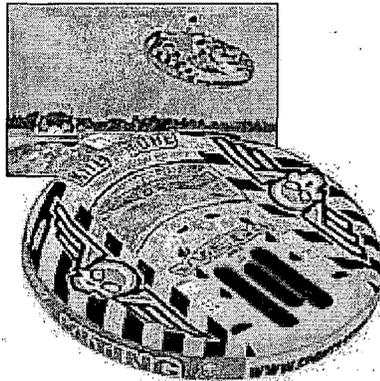
Seating
Cabin & Cockpit
Motor
Trailer
>> See All

Electrical & Plumbing

Pumps
>> See All

Maintenance

Hardware
Cleaning
>> See All



- Print Page
- Email to a Friend
- Search all SportsStuff
- Question? Email Us



ADD TO CART

SportsStuff Wego Kite Tube

Watch It In Action, Click To Play The Video

Mfr # WEGOFLYER Our Stock # 478302490

Our Price: \$499.99

Free Shipping (orders \$0.00 over \$100*)

No Sales Tax \$0.00

Availability: In Stock
Usually ships within 24 hours (Mon. - Fri.)

One Year ESP for Non-Electronics Items Valued at \$400 to \$499 \$41.25

Two Year ESP for Non-Electronics Items Valued at \$400 to \$499 \$82.50

ADD TO CART

Payments as low as \$15.00/mo. on this product.

Select Bill Me Later® at checkout. Restrictions & details.

No payments for 90 days on purchases over \$250 with Bill Me Later®! Important disclosures.

Accessories ▾

Features

May we suggest the following popular accessories:

To add an item to your cart check the item then click the Add To Cart button.

Airhead 6000Lb Tow

Quantity:

428

Dock & Anchor

Apparel & Footwear

Clearance

See All Categories



Keeper
Mfr # AHTR6000
Our Stock # 478321201

Our Price: \$29.99

1

Add to Cart



Airhead Bungee Tow Rope
Mfr # AHTRB-50
Our Stock # 478320559

Our Price: \$29.99

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart



Airhead Double Action Hand Pump
Mfr # AHP1
Our Stock # 366420057

Our Price: \$16.99

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart

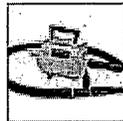


Airhead Tube Anchor
Mfr # AHAT1
Our Stock # 478321813

Our Price: \$19.99

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart



Metropolitan Vacuum Magic Air Deluxe Inflator 110V
Mfr # DIDA2
Our Stock # 366420032

Our Price: \$169.99

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart



On The Edge Steel Cable And Pully Harness
Mfr # PT5
Our Stock # 478320831

Our Price: \$17.99

Quantity: 1

Add to Cart

ADD ACCESSORIES TO CART

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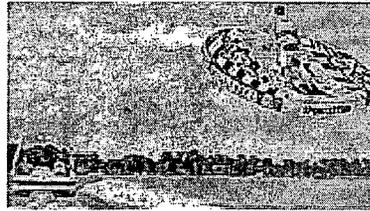
Shop

Keyword Search or Item Number

[Catalog Quick Order](#)
[Shop Catalog](#)

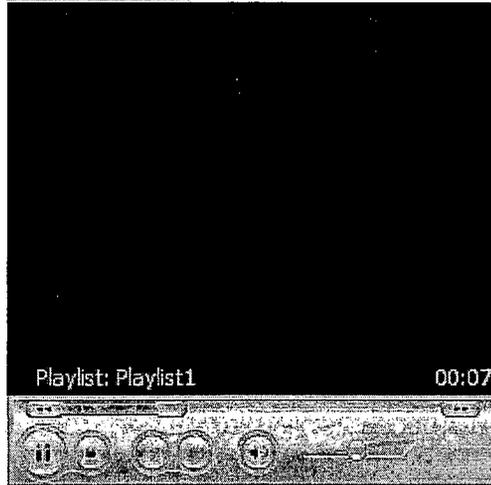
Departments

- [Apparel & Accessories](#)
- [Automotive & Hardware](#)
- [Computers](#)
- [Electronics](#)
- [Health & Wellness](#)
- [Home Living](#)
- [Office](#)
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[Enlarge Photo](#)

Watch Video



WEGO KITE TUBE

DIVERSIONS

CATALOG

SSS116

\$599.99

Payments as low as \$18/mo.

Select **Bill Me Later** at checkout

[click here for restrictions & details](#)



NEW! Take flight - no pilot's license required!
 Revolutionizing extreme sport, the Wego Kite Tube the line between tubing and parasailing. Leaving all others in its wake, it's an awesome new concept in tubing - an adrenaline rush that whips you along the water then flies you like the wind. Nimble and quick responds to your every touch. 120" inflated diameter. Instructional DVD included. Comes with an adjustable tow line beginner (45'), Intermediate (55'), Advanced (65'). Weight limit 200 lbs.

Order Item SSS108 2.5 PSI Electric Pump for use with this item

Quantity:

[Add to Wish List](#)

Item Notes

shipping notes:

- * There is an extra ship charge of \$30.00 for this item
- * This item will be delivered in 10 business days w Standard Delivery.
- * Rush Delivery in 2 - 4 business days is available for this item. Additional charges may apply.



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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Tel: 301-504-7520
Email: mschoem@cpsc.gov

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director

July 14, 2006

Telecopy (202-237-5259)

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
Suite 242
Washington, D.C. 20016

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Mr. Gidding:

The staff of the Office of Compliance and Field Operations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has reviewed the actions proposed and implemented by Sportsstuff Inc. concerning its Wego Kite Tube. Acting under delegation from the Commission, the staff has accepted the plan as adequate. The recall plan accepted by the staff includes the following actions:

- Discontinue production and distribution of the Wego Kite Tube
- Stop sale to all accounts – 7/12/06
- Recall Posters be sent to all accounts – 7/14/06
- Joint Press Release withdrawing products from market and recalling all products from consumers issued 7/13/06
- Agreed upon replacement products to be provided for return of designated parts of the Wego Kite Tube
- Consumers wishing a refund in lieu of a replacement product will be accommodated
- Toll free hotline and on line registration established for consumers

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- Firm to consider and propose other methods of notification including advertisements in various magazines targeted towards likely users
- Renegotiate this corrective action plan should the CPSC staff determine the effectiveness to be less than adequate.

We also acknowledge the speed in which the firm implemented the above corrective actions upon receipt of the staff's request. As a result of our focus on corrective actions we extended the due date for submission of a full report. Please submit the full report as soon as possible.

Please continue the corrective actions implemented and initiate any others contained in the plan accepted by the staff. The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations will be monitoring the firm's corrective action plan. Please submit progress reports of the recall to U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance and Field Investigations, Judy Smith, 4330 East West Highway, Room 613, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408 by the first of each month or fax to (301) 504-0359. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Smith on (301) 504-7525. **Please reference the CPSC file number in your response.**

The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations will evaluate the effectiveness of the plan. The staff could seek broader corrective action if the corrective action plan does not prove effective.

If the firm receives or learns of any information concerning other incidents or injuries, or information affecting the scope, prevalence or seriousness of the defect or hazard, it must report that information to this Office immediately. Additionally, if the firm receives information that might indicate that its corrective actions are not satisfactory in eliminating the defect or hazard or that the effectiveness of the recall program is less than has been anticipated, it must report that information to the Recalls and Compliance Division immediately.

When the firm determines the corrective action plan has been implemented to the best of its ability and as many products as possible have been removed from the marketplace, it may submit a final progress report, referencing the file number, and request that the file be closed. At that time the staff will review the plan's progress and decide whether the file should be closed. When the staff closes its file on a recall, we ask that the firm continue its corrective action program until as many products as possible have been removed from the marketplace. Please continue to maintain your toll-free recall number as a means for consumers to reach you about your recall. Should the firm decide to change or discontinue its toll-free recall number, you must notify the Recalls and Compliance Division and provide a new recall contact number for the firm. If the firm wishes to change the terms of the recall you must also discuss any proposal with us before it makes any change. This information will be maintained by CPSC and provided to consumers and others seeking information on your recall.

Section 6(b)(1) requires the Commission to give notice thirty days in advance of the intended disclosure of information that identifies the manufacturer or private labeler of a product. The staff is enclosing a summary of the corrective action plan, which may be made public by the

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Commission. This letter gives the firm its opportunity under section 6(b)(1) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2055(b)(1), and 16 C.F.R. Part 1101, to comment on the accuracy of the information.

The staff will also investigate and assess whether it believes the firm has complied with the reporting requirements of Section 15(b) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b). That section requires every manufacturer, importer, distributor, and retailer of a consumer product who obtains information which reasonably supports the conclusion that the product (1) contains a defect which could create a substantial product hazard, (2) creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death, or (3) fails to comply with an applicable consumer product safety rule immediately to inform the Commission of the defect, risk, or violation unless the firm has actual knowledge the Commission has been adequately informed of the defect, risk or violation. See 16 C.F.R. Part 1115. The CPSA makes it a prohibited act to violate the reporting requirement. Firms may be liable for a civil penalty of \$8000 for each product involved up to a maximum of \$1,825,000 for any related series of violations. Section 15(b), 19(a)(4), 20 and 21 of the CPSC, as amended, 15 U.S.C. § 2064(b), § 2068(a)(4), § 2069 and § 2070, describe the obligation of manufacturers, importers, distributors, and retailers to furnish information to the Commission and the penalties for failing to furnish such information.

The staff has made every effort to assure that the enclosed information is accurate. If, however, the firm believes that the information is not accurate, please send comments to me. The firm's comments must be received within twenty-three calendar days of your receipt of this certified letter if they are to be considered. Please include with any comments specific information to support any claim that the information is not accurate. If the Commission decides to disclose the information, unchanged, over any accuracy objections, it will give the firm ten (10) working days notice, as required by section 6(b)(2) of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2055(b)(2).

Thank you for your continued cooperation in this matter. If you have any questions, please contact me at 301-504-7520. To respond to this letter using the U.S. Postal Service, please address your correspondence to: Office of Compliance and Field Investigations, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 613, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408. The Office of Compliance and Field Investigations telefax number is (301) 504-0359.

Sincerely,



Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director

Enclosures:

Corrective Action Summary
Progress Report Form

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cc: Tanya Topka, CRC
Judith Hayes, CRC
Judy Smith, CRM

Voluntary Corrective Action Plans Under Section 15
of the Consumer Product Safety Act and
Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act

The following is a list of voluntary corrective action plans recently accepted by the Commission (or the staff acting under authority delegated by the Commission). A firm's taking corrective action does not constitute admission by the firm that a substantial product hazard exists.

Space does not permit the staff to give a complete list of the specific model numbers of the products involved in each of these corrective actions. Consumers who believe that they have a product affected by one of these actions should follow the instructions given in this list or contact either the manufacturer or the Commission to determine if their product is one of those affected.

**Voluntary Corrective Action Plans Under
Section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act and
Section 15 of the Federal Hazardous Substances Act**

DATE	FIRM AND PRODUCT	ALLEGED HAZARD	REMEDY
07/06	Sportsstuff Inc. Omaha, NE 68137 Wego Kite Tube	39 incidents involving 29 injuries resulting in medical treatment and two deaths. Injuries include a broken neck, punctured lung, chest and back injuries and facial injuries	Withdrawn from market and recalled from consumers for free replacement products

Monthly Progress Report for Corrective Action Plan & Incident Update

CASE #: CA060037

Compliance Officer: Tanya L. Topka

Company Name: Sportsstuff Inc.

Product: Kite Tube

Reporting Dates, From: _____ To: _____

Total# of Affected Products: _____

I) PRODUCTS CORRECTED/CAPTURED BY YOUR FIRM:

Location of Products	Total Products	Corrections This Period	Total Corrections	Percent Corrected
With Manufacturer	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Distributor	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Retailers	_____	_____	_____	_____
With Consumers	_____	_____	_____	_____
TOTAL:	_____	_____	_____	_____

II) NOTIFICATION MEASURES:

(Using the categories listed below, records the numbers of notifications attempted by your firm during this reporting period, and records the total number of notifications to date.)

III) CONSUMER AWARENESS: (Using the

categories below, record the way, by numerical quantity, Consumers told you they learned of the corrective action, i.e. consumer received direct mail, read magazine, etc.)

	Number for This Reporting Period	Total
Billing Insert	_____	_____
Direct Mail Letter	_____	_____
Magazine	_____	_____
Newspaper	_____	_____
Pediatrician Poster	_____	_____
Phone Call	_____	_____
Product Catalog	_____	_____
Radio	_____	_____
Retail Store Poster	_____	_____
Television	_____	_____
Web Site	_____	_____
Post Office	_____	_____
Thrift Store	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

	Number for This Reporting Period	Total
Billing Insert	_____	_____
Direct Mail Letter	_____	_____
Magazine	_____	_____
Newspaper	_____	_____
Pediatrician Poster	_____	_____
Phone Call	_____	_____
Product Catalog	_____	_____
Radio	_____	_____
Retail Store Poster	_____	_____
Television	_____	_____
Web Site	_____	_____
Post Office	_____	_____
Thrift Store	_____	_____
Other	_____	_____

IV) Calls to 800 Number/Correspondence

	# From Customers This Reporting Period	Total
800 Number	_____	_____
E-mail	_____	_____
Written Requests	_____	_____

V) Incident Update:

	# For This Reporting Period	Total
# Incidents	_____	_____
# Injuries	_____	_____
# Deaths	_____	_____

NOTE: Submit completed form by the FIRST of EACH MONTH to Judy Smith, Recall Coordinator, at:

United States Consumer Product Safety Commission, Office of Compliance

4330 East West Highway, Room 613 Bethesda, MD 20814

OR, fax report to (301) 504-0359 or e-mail to jsmith@cpsc.gov. Address any questions to Ms. Smith at 301- 504-7525

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY

BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Recalls and Compliance Division
Email: ttopka@cpsc.gov

JUN 15 2006

Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Tel: 301-504-7594
Fax: 301-504-0359

Certified Mail/Telecopy 402-592-1354

Leroy Peterson, Owner
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received information concerning incidents associated with the Sportsstuff Inc. (the "firm") Wego Kite Tube (the "product"). Several incidents may involve serious injuries.

Enclosed for your information are the Consumer Product Safety Act and the Commission's regulation, "Substantial Product Hazard Reports," 16 C.F.R. Part 1115. These documents explain the Commission's authority and policy regarding products that may present substantial product hazards and also explain the firm's rights and obligations under the Act.

One of the responsibilities of the Compliance staff is to determine preliminarily whether a defect is present in a product and, if so, whether that defect rises to the level of a substantial product hazard under section 15(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a).

Information Requested

For the staff to assess accurately the potential safety hazard, if any, associated with the subject product, it needs certain information from the manufacturer or importer. While the staff recognizes that your firm may not view its response to this request as a report under Section 15(b) regarding a possible defect with this product, the type of information requested for a full

438

102595-02-M-1540 CA060037 2005 1160 0004 5857 6173

2. Article Number

1. Article Addressed to:
 Leroy Peterson, Owner
 Sportsstuff Inc.
 11213 E Circle #A
 Omaha, NE 68137

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail
 Express Mail
 Registered
 Insured Mail
 C.O.D.
 Return Receipt for Merchandise

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)
 Yes
 No

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? Yes No
 If YES, enter delivery address below:

C. Date of Delivery 6-19-06
 B. Received by (Printed Name) Jennifer Rodgers
 A. Signature Jennifer Rodgers
 Addressee
 Agent

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
 Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
 Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

1. Article Addressed to:

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7005 1160 0004 5857 6173

Postage	\$
Certified Fee	
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$

Postmark Here

Sent To CA060037

Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.
 City, State, ZIP+4

PS Form 3800, June 2002 See Reverse for Instructions

439

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/15/2006 13:39
NAME : US CPSC COMPL&FIELD
FAX : 3015040359
TEL : 3015047913
SER.# : BROM3J973185

DATE, TIME	06/15 13:38
FAX NO./NAME	914025921354
DURATION	00:00:37
PAGE(S)	03
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Recalls and Compliance Division
Email: ttopka@cpsc.gov

JUN 15 2006

Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Tel: 301-504-7594
Fax: 301-504-0359

Certified Mail/Telecopy 402-592-1354

Leroy Peterson, Owner
Sportsstuff Inc.
11213 E Circle #A
Omaha, NE 68137

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Mr. Peterson:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received information concerning incidents associated with the Sportsstuff Inc. (the "firm") Wego Kite Tube (the "product"). Several incidents may involve serious injuries.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY

BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Recalls and Compliance Division
Email: ttopka@cpsc.gov

JUN 23 2006

Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Tel: 301-504-7594
Fax: 301-504-0359

Certified Mail/Telecopy 479-273-8860

Heidi Bahr, Product Safety Manager
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
508 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Ms. Bahr:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received information concerning incidents associated with the Sportsstuff Inc. Wego Kite Tube (the "product") that is sold by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (the "firm" or "Wal-Mart"). Several incidents may involve serious injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Act and the Commission's regulation, "Substantial Product Hazard Reports," 16 C.F.R. Part 1115, can be found on www.cpsc.gov. These documents explain the Commission's authority and policy regarding products that may present substantial product hazards and also explain the firm's rights and obligations under the Act.

One of the responsibilities of the Compliance staff is to determine preliminarily whether a defect is present in a product and, if so, whether that defect rises to the level of a substantial product hazard under section 15(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a).

Information Requested

For the staff to assess accurately the potential safety hazard, if any, associated with the subject product, it needs certain information from Wal-Mart. While the staff recognizes that your firm may not view its response to this request as a report under Section 15(b) regarding a

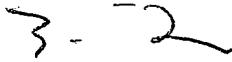
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injuries, or information that affects the scope, prevalence or seriousness of the defect or hazard, it must report that information to this Office immediately.

The Office of Compliance requests that the firm respond **within ten working days of date stamped on this letter**. Please reference the CPSC file number in your response. If you seek assistance or if you have any questions, you may contact me at: 301-504-7594. To respond to this letter using the U.S. Postal Service, please address your correspondence to: Office of Compliance, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, Room 613, 4330 East West Highway, Bethesda, MD 20814-4408. The Office of Compliance telefax number is (301) 504-0359.

Thank you for your cooperation in this matter.

Sincerely,



Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Recalls and Compliance Division

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7005 1160 0004 5857 6524

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Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)	
Total Postage & Fees	\$

Postmark
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Street, Apt. No.,
or PO Box No.

City, State, ZIP+4

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TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/23/2006 09:28
NAME : US CPSC COMPL&FIELD
FAX : 3015040359
TEL : 3015047913
SER.# : BROM3J973185

DATE, TIME	06/23 09:27
FAX NO./NAME	914792738860
DURATION	00:00:57
PAGE(S)	02
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY
BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Recalls and Compliance Division
Email: topka@cpsc.gov

JUN 23 2006

Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Tel: 301-504-7594
Fax: 301-504-0359

Certified Mail/Telecopy 479-273-8860

Heidi Bahr, Product Safety Manager
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
508 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Ms. Bahr:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received information concerning incidents associated with the Sportsstuff Inc. Wego Kite Tube (the "product") that is sold by Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. (the "firm" or "Wal-Mart"). Several incidents may involve serious injuries.

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SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature *Josh Bachelor*
B. Receiver (Printed Name) *Josh Bachelor* Date of Delivery *JUN 26 2006*

1. Article Addressed to:

Walmart Stores, Inc.
Ms. Heidi Bahr
508 SW 8th St., Maildrop 0505
Bentonvl AR 72716-0505

Address different from item 1? Yes
Delivery address below: No

3. Service Type
 Certified Mail Express Mail
 Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise
 Insured Mail C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes

2. Article Number

PS 7005 1160 0004 5857 6524

CA060037 02595-02-M-1540

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Home | Your Account | Cart | Track Order |

Registry | Wish List | Gift

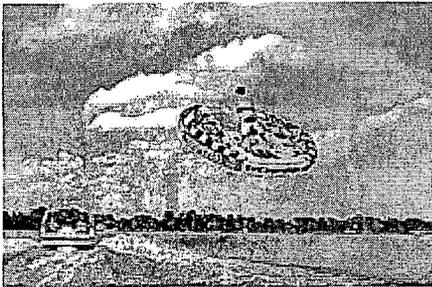
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Search Sports & Fitness for: Find!

You are here: Home Page > Sports & Fitness

SportsStuff Wego Kite Tube



ONLINE ONLY

\$499.95

Add to Cart

Add to: Wish List Registry

IN STOCK

Usually takes 24 to 48 hours to process. See estimated arrival date.

✓ Dallas-Fort Worth, TX Customer Free Shipping: Site to Store(SM) Arrives in 7-10 business days. Learn More

✓ Online only



Enlarge image

Watch a Video Demo.

Information below:

- [Features & Specifications](#)
- [Similar Items](#)
- [Accessories to Buy](#)
- [Warranty Information](#)
- [Gifting Options](#)
- [0% Interest Offer / Payment Options](#)
- [Shipping & Delivery](#)

Similar Items



Rave Sports StingRave Towable \$222.22



Airhead Sting Ray 3-Rider \$199.98

See more below

Features & Specifications

Take flight with the Wego Kite Tube — the excitingly new, next generation of action towables. The kite tube can whip across the water like a traditional deck tube, or pop up and fly through the air for what will seem like the longest (and most enjoyable) seconds of your life.

- Includes instructional DVD, 3-segment tow rope and starting leash
- Reinforced towing system with molded aluminum connector for easy quick connection
- 840D full body nylon double skin cover with PU coating
- Panoramic see-through double windows
- Multiple mesh drain ports
- parallel slotting system with non-slip footsteps and neoprene padding for comfortable foot, knee and leg use

Model No.:	53-5000
Shipping Weight (in pounds):	50.0
Product in Inches (L x W x H):	120.0 x 120.0 x 0.0
Assembled in Country of Origin:	Imported

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Origin of Components:

Imported

Wal-Mart No.:

000993246

[Top of Page](#)

Similar Items



[Rave Sports Sting Rave 3-Person Towable](#)

ONLINE ONLY

\$222.22

A fast, stealth-looking towable with backside flair that seats up to 3



[Airhead Sting Ray 3-Rider Tube](#)

ONLINE ONLY

\$199.98

A stealth, lake-hovering joy ride for up to 3 people



[SportsStuff Mega Bowl Towable](#)

CLEARANCE

\$150.00

The first ever bowl-shaped towable



[SportsStuff Speedzone 2 Towable](#)

ONLINE ONLY

\$188.88

With 2 separate, recessed cockpits featuring inflated backrests, the Speedzone 2 sets you and a friend securely and comfortably in place for an awesome tow



[SportsStuff Big Mable Towable](#)

ONLINE ONLY

\$188.84

With 20 different handles around its perimeter to hang on to, Sportsstuff's 'Big Mable' offers one wild ride

Browse for similar items in :

- [Home Page](#) > [Sports & Fitness](#) > [Boating & Water Sports](#) > [Towables](#)

[Top of Page](#)

Accessories to Buy



[Coleman Rechargeable Quick Pump for Air Mattresses](#)

ROLLBACK

\$24.96

Was: \$28.87

Add to order



[Ozark Trail Rechargeable Pump](#)

WAL-MART EXCLUSIVE

\$19.23

Add to order



[Ozark Trail 120V Electric Pump](#)

ROLLBACK

\$17.96

Was: \$19.96

Add to order



[Kidder Men's Neoprene Vest](#)

ONLINE ONLY

\$44.42

Add to order



[Stearns Child Spiderman Watersports Vest](#)

\$19.84

Add to order

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[Top of Page](#)

Warranty Information

Length of warranty: [See details](#)

[Top of Page](#)

Gifting Options

The following available options may be selected during checkout:

Gift Message: Add a personal note that we'll include with your gift.

Gift Receipt: When you add other gift options, we'll include a receipt that keeps the price a secret but makes it easy to exchange or return an item.

[Top of Page](#)

0% Interest Offer / Payment Options

Enjoy Great Financing!



Make the most of your shopping with these great Wal-Mart® Discover® or Wal-Mart Credit Card financing offers. Minimum monthly payments required:

- 0% interest for 6 months on purchases of \$297 or more
- 0% interest for 12 months on purchases of \$797 or more

[Offer Details and Card Application](#)

Other Payment Options

- Bill Me Later® — [see details](#)
- Wal-Mart Credit Card
- Wal-Mart Gift Card
- Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover and Wal-Mart Discover issued by U.S. banks only*
- Debit cards (also called check cards, ATM cards or banking cards) which display a Visa or MasterCard logo on the front.

* This does not include the Wal-Mart Community and Business Card, which we are not able to accept.

We're sorry, but at this time we do not accept checks, money orders or credit cards issued by foreign (non-U.S.) banks. Please do not send cash.

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Shipping & Delivery

Processing time for an item is the time from when you submit your order to when the item leaves the warehouse. You can usually find an item's processing time when you click "See estimated arrival date" on the item page.

Shipping time is from when the item leaves the warehouse to when it arrives at your door. See shipping time below.

The arrival date-range of each item is determined by adding the minimum of the

http://www.walmart.com/catalog/product.do?product_id=4634102

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6/19/2006

processing time to the minimum of the shipping time and the maximum of the processing time to the maximum of the shipping time. For instance, if you bought a music CD that took 1 to 2 business days to process before shipping and you had it sent by Standard shipping (3 to 7 business days), the CD would arrive in 4 to 9 business days.

You will usually see the estimated arrival date-range when you click "See estimated arrival date" on the item page. You will see the actual arrival date-range during checkout.

Shipping times, below, apply to shipments in the continental United States. For shipments sent by Standard shipping to Alaska and Hawaii, add 2-4 days to the shipping time. Delivery to APO/FPO addresses takes 3 to 6 weeks.

Please note: Oversize items cannot be shipped to Alaska, Hawaii, U.S. protectorates and territories, or APO/FPO addresses. At this time, delivery is limited to street addresses in the 48 contiguous states. You will see the actual arrival date in checkout after you choose a shipping address.

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drpw076.walmart.com /catalog/product.do, /catalog/fusionItem.do /include/dynamic/tiles/templates/item/fusionItem.jsp

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CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

June 29, 2006

Via Fax (301) 504-0359 and UPS

Tanya Topka
Office of Compliance, Room 613
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Tanya:

I am writing in response to your letter faxed on June 19, 2006, requesting further information about the product referenced above. This letter constitutes Target Corporation's obligation to "Substantial Product Hazard Reports, under 16 C.F.R. § 1115. Please note that Target considers the contents of this response letter to be confidential, and we request that CPSC not disclose this letter or its contents pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request or otherwise. We also ask to be notified if the CPSC receives a request, under FOIA or otherwise, for disclosure of information related to the referenced matter.

- 1. Include copies of all consumer complaints, including electronic records, warranty claims, and reports of injury related to the product being investigated. Include copies of all court complaints and related documents for lawsuits involving the product and the resolution of those lawsuits.**

Other than the call from CPSC, to date, Target has not received any consumer complaints, warranty claims, or reports of injury related to the Wego Kite Tube.

- 2. Provide the number of units sold by the firm. Provide the number of units in the firm's possession that have not been sold to consumers.**

Target.com has sold 11 units. This is a vendor drop-ship item, therefore Target.com maintains no inventory. The vendor ships the product directly from their facility to the consumer.

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- 3. Provide the dates in which the product was obtained by Target. Provide the dates of distribution to consumers.**

Target.com posted this item for sale on the web site in March 2006. The first unit was purchased in May 2006.

- 4. State if the product is still sold by Target and if Target has any plans to discontinue distribution of the product.**

This item is sold on Target.com and not in Target Stores. SportsStuff has informed Target that at this time, they have no plans to discontinue distribution of this item. However, on June 26, 2006, Target.com removed this item from sale on the web site.

- 5. Provide a list of Target stores currently selling this product. State if the firm is selling this product on their web site.**

This item is sold on Target.com and not in Target Stores.

PS Form 3800, June 2002
See Reverse for Instructions

Sent To: CA060037
Street, Apt. No., or PO Box No.
City, State, ZIP+4

Postage \$
Certified Fee
Return Receipt Fee (Endorsement Required)
Restricted Delivery Fee (Endorsement Required)
Total Postage & Fees \$

Postmark Here

OFFICIAL USE
For delivery information visit our website at www.usps.com®
U.S. Postal Service™
CERTIFIED MAIL™ RECEIPT
(Domestic Mail Only; No Insurance Coverage Provided)

7005 1160 0004 5857 6258

7005 1160 0004 5857 6258

2. Article Number

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee) Yes No

Service Type: Certified Mail Registered Return Receipt for Merchandise Express Insured Mail C.O.D.

1. Article Addressed to:
TARGET CORP
MS JENNIFER S. YELLE
1000 NICOLLET MALL, TPN-632
MINN MN 55403

Stamp: **LORING STATION** JUN 22 2006 MINNEAPOLIS MN 55403

A. Signature: [Signature]
 B. Received by (Printed Name): [Name]
 C. Date of Delivery: JUN 22 2006

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

- Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.
- Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.
- Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION

4330 EAST WEST HIGHWAY

BETHESDA, MD 20814

OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE & FIELD OPERATIONS
Recalls and Compliance Division
Email: ttopka@cpsc.gov

JUN 19 2006

Tanya L. Topka
Compliance Officer
Tel: 301-504-7594
Fax: 301-504-0359

Certified Mail/Telecopy 612-761-7919

Jennifer S. Yelle, Senior Manager of Product Safety
Target Corporation
1000 Nicollet Mall, TPN-632
Minneapolis, MN 55403

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Ms. Yelle:

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has received information concerning incidents associated with the Sportsstuff Inc. Wego Kite Tube (the "product") that is sold by Target Corporation (the "firm" or "Target"). Several incidents may involve serious injuries.

The Consumer Product Safety Act and the Commission's regulation, "Substantial Product Hazard Reports," 16 C.F.R. Part 1115, can be found on www.cpsc.gov. These documents explain the Commission's authority and policy regarding products that may present substantial product hazards and also explain the firm's rights and obligations under the Act.

One of the responsibilities of the Compliance staff is to determine preliminarily whether a defect is present in a product and, if so, whether that defect rises to the level of a substantial product hazard under section 15(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a).

Information Requested

For the staff to assess accurately the potential safety hazard, if any, associated with the subject product, it needs certain information from Target. While the staff recognizes that your firm may not view its response to this request as a report under Section 15(b) regarding a

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Tanya.Beckman [Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 1:28 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

We still have yet to reach the vendor, but I want to reply to the questions you had for Jennifer when you called her last week.

- Target.com launched the Weco Kite Tube in March 2006. First one sold in May/Wk 4.
- Target.com has sold 8.
- This is a vendor drop-ship item so Target.com maintains no inventory.
- In-store returns: The item is set up as returnable to a Target store. If a return was brought to the stores, the store would defect it out.
- No items have been returned to Target.com.

Let me know if you have any other questions or need my partnership throughout your investigation.

Thanks-
 Tanya

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 10:13 AM
To: Tanya.Beckman
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

I did not get any return calls from the manufacturer but I was able to speak with someone there after repeated calls in to the company.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
 U.S. CPSC
 301-504-7594
 www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2006 2:00 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -
 We have yet to receive a return phone call from SportsStuff... any luck on your end?
 - Tanya

From: Tanya.Beckman
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:59 PM
To: 'Topka, Tanya L.'
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

6/21/2006

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I'll let you know if/when we get a hold of someone...

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:55 PM
To: Tanya.Beckman
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

No not yet. I finally spoke with someone there that stated the high officials are not there but I let them know I need a sample so I will pursue with them to get a sample. I have nothing else from them since no one could speak on their behalf today.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
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From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:52 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -
 I checked with our merchant - no sample here. It's a "drop ship" item, so Target maintains no inventory - the vendor ships orders directly to consumers. We're trying to reach the vendor to learn what they intend to do with the product, etc. Have you rec'd a call back from theme yet?
 - Tanya

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:24 PM
To: Tanya.Beckman
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Also, I forgot in the last message. Marc Schoem would like a sample of this product. Does Target have one available they can provide to us?

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Thanks Tanya... Jennifer said that the Park Ranger who reported the incident was going to have a press release/notify the media? If that's the case, I'd like to give a "heads up" to our contact center to ensure they're equipped with the knowledge/have the ability to respond to guest concerns. Did we misinterpret this?

Tanya

6/21/2006

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Thanks for your phone #... I added it to my contacts list for future reference!

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:14 PM
To: Tanya.Beckman
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This is not in the stage of recall at this point. This is early in the investigation stage. I will make sure Target is notified if and when a recall is conducted. BTW My number is 301-504-7594

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To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

You spoke to Jennifer Yelle from Target yesterday regarding a safety issue associated with a National brand item - SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube - that we sell on Target.com. I'm the Safety Specialist assigned to research this product. I tried calling the # Jennifer left for you...301-504-7494, but got an "Allen Salyers" voice message, so am sending you an e-mail in hopes of reaching you.

I'm in the process of gathering the information you requested (sales info, etc), but am curious to know if you have an idea if/when a press release regarding this item is expected to be released? Target would appreciate knowing in advance so that we can communicate to our internal partners.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to talk to me about this matter.

Thank you -

Tanya M. Beckman
612.761.7906

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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 2:52 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

I checked with our merchant - no sample here. It's a "drop ship" item, so Target maintains no inventory - the vendor ships orders directly to consumers. We're trying to reach the vendor to learn what they intend to do with the product, etc. Have you rec'd a call back from them yet?

- Tanya

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpSC.gov]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:24 PM
To: Tanya.Beckman
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Also, I forgot in the last message. Marc Schoem would like a sample of this product. Does Target have one available they can provide to us?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:17 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Thanks Tanya... Jennifer said that the Park Ranger who reported the incident was going to have a press release/notify the media? If that's the case, I'd like to give a "heads up" to our contact center to ensure they're equipped with the knowledge/have the ability to respond to guest concerns. Did we misinterpret this?

462

6/15/2006

Tanya

Thanks for your phone #... I added it to my contacts list for future reference!

From: Topka, Tanya L. [mailto:TTopka@cpsc.gov]

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:14 PM

To: Tanya.Beckman

Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

This is not in the stage of recall at this point. This is early in the investigation stage. I will make sure Target is notified if and when a recall is conducted. BTW My number is 301-504-7594

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer

U.S. CPSC

301-504-7594

www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:26 PM

To: Topka, Tanya L.

Subject: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

You spoke to Jennifer Yelle from Target yesterday regarding a safety issue associated with a National brand item - SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube - that we sell on Target.com. I'm the Safety Specialist assigned to research this product.

I tried calling the # Jennifer left for you...301-504-7494, but got an "Allen Salyers" voice message, so am sending you an e-mail in hopes of reaching you.

I'm in the process of gathering the information you requested (sales info, etc), but am curious to know if you have an idea if/when a press release regarding this item is expected to be released? Target would appreciate knowing in advance so that we can communicate to our internal partners.

Feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to talk to me about this matter.

Thank you -

Tanya M. Beckman

612.761.7906

Unless otherwise stated, any views or opinions expressed in this e-mail (and any attachments) are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following

6/15/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 1:23 PM
To: 'Tanya.Beckman'
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

My understanding is that it was already released. It should be at the following link www.nps.gov under Glen Canyon National Recreational Area or NPS Digest

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
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301-504-7594
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To: Tanya.Beckman
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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Tanya.Beckman [mailto:Tanya.Beckman@target.com]
Sent: Thursday, June 15, 2006 12:26 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

Hi Tanya -

6/19/2006

464

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Tanya M. Beckman
612.761.7906

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Copies of product recall and product safety information can be sent to you automatically via Internet e-mail, as they are released by CPSC. To subscribe or unsubscribe to this service go to the following web page: <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpsclist.asp>

465

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
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To: 'Tanya.Beckman'
Subject: RE: SportsStuff Weco Kite Tube

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Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
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Feel free to call me if you have any questions or would like to talk to me about this matter.

Thank you -

Tanya M. Beckman
612.761.7906

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6/19/2006

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/19/2006 11:17
NAME : US CPSC COMPL&FIELD
FAX : 3015040359
TEL : 3015047913
SER.# : BROM3J973185

DATE, TIME	06/19 11:16
FAX NO./NAME	914025921354
DURATION	00:00:32
PAGE(S)	02
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Office of Compliance, Recalls and Compliance Division
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Tanya Topka - Compliance Officer
Phone: 301-504-7594
Facsimile: 301-504-0359
Email Address: ttopka@cpsc.gov

Fax Message Cover Sheet

Date: 6/19/06 # of Pages including Cover: 2

To: Sportsstuff (Erica) Phone #: ~~301~~ X 237

Fax #: 402 592 1354

Case File Number: CA 060037

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Regarding: Questions 1-14 you requested in your

16 C.F.R. § 1115.13(d) "FULL REPORT" REQUESTED INFORMATION

- 1) The name including title, address, telephone, and fax number of person submitting the report to the Commission.
- 2) The name and address of the manufacturer or importer of the product as well as the address for any manufacturing plants for the product.
- 3) An identification and description of the product(s). Give retail prices, brand name, series or model numbers, and date codes, along with all information necessary to decipher date codes. Describe any identifying marks and their location on the product. Provide the inclusive dates of manufacture for each product series. Provide a picture and sample of the product including all packaging.
- 4) A description of the nature of the defect, failure to comply, or risk. Provide copies of all technical drawings, test results, schematics, or diagrams, blueprints, catalogs, or other graphic depictions of the products.
- 5) A description of the injury or possible injury associated with the product defect, failure to comply, or risk.
- 6) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect, non-compliance, or risk (e.g., complaints, reported injuries, quality control testing) was obtained. If any complaints related to the safety of the product or any allegations or reports of injuries associated with the product have been received, copies of such complaints or reports (or a summary) shall be attached. Give a chronological account of facts or events leading to the report under Section 15(b) of the CPSA, beginning with receipt of the first information with ultimately led to the report. Also included an analysis of these facts or events if available. Even if no defect, non-compliance, or risk is acknowledged provide copies of all claims (including warranty claims and reports for distributors, retailers, and service centers) and court complaints in which it is alleged that the subject product may have malfunctioned, may be defective, may fail to comply with applicable standards, may present a risk of injury, and/or may have caused or contributed to personal injury or death. If copies of consumer complaints or other documents requested above are not available, indicate the reason why and provide a summary.
- 7) The total number of products and units involved.
- 8) The dates when products and units were manufactured, imported, distributed, and sold at retail.
- 9) The number of products and units in possession of the manufacturer, importer, private labelers, distributors, retailers, and consumers.
- 10) Explanation of any changes that have been or will be effected to correct the issue and other steps that haven been or will be taken to prevent similar occurrence in the future.
- 11) Information that has been or will be given to purchasers about the defect, non-compliance, or risk with a description of how this information has been or will be communicated. This shall include draft letters, press releases, warning labels, posters, or other information.
- 12) Details of and schedule for any contemplated refund, replacement, or repair actions, including plans for disposing of returned products.
- 13) Detailed explanation and description of the marketing and distribution of the product from the manufacturer (or importer) to the consumer.
- 14) The names and addresses of all distributors, retailers, and consumers.

TRANSMISSION VERIFICATION REPORT

TIME : 06/15/2006 13:55
NAME : US CPSC COMPL&FIELD
FAX : 3015040359
TEL : 3015047913
SER.# : BROM3J973185

DATE, TIME	06/15 13:54
FAX NO./NAME	914025921354
DURATION	00:00:17
PAGE(S)	01
RESULT	OK
MODE	STANDARD ECM



U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Office of Compliance, Recalls and Compliance Division
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

Tanya Topka - Compliance Officer
Phone: 301-504-7594
Facsimile: 301-504-0359
Email Address: ttopka@cpsc.gov

Fax Message Cover Sheet

Date: 6/15/06 # of Pages including Cover: _____

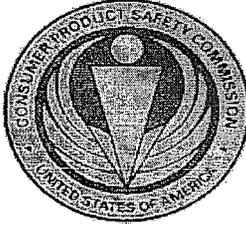
To: Leroy Peterson Phone #: _____

Fax #: 402 592 1354

Case File Number: CA 060037

Regarding: Please send 1 Kite Tube as a sample

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**U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Office of Compliance, Recalls and Compliance Division
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814**

Tanya Topka -Compliance Officer
Phone: 301-504-7594
Facsimile: 301-504-0359
Email Address: ttopka@cpsc.gov

Fax Message Cover Sheet

Date: 6/15/00 # of Pages including Cover: _____

To: Leroy Peterson Phone #: _____

Fax #: 402 592 1354

Case File Number: CA 060037

Regarding: Please send 1 Kite Tube as a sample
to me immediately!

- Confirmation to follow by mail _____
 Fax transmission only

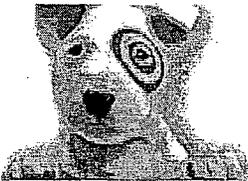
NOTE: If all pages are not received, or if you have any problems with this transmittal, please contact me at the number listed above. Thank you.

THIS MESSAGE IS INTENDED ONLY FOR THE USE OF THE INDIVIDUAL OR ENTITY TO WHICH IT IS ADDRESSED AND MAY CONTAIN INFORMATION THAT IS PRIVILEGED, CONFIDENTIAL, AND EXEMPT FROM DISCLOSURE UNDER APPLICABLE LAW. IF THE READER OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT THE INTENDED RECIPIENT, YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED THAT ANY DISSEMINATION, DISTRIBUTION, OR COPYING OF THIS COMMUNICATION IS STRICTLY PROHIBITED. IF YOU HAVE RECEIVED IN ERROR, PLEASE NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY BY TELEPHONE AND RETURN THE ORIGINAL MESSAGE TO ME IMMEDIATELY.

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TARGET



CART | MY ACCOUNT | REDCARD

TARGET PHOTO | STORE LOCATOR

CLUB WEDD REGISTRY | TARGET BABY REGISTRY | WISH LIST | GIFT FINDER

Women | Men | Baby | Kids | Home | Bed + Bath | Furniture | Patio + Garden | Sports | Toys | Electronics | Entertainment

Can we help you find something? Search

All Products



Shop All Departments

Narrow your results

Sports (1)

search results

We found 1 match for "kite tube" at Target

Most popular product matches for "kite tube"



SportsStuff Wego Kite Tube - Yellow / Red / Black

Our Price: \$499.99

Usually ships within 5 to 7 days.

+ ADD TO CART

SPORTS: 1 match for "kite tube"



SportsStuff Wego Kite Tube - Yellow / Red / Black

Our Price: \$499.99

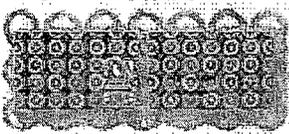
Usually ships within 5 to 7 days.

+ ADD TO CART

SEE ALL MATCHES

1 product match in our Sports store

The REDcards



- > Apply for a Card
- > Target Business Card



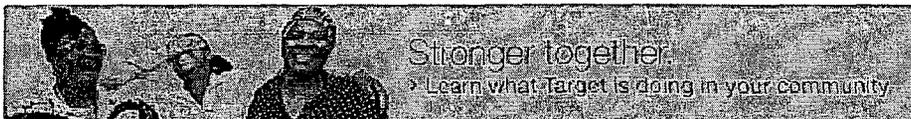
Help

- > Shipping Rates + Policies
- > Track an Order
- > Update an Order
- > Return an Item
- > Product Rebates
- > Product Recalls
- > Contact Us
- > Shopping Directory
- More»



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- > Grocery Coupons
- > Photo Center
- > Portrait Studio
- > Weekly
- > Optical
- > Pharma
- > Promot
- More»



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Brown & Gidding, P.C.

Attorneys At Law

3201 New Mexico Ave, N.W.
Suite 242
Washington, D.C. 20016

Tel: (202) 237-6008 Fax: (202) 237-5259

Fax Cover Page

Date: 7/14/2006

To: Marc J. Schoem

Fax: (301) 504-0359 Voice: (301) 504-7520

From: Michael J. Gidding

Fax: (202) 237-5259 Voice: (202) 237-5733

Number of pages (including this page): 9
For fax transmission problems, please call (202) 237-6008

Message:

We will deliver the original with the attachments on Monday.

Warning:

This fax is intended only for the recipient(s) named above. If you receive this fax by mistake, please telephone us (collect) at the above voice number to let us know of the error. If this fax contains privileged or otherwise legally protected information, disclosure of the information to anyone other than the named recipient(s) is not authorized, and you may not lawfully read, copy, or otherwise use this fax unless you are a named recipient or a named recipient's authorized representative.

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July 14, 2006

**VIA FACSIMILE AND
FIRST CLASS MAIL**

***Confidential – Contains Trade Secret and
Proprietary Information***

Mr. Marc Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and Field Operations
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, Maryland 20814

**CA 060037
Sportsstuff, Inc.
Wego Kite Tube and Kite Tube Pro**

Dear Mr. Schoem:

The purpose of this letter is to provide the full report pursuant to 16 C.F.R. 1115 on behalf of Sportsstuff, Inc. ("Sportsstuff") that Ms. Topka requested on June 15, 2006.

The fact that Sportsstuff is sharing information about this matter with the Consumer Product Safety Commission ("CPSC") staff is not an admission that the product presents a safety problem, nor is it an admission that any information with respect to the product must be reported to CPSC under the provisions of Section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act ("CPSA"). Sportsstuff does not believe that the product contains a defect or that the potential problem described below rises to the level of a substantial hazard or an unreasonable risk, as those terms are used in Section 15. Nevertheless, the company is making this notification to assure that CPSC is informed fully about the kite tube matter and to advise the Commission of the actions Sportsstuff intends to take.

As you know, in recent weeks, the company has received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. At present, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents.

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Page 2

They have, however, generated a great deal of adverse publicity about the products that have resulted in certain jurisdictions prohibiting or restricting their use. As a result, many of Sportsstuff's vendors have expressed reluctance to continue carrying the product, while many customers who already own them have effectively been deprived of the ability to use them. While it does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous when used according to the instructions that accompany them, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff has withdrawn the kite tubes from the market. In addition, Sportsstuff is undertaking a voluntary recall in cooperation with the Commission to replace kite tubes in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

Please note that, this correspondence and its enclosures sometimes use the word "recall" to characterize the product withdrawal that Sportsstuff has undertaken. Sportsstuff has used this noun in recognition that, even though the word does not appear in section 15 of the Consumer Product Safety Act, the Commission prefers to refer to all actions of this nature as "recalls" to assure that such actions get sufficient publicity and attention. Thus, Sportsstuff uses the term in this report and the accompanying materials solely to accommodate the Commission. As is noted above, the use of the term should not be construed to mean that Sportsstuff in any way admits or concedes that the kite tubes are defective or unreasonably dangerous.

Finally, please note that, while the report includes Kite Pro Kite Tubes, Sportsstuff only imported 570 units of this item, 50 of which are still in transit from China to Sportsstuff. Five hundred twenty (520) units have been returned to Sportsstuff from the vendor to whom they were sold. Hence, the informational materials enclosed with the report only reference the Wego Kite Tube.

The following is the information requested by Ms. Topka:

(1) The name, address, telephone and fax number, and title of the person submitting the "full report" information to the Commission.

Michael J. Gidding
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
Suite 242
Washington, D.C. 20016-2756
(202) 237-5267
Fax: (202) 237-5259
E-mail: mjg@brown-gidding.com

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July 14, 2006
Page 3

(2) The name and address of the manufacturer (or importer) of the product and the address of the manufacturing plants for each product brand and series/model manufactured.

Importer:

Sportsstuff, Inc.
11213 E Circle, Suite A
Omaha, NE 68137

Manufacturers:

Kite Pro Model # 53-5000

Yun Fan Plastic Manufactory
Shui Lian Shan, Nan Cheng,
Dong Guan City, Guang Dong Province, China

Kite Pro Model # 53-5010

Zhongshan Pleasure Time Plastic Ind.
Da You Industrial Area, Fu Shan Town
Zhongshan City, Guang Dong, China

(3) An identification and description of the product(s). Give retail prices, brand name, series/model numbers, serial numbers, and date codes, along with the information to decipher the date codes. Describe any identifying marks and their location on the product. Provide a picture or sample of the product.

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube (Model 53-5000)

Suggested Retail Price - \$599.00; Recommended Minimum
Advertised Pricing - \$499.00

Product Description: 10 ft diameter towable watercraft with two PVC inflation chambers, a full nylon cover, a 3-section tow rope with 45, 10, and 10 ft lengths, and a detachable starting leash rope with foam flotation balls.

Sportsstuff Kite Pro (Model #53-5010)

Suggested Retail - \$499.00

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Page 4

Product Description: 10 ft diameter towable watercraft with two inflation chambers, full PVC tarpaulin construction, 1 removable PVC bladder, a 3 section tow rope with 45, 10, and 10 ft lengths, and a detachable starting leash rope with foam flotation balls.

The Wego Kite and Kite Pro Tube model numbers are printed on the insides of the tubes in proximity to the product valve. The warning patches on the covers for the products also reflect the model number. Distinguishing marks include Skull and crossbones on the covers. The covers contain the following: "Never Kite higher than you are willing to fall." The units also feature caution warning stripes. A picture of the Wego Kite Tube is enclosed as Tab 1.

(4) A description of the nature of the defect, failure to comply or risk. If copies of technical drawings, test results, schematics, diagrams, blueprints or other graphic depictions of the product are available, attach copies.

Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous.

(5) The nature of the injury or possible injury associated with the product defect, failure to comply or risk.

While Sportsstuff does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous when used as instructed, it has received reports of serious injuries and deaths during use of the kite tubes.

(6) The manner in which and the date when the information about the defect or risk (e.g., complaints, reported injuries quality control testing) was obtained. If any complaints related to the safety of the product or any allegations or reports of injuries associated with the product have been received, copies of such complaints or reports (or a summary thereof) shall be attached. Give a chronological account of facts or events leading to the report under section 15(b) of the CPSA beginning with receipt of the first information, which ultimately led to the report. Also included may be an analysis of these facts or events.

Sportsstuff has received a total of 43 complaints, including 12 reports that persons have been injured and two reports that people have died while using these kite tubes. Copies of complaints are enclosed as Tab 3. To date, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents,

Marc J. Schoem
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Page 5

although it believes, based on media reports, that many, if not all, of the incidents may be related to the failure of consumers and boat drivers to follow the written and video instructions (Tab 2) that accompany each kite tube.

Sportsstuff first learned of allegations of the occurrence of an injury associated with the use of a kite tube on May 2, 2006. The company became aware of two deaths on May 2 and May 30, 2006 respectively. Sportsstuff received suit papers in *Freeland vs. Sportsstuff*, a wrongful death action, on June 6, 2006. A copy of the complaint is Attachment 7 to Commission Epidemiological Report 060612HCC3582

(7) The total number of products and units involved.

The total number of products distributed to date is 19,204.

(8) The dates when products and units were manufactured, imported, distributed and sold at retail.

Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes were manufactured and sold from approximately October 1, 2005 to the present time.

Kite Pro Kite Tubes were manufactured from May 2005 through June 10, 2005. None have been sold to consumers.

(9) The number of products and units in the possession of each of the following: the manufacturer or importer; private labelers; distributors; retailers; and consumers.

There are presently 7,730 pieces in possession of the Chinese manufacturer, 3,200 on the water and 2,842 in Sportsstuff's inventory.

Sportsstuff has distributed a total of approximately 18,684 Wego Kite Tubes. It does not know how many are in possession of distributors, retailers and consumers.

Sportstuff also distributed 520 Kite Pro Tubes to Sam's Club. Sam's Club, the sole vendor for this item, has returned all 520 products it received. Hence, none of the Kite Pro Tubes are in the hands of distributors, retailers or consumers.

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(10) An explanation of any changes (e.g., designs, adjustments and additional parts, quality control, testing) that have been or will be effected to correct the defect, failure to comply or risk, and of any other steps that have been taken to prevent similar occurrences in the future, together with the timetable for implementing such changes and steps.

Sportsstuff has withdrawn both the Wego Kite Tube and the Kite Pro Tubes from the market. Because of adverse publicity about the products and prohibitions or restrictions on their use in several jurisdictions, it is questionable whether a market for the items will continue to exist.

(11) Information that has been or will be given to purchasers, including consumers about the defect or risk, with a description of how this information has been or will be communicated. Please include copies or drafts of any letters, press releases, warning labels or other written information that has been or will be given to purchasers, including consumers

Enclosed at Tab 4 are the press release and poster announcing Sportsstuff's intention to provide consumers with replacement products of comparable value to the Wego Kite Tubes. Sportsstuff understands that the Commission is considering whether additional notice may be appropriate to adequately alert the public to the availability of this option.

(12) The details of and schedule for any contemplated refund, replacement, or repair actions, including plans for disposing of returned products (e.g., repair, destroy, return to foreign manufacturer.)

On July 7, 2005, Sportsstuff stopped shipment of the products to its customers. On July 12, it notified its customers (Tab 5) to stop sale of the products and to return them to Sportsstuff for a credit. To the extent it is financially able to do so, Sportsstuff intends to offer consumers who contact it with replacement products of comparable value to the Wego Kite Tube.

(13) A detailed explanation and description of the marketing and distribution of the product from the manufacturer (including any importer) to the consumer (e.g., use of sales representatives, independent contractors and/or jobbers; installation of the product, if any, and by whom).

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July 14, 2006
Page 7

Sportsstuff marketed the product through marine distributors, mail order catalogs and various retailers domestic and abroad.

(14) Upon request, the names and addresses of all distributors, retailers and purchasers, including consumers.

Sportsstuff e-mailed the distributor list to Marc Schoem on July 10. Other than a small number of people who submitted warranty cards, Sportsstuff does not know the identities of consumers who purchased the kite tubes. Warranty card submitters will receive direct mail notice of the proposed recall. Also, please note that, while Target is listed as a retailer, it sold a total of 13 kite tubes, all through internet sales and none at retail stores. All 13 customers will receive direct notice from Target.

(15) In addition to providing the information above, please also submit the following information:

(a) Regarding question 6, include copies of all consumer or dealer complaints, including electronic records, warranty claims, and reports of injury related to the product being investigated. Include copies of all court complaints and related documents for lawsuits involving the products and the resolution of those lawsuits.

If copies of consumer complaints and other documents requested above are not available, indicate the reasons they are not available and provide a summary containing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the consumers or of the plaintiffs' attorneys.

See Tabs 3 and 4.

(b) If the company also distributes the product to countries outside the United States, please provide a list of those countries and the number of products shipped to each.

See list enclosed at Tab 6.

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Page 8

(c) Copies of all test reports, analyses, evaluations and premarket tests related to the subject product and problem.

See Tab 7. Please note that the written test results reflect tests on a number of different products and prototypes.

(d) Copies of all engineering drawings, engineering change notices and material specifications related to the subject problem

Sportsstuff does not have formal engineering drawings. It does have handwritten sketches of various inflatable designs, but those sketches have little bearing on the matter that is the subject of this report.

(e) Provide a list of distributors and retailers to whom the firm distributed the product.

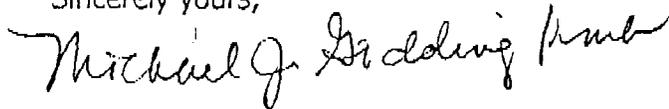
See response to question 14.

(f) Provide the country or origin of the product.

China

Sportsstuff requests that this letter and the information contained in it be withheld from public disclosure under the authorities granted to the CPSC in Section 6 of the CPSA, 15 U.S.C. § 2055; the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. § 1905 and the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b). If any request is made for this information, please notify me immediately.

Sincerely yours,



Michael J. Gidding

Enclosures

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CONTAINS CONFIDENTIAL COMMERCIAL INFORMATION

June 29, 2006

Via Fax (301) 504-0359 and UPS

Tanya Topka
Office of Compliance, Room 613
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

Re: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Tanya:

I am writing in response to your letter faxed on June 19, 2006, requesting further information about the product referenced above. This letter constitutes Target Corporation's obligation to "Substantial Product Hazard Reports, under 16 C.F.R. § 1115. Please note that Target considers the contents of this response letter to be confidential, and we request that CPSC not disclose this letter or its contents pursuant to a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request or otherwise. We also ask to be notified if the CPSC receives a request, under FOIA or otherwise, for disclosure of information related to the referenced matter.

- 1. Include copies of all consumer complaints, including electronic records, warranty claims, and reports of injury related to the product being investigated. Include copies of all court complaints and related documents for lawsuits involving the product and the resolution of those lawsuits.**

Other than the call from CPSC, to date, Target has not received any consumer complaints, warranty claims, or reports of injury related to the Wego Kite Tube.

- 2. Provide the number of units sold by the firm. Provide the number of units in the firm's possession that have not been sold to consumers.**

Target.com has sold 11 units. This is a vendor drop-ship item, therefore Target.com maintains no inventory. The vendor ships the product directly from their facility to the consumer.

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- 3. Provide the dates in which the product was obtained by Target. Provide the dates of distribution to consumers.**

Target.com posted this item for sale on the web site in March 2006. The first unit was purchased on May 14, 2006.

- 4. State if the product is still sold by Target and if Target has any plans to discontinue distribution of the product.**

This item is sold on Target.com and not in Target Stores. SportsStuff has informed Target that at this time, they have no plans to discontinue distribution of this item. However, on June 26, 2006, Target.com removed this item from sale on the web site.

- 5. Provide a list of Target stores currently selling this product. State if the firm is selling this product on their web site.**

This item is sold on Target.com and not in Target Stores.

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Heidi Bahr [Heidi.Bahr@wal-mart.com]
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 3:16 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Kyle Holifield; Taylor Wyand - Legal; Alexandra Ross
Subject: CPSC CA060037, Wego Kite Tube
Attachments: CA060037 Wego Kite Tube.pdf; CA060037 complaint information.pdf

Tanya,
Attached is Wal-Mart's response to your June 23, 2006 request on the Wego Kite Tube, file CA060037.

<<CA060037 Wego Kite Tube.pdf>> <<CA060037 complaint information.pdf>>

The information provided herein is considered to be a trade secret and confidential commercial information. For these reasons, we ask that you treat all of these documents as "confidential".

Heidi Bahr
Product Safety Manager
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
508 SW 8th St maildrop 0505
Bentonville, AR 72716-0505
phone 479-277-0304
fax 479-273-8860
Heidi.Bahr@wal-mart.com

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Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
508 SW 8th Street
Bentonville, AR 72716-0505

Heidi A. Bahr
Direct Line: 479-277-0304

July 7, 2006

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
Recalls and Compliance Division
Office of Compliance
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814-4408

Re: CPSC CA060037
Sportsstuff, Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Ms. Topka:

In response to your letter dated June 23, 2006, Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. ("Wal-Mart") submits the following information on the above-referenced product.

1. *Include copies of all consumers complaints, including electronic records, warranty claims, and reports of injury related to the product being investigated. Include copies of all court complaints and related documents for lawsuits involving the product and the resolution of those lawsuits.*

If copies of consumer complaints and other documents requested above are unavailable, indicate the reason they are unavailable and provide a summary containing the names, addresses and telephone numbers of the consumers or of the plaintiffs' attorneys.

Wal-Mart is aware of one consumer complaint involving this product. On 5/29/2006, Mr. William Davies called 800-WAL-MART, Wal-Mart's customer service hotline, to report his nephew flew the tube 40 feet in the air, it turned on its side, and he fell and hurt his back. Mr. Davies did not specify whether his nephew sought medical treatment.

Wal-Mart reported the above-referenced complaint to the CPSC on 6/13/2006 via Wal-Mart's weekly Initial Report spreadsheet, and the complaint information is attached for your reference.

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2. Provide the number of units sold by the firm. Provide the number of units in the firm's possession that have not been sold to consumers.

As of July 6, 2006, Wal-Mart sold 79 units to consumers and currently has 112 units in its inventory. Listed below is a breakdown of the units sold on www.walmart.com and from three Wal-Mart stores.

Location	Quantity Sold	Quantity in Wal-Mart's Possession
www.walmart.com	75	106
Wal-Mart #5260	1	5
Wal-Mart #0125	2	0
Wal-Mart #5342	1	1
TOTAL	79	112

3. Provide the dates in which the product was obtained by Wal-Mart. Provide the dates of distribution to consumers.

Wal-Mart received the product in early May 2006 and began selling it in May 2006.

4. State if the product is still sold by Wal-Mart and if Wal-Mart has any plans to discontinue distribution of the product.

Wal-Mart removed the product from www.walmart.com on June 24, 2006 and has decided to discontinue selling the product. The product is not sold by Sam's Club.

5. Provide a list of Wal-Mart stores currently selling this product. State if the firm is selling this product on their web site.

Wal-Mart discontinued selling the product on www.walmart.com on June 24, 2006.

Three Wal-Mart stores, listed below, purchased the product directly from the supplier and sold it to consumers. The stores were notified on June 30, 2006 to temporarily remove the merchandise from the sales floor until Wal-Mart could make a determination of whether to continue selling the product. Wal-Mart has decided to discontinue selling the product in its stores.

Wal-Mart #5260
4208 Pleasant Crossing Blvd
Rogers, AR 72758
(479) 621-9769

Wal-Mart #0125
2425 South Zero St
Fort Smith, AR 72901
(479) 646-6382

Wal-Mart #5342
2501 South Avenue B
Yuma, AZ 85364
(928) 317-2776

The information provided herein is considered to be a trade secret and confidential commercial information. For these reasons, we ask that you treat all of these documents as "confidential".

We believe that we have provided you with a complete response to your letter. Should you have any questions concerning the above noted responses, or need any additional information from Wal-Mart, please contact the undersigned. Wal-Mart understands its duty to supplement this report if other responsive materials are discovered. Wal-Mart asserts all claims of confidentiality with respect to this submission and the provided documents.

Sincerely,



Heidi A. Bahr

Enclosure

cc: Taylor Wyand – Wal-Mart
Alexandra Ross – Wal-Mart
Kyle Holifield – Wal-Mart



CA060037
WEGO KITE TUBE
COMPLAINT INFORMATION RECEIVED BY WAL-MART

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Wal-Mart Product Initial Reports
5/27/2006 - 6/2/2006

Source: Product claim, lawsuit, complaint from consumer customer	Co#	Claim#	Date reported to WH	Customer Name	Customer Street	Customer City	Customer St Zip	Customer Phone	Store	Incident Date	Supplier Name	Supplier Contact	Supplier Address	Supplier City	Supplier St	Supplier Zip	Supplier Phone	Product Name/ Description	Location of Product	Purchase Date	UPCs	Model Name /Model #
Complaint Customer	None	180611	5/29/06	William Davies	1000 armvhead ave	Rio Linda	95773 CA	916 991 5340	Unknown	5/29/06	SPORTS STUFF INC	Rick Hull	11213 E. Circle, Suite A	OMAHA	NE	68137	888-814-8833	Mile	Unknown	Unknown	2980900518	120" WATER TUBE SS-5000
<p>Wal-Mart provides a copy of this spread sheet to the CPSC's Office of Compliance and Enforcement. Division of Corrective Actions for the limited purpose of fulfilling any potential reporting responsibilities under the Consumer Product Safety Act. Wal-Mart provides this notice to the CPSC and about whether available information reasonably supports the conclusion that such product fails to comply with consumer product safety rules or standards, contains a defect which could create a substantial hazard, or creates an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death. Wal-Mart neither reaches a conclusion nor makes any admissions as to these issues. Instead, it leaves the issues open for subsequent analysis and conclusions by the CPSC.</p>																						

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WILSON, ELSER, MOSKOWITZ, EDELMAN & DICKER LLP

5847 San Felipe - Suite 2300, Houston, Texas 77057 Tel: (713) 353-2000 Fax: (713) 285-7780

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www.wemed.com

MICHAEL BECKELMAN
DIRECT LINE 713.353.2028
BECKELMANM@WEMED.COM

June 30, 2006

U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission
Office of Compliance
Recalls and Compliance Division
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814

*Via Overnight Courier and E-Mail
TTopka@cpsc.gov*

Attention: Tanya Topka
Compliance Officer

Re: CPSC File No.: CA060037
Sportsstuff, Inc.
Wego Kite Tube
Our File No. : 00085.TBD

Dear Ms. Topka:

Please be advised that this firm has been retained to represent Sportsstuff, Inc. in connection with your to your inquiry regarding the Wego Kite Tube (the "Product") pursuant to section 15(a) of the Consumer Product Safety Act (CPSA), 15 U.S.C. § 2064(a). In that regard, we respectfully request that any further correspondence regarding this inquiry go through this office.

Based upon information and belief, the source of which is discussions with James Koranda, the President of Sportsstuff, Inc., please allow the following to serve as their response to your initial inquiry as per your conversation with Mr. W. Eric Wood of Downing, Alexander & Wood.

The sales figures provided by Sportsstuff, Inc. with regard to the Product show that 19,402 units have been sold to distributors for total sales to distributors in the amount of \$4,402,390.00. To date, there have been 43 complaints received and one known lawsuit filed. In response to your inquiry regarding locations of sale, all sales are made through distributors as Sportsstuff, Inc. does not engage in retail sales of any products. A list of the major distributors of the product to whom Sportsstuff, Inc. has sold this product to is attached hereto as Exhibit A and should be considered confidential pursuant to section 6(a)(3) of the CPSA, as amended 15 U.S.C. §2055(a)(3). Sportsstuff, Inc. does not currently have any plans to cease the distribution of the Product. There have not been

Tonya Topka
CPSC No. CA060037
June 30, 2006
Page 2

any modifications to the design of the product since distribution began and there are two models of the Product that have been produced for distribution. The Product was first sold to distributors on November 23, 2005.

As stated in our earlier conversation, Sportsstuff, Inc. has not yet made a determination as to whether it would like a meeting with representatives of the Commission. However, as agreed, we will advise you of such as soon as such determination has been made. Finally, I would like to thank you for the courtesy of extending the deadline for Sportsstuff, Inc. to respond to the full inquiry from July 5, 2006 to July 17, 2006. If you have any questions with regard to the information set forth herein, please give me a call at your convenience.

Respectfully yours,



Michael Beckelman

MSB

cc: James Koranda
Sportsstuff, Inc.
[Via E-Mail: James@Sportsstuff.com]

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Major Customers

Bart's Water Sports
Bass Pro, L.P.
Bell Industries
Boater's World
Coast Distribution
Den Bol Sport & Recreatie BV
Diversified Marine
Donovan Marine, Inc
Ellett Brothers
J. Osawa & Co., Ltd
Kellogg Marine Supply
Kimpex
Land 'N' Sea Distributing
Lorenz & Jones Marine
Marine Equipment & Supply Co
Medart Marine
Morgan Recreational Supply
Overton's Inc
Resuco USA, Inc.
Retail Concepts Inc - DIP
SkyMall
Southern Marine Supply
Target Stores
V & V Marine
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.
Watermark Trading Australia
WCDI, Inc.

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Beckelman, Michael [Michael.Beckelman@wilsonelser.com]
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 3:50 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: James Koranda
Subject: Sportsstuff, Inc. CPSC File No. CA060037 - Response to Inquiry
Attachments: USCPSC Response.pdf

Please find attached the response of Sportsstuff, Inc. to the Commission's initial inquiry to the Wego Kite Tube. Additionally, pursuant to our earlier telephone call, please confirm by responding to this correspondence that you have afforded Sportsstuff, Inc. an extension of time to respond to the full inquiry such that the response must be received by your office on July 17, 2006. Thank you for your courtesy in this regard.

<<USCPSC Response.pdf>>

Michael Beckelman
Wilson Elser, LLP
5847 San Felipe, Suite 2300
Houston, Texas 77057
713.353.2028 (direct)
713.785.7780 (fax)
Michael.Beckelman@WilsonElser.com

This communication was not intended or written to be used, and it cannot be used by any taxpayer, for the purpose of avoiding tax penalties. (The foregoing legend has been affixed pursuant to U.S. Treasury Regulations governing tax practice.)

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For further information about Wilson, Elser, Moskowitz, Edelman & Dicker LLP, please see our website at www.wilsonelser.com or refer to any of our offices. Thank you.

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DOWNING, ALEXANDER & WOOD

Attorneys at Law

Robert H. Downing
(1897-1979)
David B. Downing
Randall L. Alexander
W. Eric Wood
Carla J. Alexander

PLEASE REPLY TO:
Writer's direct address and phone:
11515 South 39th Street, Suite 300
Bellevue, Nebraska 68123
Voice: (402) 292-1122
Fax: (402) 292-3021
Email: eric@nelawyers.com

OFFICES:

211 West 16th St.
Kearney Nebraska 68848
(308) 236-7979

355 Commercial
Superior Nebraska 68978
(402) 879-3294

June 22, 2006
By Facsimile (301) 504-0359
and US Mail

Ms. Tanya L. Topka
Office of Compliance
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Com.
Room 613
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda MD 20814-4408

RE: CPSC File No. CA060037
Sportsstuff, Inc.
Wego Kite Tube

Dear Ms. Topka:

This firm has represented Sportsstuff, Inc. for a number of years and I have discussed your letter of June 15, 2006 with both Mr. Leroy Peterson and Mr. James Koranda, the two major principles of the Company. It is the Company's position that there are no defects with respect to the Wego Kite Tube and we are not aware of any incidents that suggest that such a defect may exist. The number of complaints and the number of incidences have been very few in number and with the exception of the accident in Texas, none of the injuries appear to be serious. In each case that we are aware of, the incident resulted from a misuse of the Wego Kite Tube and not from any problem with the product itself.

In any event, we understand your agency's obligation to investigate such matters and we are certainly willing to cooperate in that regard. We have reviewed your letter as well as the applicable regulations cited therein and we are in the process of assembling the requested information and documentation. The sample Wego Kite Tube requested in your letter was shipped to you several days ago. Your letter request copies of test reports, analysis, evaluations and pre-market tests related to the Wego Kite Tube. There were probably more than a dozen prototypes made and tested during the development of this product and the testing period itself extended well over a year. As a result, the amount of material you have requested is quite voluminous and needs to be properly organized.

Your letter requested that Sportsstuff, Inc. respond within 10 working days after June 15, 2006. Please consider this letter to be an initial response and we would request an extension to July 21, 2007 (25 working days) to submit the additional requested information. If this is a problem, please let me know

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and perhaps we can submit information incrementally as it is completed. We would prefer to avoid an incremental approach as we believe that the best understanding of the product would come from receiving all of the testing data and related information at the same time.

If anything is required to be submitted immediately or if the requested extension is for some reason not acceptable, please contact me as soon as possible. Your patience with regard to this matter would be appreciated.

Sincerely,



W. Eric Wood

/lw

cc: Sportsstuff, Inc.

11515 South 39th Street
Bellevue, NE 68123
Voice: (402) 292-1122
Fax: (402) 292-3021

**Downing, Alexander
& Wood**

Fax

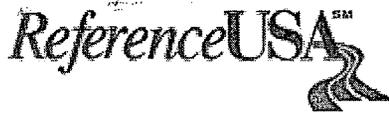
To: Tanya Topka	From:
Fax: U.S. CPSC (301-504-0359)	Fax: (402) 292-3021
Date: June 22, 2006	Voice: (402) 292-1122
Re: Sportsstuff, Inc. CPSC File No. CA060037	CC: Sportsstuff, Inc.

Dear Ms. Topka:

Please see attached letter.

Eric Wood

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⏪ Back

(Revise My Criteria) (New Search)

Detailed Listing

Name:	Sportsstuff Inc	Google News	Map or Driving Directions	Corporate Linkage	
Address:	11213 E Cir # A			Employees:	Corporate Location: 20 to 49
City:	Omaha, NE 68137-1243			Est Sales:	\$20 to \$50 Million
Contact:	Leroy Peterson (Owner)			Location:	Single Loc
County:	Douglas			Headquarters:	None
MSA (Metro Area):	Omaha, NE-IA 68137			Credit Rating Code*:	Excellent
Phone:	(402) 592-9085			IUSA Number:	309716009
Fax**:	(402) 592-1354			Public:	No
Fortune 1000 Ranking:	Not Available			Stock Exchange:	None
Foreign Parent:	No			Ticker Symbol:	Not Available
Toll Free Number:	(888) 814-8833			URL:	SPORTSSTUFF.COM
Home-Based Business:	No			Year Established:	Not Available
Lat/Long:	041220880 / 096086647				

SIC	Lines of Business	Ad Size	Year Appeared in YP
5091-11	Sporting Goods-Wholesale	Regular	1988
3949-23	Sporting & Athletic Goods NEC (Mfrs)		1993

NAICS	Lines of Business
42391039	Sporting Goods Merchant Whols
33992027	Sporting & Athletic Goods Mfg

Public Filing Information

No Data

Name	Title	Gender
Gordon Harting	Finance Executive	Male
Rick Hull	Sales Executive	Male

Map or Driving Directions

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Click on a headline to read entire story

Article/Source	Date
None on File	

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<p align="center">US CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION</p> <p align="center">PRODUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENT REPORT</p> <p align="center">DRAFT</p> <p align="center">FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY</p>		PSA No.	0592.06
		Case No.	CA060037
		Requested By	Tanya L. Topka
		Regional Office	CFIW
		Sample No.	06-302-2486
		CPSC Seal	NONE
		IDI No.	See File
Product:	Water Tube	Firm:	Sportstuff, Inc. Omaha, NE
Request:	Please review the instructional DVD, owner's manual, and warning labels to determine if they are adequate in providing information to the consumer. Please also address, if possible, how likely it is that consumers will watch the instructional DVD prior to using the product.		
Potential Hazard:	Potential death, paralysis, neck and head injuries due to impact		
Prepared by (Name and Title)		Reviewed by (Name and Title)	
Sharon R. White, Engineering Psychologist		Robert B. Ochsman, Ph.D., Director, Division of Human Factors	
Extension	7695		
Date	7/3/06	Date	7/3/06

Background

The subject product is an inflatable 120-in diameter kite tube designed to be towed behind a boat via a tow rope that can extend to 65 feet in length. There are panoramic see-through plastic double windows at the front of the tube. At the back of the tube is a parallel slotting system cockpit for the rider. There are two warning labels, one below the other, on both sides of the cockpit, for a total of four labels. On one side, the labels are directed to the kite tube user and rider. On the other side, one of the labels is generic and accompanies all of the firm's towables, the other label is directed to the boat driver. An instructional DVD and two owner's manuals come with the product.

In kite tubing, the rider kneels or stands in the cockpit of the tube and as the boat and rider reach planning speeds, the kite and rider are lifted from the water into the air with the rider balancing on top.

The Commission is aware of 13 incidents involving this product. There were 14 victims- 12 males, 1 female, 1 sex unknown. Ages were reported for 12 of the 14 victims. The ages for most of the victims ranged from 20 to 36 years. There was one 14- and one 16- year- old. There were 13 injuries and 1 death. Injuries included unconsciousness, chest and back injuries, a punctured lung, broken neck, bleeding spleen, "shocked knee", broken teeth, internal bruising, facial trauma, and other serious injuries.

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DRAFT - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - DRAFT

The speed of the boat, where reported (6 cases), ranged between 20 – 45 mph. Nine of the 13 cases reported the height of the kite and the victim above the water. In eight of the nine cases, the height ranged from 10 to 25 feet. In the remaining case, the height of the kite was 65 feet; in this case, a gust of wind caused the kite to reach this height. The remaining 4 cases did not specify height, however, one of the 4 cases reported that a gust of wind took the kite tube up very fast. Eight of the 13 cases reported that the kite turned, flipped, inverted, or whipped back and forth, causing the victim to be ejected into the water. Two of the eight cases reported that a gust of wind caused the kite to turn or flip. Other fall descriptions included thrown off into the water (1 case), kite tube came down (1 case), and kite tube dived due to boat slowing down (1 case). Two of the remaining cases did not provide a description.

Discussion

Please review the instructional DVD, owner's manual, and warning labels to determine if they are adequate in providing information to the consumer.

The instructional DVD provides approximately a 15 minute explanation of and dynamic presentation on assembling and inflating the product, transporting the tube to the water entry point to attach the tow rope to the tube and boat. Also, it highlights boat driver, spotter, and rider instructions and warnings. Additionally, it demonstrates how the boat driver and spotter should implement their instructions and how the rider should operate the tube for an optimal ride. Conditions of the water and wind, factors that influence the type of ride, are further covered.

The instructional DVD is presented in English. The language used is simple and clear and the demonstrations were helpful. Watching someone model proper behavior or seeing the effects of improper actions can be vivid and memorable. Assuming that the instructions provided are technically accurate, Human Factors (HF) staff believes the instructional DVD is adequate to provide information to the consumer.

The two owner's manuals that come with the product include the "WEGO KITE TUBE OWNER'S MANUAL" and the "TOWABLE OWNER'S MANUAL." The owner's manual in the first case is a six page booklet that is specific to kite tubes. It contains the following sections: Kite tube description, kite tube specification, kite tube assembly and inflation, kite tube care and maintenance, kite tube tether tow rope, kite tube height instruction, rider instructions and warnings, boat driver instruction and warning, submarine effect warning, spotter or observer instruction, and wind speed effect. According to *Instructions for consumer products – Guidelines for better instructions and safety information for consumer products* (Department of Trade and Industry, 1989), instructions typically should have the following: name of the product and manufacturer, table of contents, introduction, safety information, components, handling information, installation or assembly instructions, operating instructions, fault diagnosis, routine servicing and maintenance, professional overhauling and repair, disposal instructions, and an index. Although not every section will be needed in every set of instructions, the subject owner's manual contains most of the sections recommended. Research on instructions also suggest that the page layout be inviting to make the instructions easy to read and there be sufficient "white space" to improve readability. Further, the headings should be short and meaningful and highlighting techniques should be used to emphasize key information (Singer, Balliro, and Lerner, 2003). The subject manual contains these characteristics. However, one of the sections, "submarine effect warning" is written in all-uppercase lettering, presumably for emphasis. Since this is a very lengthy section, users who may read this may find it difficult to read as all-uppercase lettering is difficult to distinguish from one another. Assuming the instructions are technically accurate, HF staff believes that the owner's manual is adequate to inform consumers who would read it.

The owner's manual in the second case is a four-page booklet and is similarly presented. However, it is more generic and is provided with all of the company's towables. Most of the instructions in this manual are covered in the kite tube owner's manual. Therefore, this owner's manual is also adequate to inform the consumer.

The two warning labels on both sides of the cockpit where the rider would be are very conspicuous. On one side, the labels are directed to the kite tube user and rider. On the other side, one of the labels is generic and accompanies all of the firm's towables, the other label is directed to the boat driver. The first label directed to the kite tube user is divided into two parts. The upper half contains the WARNING signal word in white letters preceded and followed by a hazard alert symbol on an orange panel. In the message panel below is a release of liability statement in paragraph format. The lower half consists of water-ski hand signals for the rider to relay his/her status (e.g., I'm ok) to the spotter/boat driver. The second label is directed to the kite tube rider. The label format is identical to the one above it, except that the message panel contains, in list format, 34 rules for the rider to follow. The other side of the cockpit has identically formatted labels, except one label contains 22 general safety rules and the other 40 rules directed to the boat driver.

The label containing the release of liability statement tends to suggest that the message serves to protect the manufacturer rather than the user, and may make it less likely that it will be read by the user. The long length of the message further reduces the likelihood that the message will be read. The three remaining warning labels on the product have too many warnings. Putting too many warnings on a label may discourage the product user from attending to them. If users do attend to them, they may only skim them, reading some while skipping others. Too many messages may further reduce the credibility/believability of the label. A guideline here would be to include the hazards having the highest priority (most likely to occur, most serious consequences, etc). Since all of the warnings on the labels are already replicated in the manuals, reserving the product label for the highest priority messages should not pose a problem. Despite the labels' conspicuousness, HF staff believes that the length of the labels are likely to make the labels inadequate to inform the user.

Please also address, if possible, how likely it is that consumers will watch the instructional DVD prior to using the product.

Kite tubing is a new extreme sport that combines regular tubing with the added dimension of height. Therefore, users of this product (i.e., sports enthusiasts) are not likely to be very familiar with this product. The less familiar users are with a product, the more likely users will search for information on it. Therefore, users are likely to watch the instructional DVD that comes with the product.

HF concerns

- According to the owner's manual and instructional DVD, users are required to balance to minimize movement while airborne. This is not practical. Forces beyond the users control such as a sudden gust of air can elevate the kite higher than desired, causing the user to compensate for the change in height. However, users may overcompensate, causing the product to wobble from side to side and eject the rider. Numerous serious incident reports involving this product posted on various website message boards are illustrative.
- The boat driver has control over the speed, height, and flight of the product. A boat traveling too fast can elevate the kite and rider higher than desired. This may cause an unsuspecting

DRAFT - FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY - DRAFT

rider to bail. If the boat driver slows down too fast to reduce the height of the kite, the kite and rider may crash to water's surface.

- This product requires a spotter to relay the status of the rider to the boat driver. If the spotter is not paying attention to the rider's status (e.g., too high), the boat driver may have no way of knowing that he/she needs to slow down to reduce the height of the kite. This may put the rider at risk of injury.
- The tube is marketed as a tube to achieve flight. The manufacturer recommends that the boat speed should, "Never exceed 20 mph when towing adults or 15 mph with children." Assuming that the numerous comments posted on various message boards are accurate, going 25 mph or more is the only way to achieve flight. This seems to be the danger zone since the injuries collected from the Commission as well as read on website message boards occurs at those speeds. Therefore, it appears that the kite tube would need to be towed at speeds in the danger zone to work as marketed.

Conclusion

The instructional DVD and owners' manuals are adequate to convey information to consumers. However, the warning labels are not adequate as provided. Even if the warning labels were improved, neither they nor the owners' manuals and instructional DVD can be expected to overcome the hazards associated with this product.

References

- Department of Trade and Industry (1989). *Instructions for consumer products – Guidelines for better instructions and safety information for consumer products*. London: Her Majesty's Stationery Office.
- Singer, J. P., Balliro, G. M., & Lerner, N. D. (2003). *Manufacturer's guide to developing consumer product instructions* (T. P. Smith, Ed.). Washington, DC: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Porter, Diane R.
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 10:29 AM
To: Kumagai, Mark E.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: PSA 0626.06 & 0627.06 Water tubes - request for assignment

Importance: High

Attachments: 0627-06.doc; 0626-06.doc



0627-06.doc (58
KB)



0626-06.doc (59
KB)

*Ms. Diane Porter, PSA Coordinator
US. CPSC
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

*phone: 301 424-6421 ext.122
fax: 301 413-7107*

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PRODUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENT (PSA) TECHNICAL EVALUATION REQUEST

Requested by : Tanya L. Topka, (301)504-7594 Org. Code : CRC Field Off : FOWR
 Date Submitted : 7/7/06 Priority : HIGH Case # : CA060037
 Requested Completion Date : 7/20/06

PRODUCT INFORMATION:
 Manufacturer : Sportstuff Inc. City : Omaha State : NE
 Product : Water Tube NEISS Code : 1365

Brand name, model, etc. : Wego Kite Tube
 Sample number : 06-302-2486
 Sample Disposition: Return to Requester Store at Warehouse Other :

IDI Number : Large list contact Tanya for a spreadsheet
EVALUATION REQUESTED: Please examine the kite tube and determine if the design is more unstable than the Manta Ray. Determine how high someone can get with the included tow rope (how far they can fall). Examine the IDIs and determine if they appear to be from the kite tube being unstable.

EPI ASSESSMENT: Dates: From : To : Sort by Mfg.: Yes No
 IDI IPI NEISS Comments NEISS Estimates Death NFIRS

HAZARD : Potential death, paralysis, neck and head injuries due to impact. **HAZARD CODE** : 501

LOCATIONS OF Samples: 613 Files: 613-07

PSA ACTION (FOR PSA COORDINATOR USE ONLY)
 PSA Number :
 Date Processed :
 Date Requested :
 Due Date:

Assigned to
 Organization: :ES
 Technical Off. :

Request Summary:

Comments:

(MSWordRev 2/99 rp/jb/bh)

504

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Friday, July 07, 2006 7:31 AM
To: PSA Coordinator
Subject: HIGH PRIORTIY KITE TUBE ES PSA
Importance: High
Attachments: PSA ES.doc

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

7/7/2006

505

****FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

PRODUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENT (PSA) TECHNICAL EVALUATION REQUEST

PSA ACTION (FOR PSA COORDINATOR USE ONLY)

PSA Number :
Date Processed :

Date Requested :
Due Date :

Field Off :FOWR
Case # :CA060038

Org. Code :CRC
Priority :HIGH

Requested Completion Date : 7/24/06

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Manufacturer :Sevylor Inc. City :Los Alamitos State :CA
Product :Water Tube NEISS Code :1365

Brand name, model, etc. : Sevylor Manta Ray

Sample number 06-302-2487

Sample Disposition: Return to Requester Store at Warehouse Other :

IDI Number None confirmed at this time with Manta Ray see Kite Tube Spreadsheet

EVALUATION REQUESTED: Please examine the Manta Ray tube to determine if the design is more or less stable than the Kite Tube. Determine how high someone can get with the recommended tow rope (how far they can fall). Examine the Kite Tube IDIs and determine why we are not seeing those same types of incidents with the Manta Ray.

EPI ASSESSMENT: Dates: From : To : Sort by Mfg: Yes No

IDI IPI NEISS Comments NEISS Estimates Death NFIRS

HAZARD :Potential fatal, paralysis, neck and head injuries from impact. **HAZARD CODE** :501

LOCATIONS OF Samples: 613

Files: 613-07

(MSWordRev 2/99 rp/jb/bh)

506

****FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY****

PRODUCT SAFETY ASSESSMENT (PSA) TECHNICAL EVALUATION REQUEST

PSA ACTION (FOR PSA COORDINATOR USE ONLY)

PSA Number :

Date Processed :

Date Requested :

Due Date :

Field Off : FOWR

Case # : CA060037

Org. Code : CRC

Priority : b

Requested by : Tanya L. Topka, (301)504-7594

Date Submitted : 6/21/06

Requested Completion Date : 7/5/06 This is a high priority case that requires immediate action.

PRODUCT INFORMATION:

Manufacturer : Sportsstuff Inc.

Product : Water Tube

Brand name, model, etc. : Wego Kit Tube

Sample number : 06-302-2486

Sample Disposition: Return to Requester Store at Warehouse Other :

IDI Number : Numerous IDIs (13 incidents total to date)

EVALUATION REQUESTED: Please review the instructional DVD, owner's manual, and warning labels to determine if they are adequate in providing information to the consumer. Please also address if possible how likely it is that consumers will watch the instructional DVD prior to using the product.

Assigned to :

Organization: :ESHF

Technical Off. :

Request Summary:

Comments:

(MSWordRev 2/99 rp/jb/bh)

EPI ASSESSMENT: Dates: From : To : Sort by Mfg.: Yes No

_IDI _IPI _NEISS Comments _NEISS Estimates _Death _NFIRS

HAZARD : Potential death, paralysis, neck and head injuries due to impact. HAZARD CODE :501

LOCATIONS OF Samples: 613-07 Files: 613-07

508

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Porter, Diane R.
Sent: Thursday, June 22, 2006 12:41 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Stern, Richard L.; Ault, Eric B.
Subject: PSA 0592.096 water tube - confirmation

Attachments: 0592-06.doc



0592-06.doc (59
KB)

*Ms. Diane Porter, PSA Coordinator
US. CPSC
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

*phone: 301 424-6421 ext.122
fax: 301 413-7107*

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Porter, Diane R.
Sent: Wednesday, June 21, 2006 3:42 PM
To: Ochsman, Robert B.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: PSA 0592.06 Water Tube ((RUSH HIGH PRIORITY CASE) - request for assignment

Importance: High

Attachments: 0592-06.doc



0592-06.doc (59
KB)

*Ms. Diane Porter, PSA Coordinator
U.S. CPSC
10901 Darnestown Road
Gaithersburg, MD 20878*

*phone: 301 424-6421 ext.122
fax: 301 413-7107*

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Kerr, Marcia
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 10:00 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Google Alert - Kite tube

See incident alert below.

Marcia Kerr, Product Safety Investigator
 U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
 25422 Trabuco Rd, #105-394
 Lake Forest, CA 92630
 949-829-8249
 775-262-9611 Fax

From: fyafighter27@aol.com [mailto:fyafighter27@aol.com]
Sent: Wed 6/28/2006 7:49 AM
To: mclainc@safety.state.nh.us; Kerr, Marcia
Subject: Fwd: Google Alert - Kite tube

Another incident.

Tim.

-----Original Message-----

From: Google Alerts <googlealerts-noreply@google.com>
To: fyafighter27@aol.com
Sent: Tue, 27 Jun 2006 21:16:10 -0700 (PDT)
Subject: Google Alert - Kite tube

Google Alert for: Kite tube

News from around Wisconsin at 6:58 pm CST

Duluth News Tribune - Duluth, MN, USA

ST. GERMAIN, Wis. - A man was fatally injured in an accident while being towed on an inflatable **tube kite** on Little St. Germain Lake, authorities said. ...

The flight of the Manta Ray

Gizmag - Victoria, Australia

June 27, 2006 Last week we ran a story on the **Kite Tube**, a human-bearing inflatable towable water **kite** and within a week we've been sent another one - the ...

Man dies while dragged by a kite above water

Duluth News Tribune - Duluth, MN, USA

ST. GERMAIN, Wis. - A 42-year-old man was killed while riding on an inflatable **tube kite** above water in Vilas County, authorities said. ...

See all stories on this topic

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Check out AOL.com today. Breaking news, video search, pictures, email and IM. All on demand. Always Free.

6/28/2006

511

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 2:37 PM
To: EVERYONE
Subject: CPSC Newslog 06-116: Tube Kiting, Fireworks, Crib Safety

1. United Press International: Tube Kiting Shown to Be Fatal (6/30/06)
<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060630-114135-3200r>

2. Washingtonpost.com: Tube Kiting Safety Alert (6/30/06)
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thecheckout/2006/06/tube_kiting_safety_alert.html

3. KHON TV (Hawaii): Safety Tips to Enjoy the Fourth of July (/29/06)
<http://khon.com/khon/display.cfm?storyID=14460§ionID=1155>

4. Contra Costa Times: Officials Decry Sales of Fireworks by Nonprofit Groups (6/30/06)
<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/14937685.htm>

5. NBC4 (Washington, DC): Hotel Crib Dangers Investigated
<http://www.nbc4.com/money/9448911/detail.html>



512

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 2:37 PM
To: EVERYONE
Subject: CPSC Newslog 06-116: Tube Kiting, Fireworks, Crib Safety

1. United Press International: Tube Kiting Shown to Be Fatal (6/30/06)
<http://www.upi.com/NewsTrack/view.php?StoryID=20060630-114135-3200r>

2. Washingtonpost.com: Tube Kiting Safety Alert (6/30/06)
http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thecheckout/2006/06/tube_kiting_safety_alert.html

3. KHON TV (Hawaii): Safety Tips to Enjoy the Fourth of July (/29/06)
<http://khon.com/khon/display.cfm?storyID=14460§ionID=1155>

4. Contra Costa Times: Officials Decry Sales of Fireworks by Nonprofit Groups (6/30/06)
<http://www.contracostatimes.com/mld/cctimes/14937685.htm>

5. NBC4 (Washington, DC): Hotel Crib Dangers Investigated
<http://www.nbc4.com/money/9448911/detail.html>



Topka, Tanya L.

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 6:03 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Blasius, Dennis R.; Vece, John R.
Subject: Kite Tube Article ~ Nebraska

<http://www.steadywinds.com/archives/2006/06/09/more-kite-tube-problems/>

Channel 6 WOWT out of Omaha has a story of some kite tube riders that had a close call. I think it's about time that people wise up and realize that this is just not safe and is very unpredictable.

See my other posts on the subject.

- [Kite tube claims life](#)
- [Kite Tube!?](#)

WOWT | Kite Tubing Writes

A fun day of boating on the Missouri River turned frightening for a family and their friends when a new water toy became too much to handle.

Colleen York had a queasy feeling as she watched.

"I'm thinking to myself something is going to happen. He's going way too high," she recalls.

A friend riding a newly purchased water toy called the kite tube made a hard landing.

Colleen says, "We turned around and he was unconscious in the water and we're all freaking out. So his dad jumps in and rescues him. He started coughing. I was glad."

Watching the tape of the episode, Nebraska Medical Center emergency room Dr. Richard Walker said water doesn't guarantee a soft landing."

He says, "If you are jerked around quickly in the air you can injure your neck or your back; your spine."

But Paul Davis of Omaha Marine Center says the kite tube comes with written and video instructions to make it a safe and exciting ride.

He says the instructions are, "very specific to the speed you can go, the rope length to use. If you continue to accelerate, about the 30 mile-per-hour range you increase your chances of getting hurt."

The cockpit of the kite tube also comes with instructions on communicating with the boat with instructions to speed up or slow down.

Dan Wiley is a kite tube rider who doesn't think of himself as a daredevil.

He says, "If you go too fast, yes, it's going to be a dangerous situation but it's a very calm, relaxing, fun ride."

Though the kite tube initially made a splash with her friends, Colleen York says they've since returned it.

"It looks fun," she says. "You might think you have control but one gust of wind and they now know better."

Sports Stuff, the manufacturer, says no other towable, inflatable on the market has such an extensive system of warnings and instruction. Markings on the tube are specifically designed to warn the riders of possible dangers in misusing the tube. It's produced by a company in Omaha that conducted numerous safety tests on Lake Manawa before putting the tube on the market.

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Friday, June 30, 2006 5:07 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: 6/26/06. Man dies after lake accident. St. Germain, WI. KITE TUBE.

Just wanted to pass this article on to you regarding Kite Tubes. The article references CPSC. I included the article and the link.

http://blog.washingtonpost.com/thecheckout/2006/06/tube_kiting_safety_alert.html

Tube Kiting Safety Alert

Just before the holiday weekend, the Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a safety warning about the new but increasingly popular water sport of tube kiting--in which a person flies across water in a large inflatable tube (sometimes 10 feet or more in diameter) that is drawn by a boat traveling between 25 and 35 miles per hour. (You can see how this works by watching some of the videos at YouTube.com--and you have to admit it does look like a lot of fun.)

But the agency says tube kiting is "extremely dangerous." The agency said it knows of at least two deaths associated with tube kiting this year and 12 serious injuries, including a broken neck, punctured lung, broken ribs, broken femur, chest and back injuries and facial injuries.

The CPSC said it is investigating two versions of kite tubes to see if there is a significant product hazard. That's a very unusual admission for the agency which usually doesn't announce its investigations until they are completed. But spokeswoman Julie Vallese said the agency believed that it needed to issue its alert "in advance of the holiday weekend when people are out in water" and may be tempted to use this product.

According to the CPSC, the injuries may occur from the rider's difficulty in controlling the tube, the boat operator's inexperience and the reaction of the tube in certain weather conditions. The agency is particularly concerned about wind gusts that can cause the tube to spin out of control, or sudden slowing or stopping by the boat operator which can cause the tube to nose dive into the water. "In some cases, the sudden stopping of the boat might cause the tube rider to continue past the boat and hit it or other boats or stationary objects, such as a bridge."

While there are warning labels on the products, most of these are for the boat operator. The ones for the riders are more limited, such as: "Only go as high as you're willing to fall."

Tube kites, mostly triangular in shape, were first sold in 2003. In 2005, the Wego Kite Tube--a 10-foot diameter model made by SportsStuff that sells for about \$600--was introduced. Most of the accidents the CPSC is investigating have occurred in the past year.

The tubes have been banned in Glen Canyon National Recreation Area, which includes Lake Powell, where there have been at least four serious injuries.

Michael Beckelman, an attorney for SportsStuff, said the company believes all of its products are safe if they are used responsibly and in accordance with the provided instructions. He said the company declined to comment specifically on the CPSC investigation.

J16

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, June 28, 2006 8:32 AM
To: Grundy, Michelle A.
Subject: RE: 6/26/06. Man dies after lake accident. St. Germain, WI. KITE TUBE.

Thanks so much for all the great articles on this. Since you are such a great searcher can you let me know if you find anything about a fatality in FL. Someone just mentioned another fatality but I can't find it so if you run across it send it my way.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 11:18 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: 6/26/06. Man dies after lake accident. St. Germain, WI. KITE TUBE.

not sure if Dennis passed this on so sorry if this is a duplication.

Michelle

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Tuesday, June 27, 2006 9:03 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Cc: Vece, John R.
Subject: 6/26/06. Man dies after lake accident. St. Germain, WI. KITE TUBE.

Dennis,

Here is a news article regarding a kite tube death on Monday. I know we are looking for these incidents, but because it occurred in the Western Region, I am not completely sure who I send this to. Can you please let me know?

Thanks
Michelle

517

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:57 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Vece, John R.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

<http://www.wowt.com/news/headlines/3006146.html>

Omaha, Nebraska



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Kite Tubing Read The Rules



A fun day of boating on the Missouri River turned frightening for a family and their friends when a new water toy became too much to handle.

Colleen York had a queasy feeling as she watched.

"I'm thinking to myself something is going to happen. He's going way too high," she recalls. □

A friend riding a newly purchased water toy called the kite tube made a hard landing.

Colleen says, "We turned around and he was unconscious in the water and we're all freaking out. So his dad jumps in and rescues him. He started coughing. I was glad."

Watching the tape of the episode, Nebraska Medical Center emergency room Dr. Richard Walker said water doesn't guarantee a soft landing."

He says, "If you are jerked around quickly in the air you can injure your neck or your back; your spine."

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The cockpit of the kite tube also comes with instructions on communicating with the boat with instructions to speed up or slow down.

518

Dan Wiley is a kite tube rider who doesn't think of himself as a daredevil.

He says, "If you go too fast, yes, it's going to be a dangerous situation but it's a very calm, relaxing, fun ride."

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"It looks fun," she says. "You might think you have control but one gust of wind and they now know better."

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From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:19 PM
To: Grundy, Michelle A.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

FYI, we know of four incidents in AZ (National Park Service called me.) Another in Florida, and a fatality in TX. Must be others...

From: Grundy, Michelle A.
Sent: Mon 6/12/2006 1:16 PM
To: Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

Thanks!!!

From: Blasius, Dennis R.
Sent: Monday, June 12, 2006 2:15 PM
To: CFIW - Western Region; CFIE - Eastern Region; Cave, Carol J.; Schwartz, Bruce E.
Cc: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: "Kite Tube" products - Please be on the lookout for incidents!

CPSC has recently received several reports of serious injury involving an inflatable raft/ toy that is pulled behind motor boats. The product is generically called a "kite tube" (a popular manufacturer's brand name.) The product is a nylon covered inflatable raft, designed in various wing-like shapes. Some you lay down on top of; others have seat/ footrest areas. 1-3 people can ride on them. When towed behind a boat quickly enough, the inflatable lifts off the water and hovers like a kite. In theory, the rider would stay close to the water; however, the rider apparently has limited ability to control the raft, and like a kite the flight can be erratic and take the rider very high.

20660330

assigned 6.9.06

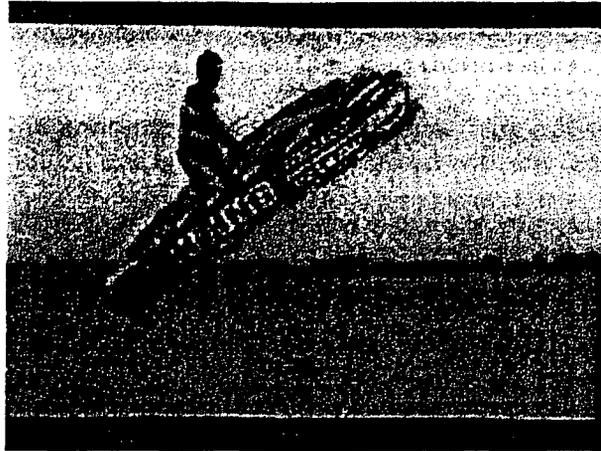
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Game Wardens Say New Extreme Sport Responsible For Man's Death On Water



Sally MacDonald



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(Video of kite tube from www.sportsstuff.com)

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a man who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neches River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Advertisers say buy a kite tube, and you'll reach 'incredible heights.'

Water sports enthusiast Don Burnett says, "As wind gets underneath it, you just start to fly."

Three weeks ago Burnett of Lumberton ordered a kite tube.

Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave danger in its wake. On Sunday 33-year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after falling off a kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Waterway.

Game Warden Robble Smith says, "Common sense is really an

520

oxymoron. People don't use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 feet in the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in the air and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and he died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more control over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all directly associated with the boat driver."

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he hasn't been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a ride on his tube when it arrives.

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the options as far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so they're not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube, 'Never kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, and we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this story contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com.

May 3, 2006 - 6:15PM

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Kite Tube Claims Life

Ads by Google

A link to this story was posted as a comment to an earlier [post](#) I made about the Kite Tube. Based on this story and a number of the comments to the last kite tube [post](#) it's not safe! Please don't take your life into your own hands with one of these. The constantly changing angle-of-attack, combined with weight shifts from the rider and the lack of drag make this an extremely unpredictable "kite".

Background

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[KFDM-TV Channel Six News](#) writes...

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a man who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neches River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

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Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave danger in its wake. On Sunday 33-year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after falling off a kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Waterway.

Game Warden Robbie Smith says, "Common sense is really an oxymoron. People don't use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 feet in the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in the air and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and he died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more control over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all directly

522

associated with the boat driver.”

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he hasn't been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a ride on his tube when it arrives.

Burnett says, “Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the options as far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed.”

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so they're not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube, 'Never kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, and we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this story contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com.

This entry was posted on Thursday, May 4th, 2006 at 11:13 pm and is filed under [In the news](#). You can follow any responses to this entry through the [RSS 2.0](#) feed. You can [leave a response](#), or [trackback](#) from your own site.

One Response to “Kite Tube Claims Life”

1. [Steadywinds.com » Blog Archive » More Kite Tube Problems...](#) Says: June 9th, 2006 at 12:05 pm

[...] Kite tube claims life Kite Tube!? WOWT | Kite Tubing Writes [...]

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Kite Tubing

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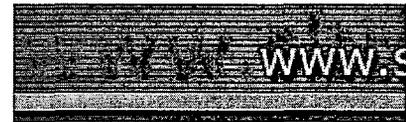
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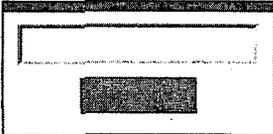


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MONDAY
June 12, 2006

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Two injured on Kite Tubes at Lake Powell

The Salt Lake Tribune

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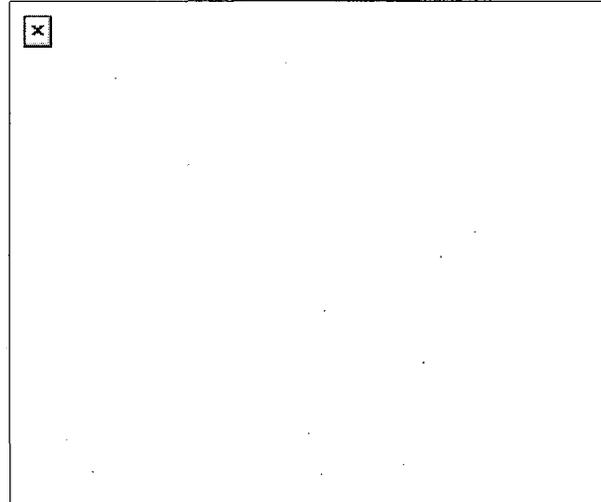
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Two people were treated for injuries they suffered over the weekend while riding Wego Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. It is the first season rangers in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area have seen Kite Tubes, which are saucer-shaped inflated tubes towed by boats going 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the tube as it rises 15 to 60 feet from the water. On Friday afternoon, a 29-year-old man broke his neck when he lost control of a Kite Tube and fell 35 to 40 feet while moving about 35 to 40 mph, according to a news release. He was the third person in his party injured while riding Kite Tubes that day. The others reported minor injuries and were not treated. The following afternoon, a 14-year-old girl lost consciousness when she struck the water after falling 10 to 15 feet while being

towed at 20 to 25 mph, according to the release. The girl suffered no serious injury and was released following examination at a hospital. The accidents marked the third and fourth time people have been treated for injuries suffered while riding Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. On April 7, a man suffered a punctured lung caused by broken ribs. And on May 22, a man suffered chest and back injuries.

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- Justin Hill

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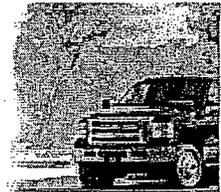
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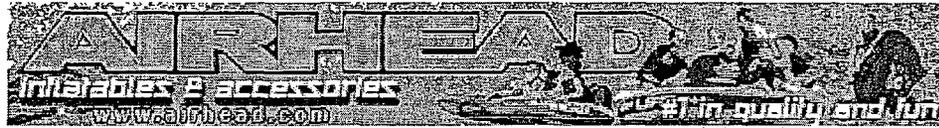
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Author

Topic: Tube Kites

Underwater

Captain
Member # 5191

posted February 15, 2006 12:17 PM

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Has anyone out there used any of these new tube kites? Last week I was at the Angeles boat show and saw a demo of a tube kite. The concept isn't new (Mant but this particular product looked new. The video made this thing look like it re: could fly. I'm assuming it's a little bit harder to control the sales guy selling the led to believe.

It would be great to have some way to demo this before buying it.

Please post any feedback

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

230 Mike

Captain
Member # 5500

posted February 15, 2006 02:07 PM

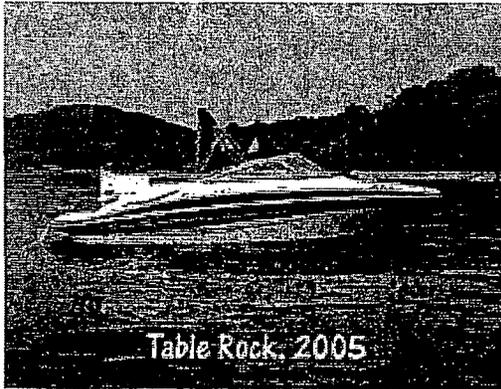
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Trailer Boats Magazine just had a short blurb about this one.

I believe they said it was supposed to take off at as little as 10mph, had all kind padding to make it comfortable, and a clear window so the "pilot" could see do through it. They noted that it isn't quite as heavy as it looks since so much of it hollow. Looks like online prices are around \$430-\$500 plus shipping.

082

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Mike
2005 Four Winns 230/240
VP 5.7GXl DP/320
1998 F-150 XLT

Posts: 388 | From: Kansas City | Registered: Mar 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

Underwater
Captain
Member # 5191

posted February 15, 2006 02:42 PM Edit Post

Yes I read the Trailer Boats article in Feb. Of course the video at the boat show lot more footage to really show what it can do. I was suprised the video even ir some footage of how the tube can be somewhat unstable.

I still would like to hear if anyone has had real time experience on this new tow

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

brucemac
Captain
Member # 5948

posted February 23, 2006 04:53 PM Edit Post

this was posted a while back i think

i'd be interested in it. looks pretty spendy though. i wonder how fast you have i get up and also what the max weight range is. i'm a big guy.

"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

brucemac
Captain
Member # 5948

posted February 24, 2006 12:02 PM Edit Post

bummer, won't work for me

if i remember my conversation correctly with the sportsstuff guy, you need to h like 240HP+ in order to effectively use this and max weight is around 205-210. is 25-30mph! 30mph 10' in the air?! no thanks!!!

"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

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Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)**NoWorries**Captain
Member # 6550 posted February 27, 2006 07:12 AMEdit
Post

I've also wondered just how easy it is to ride that thing. Looks like it would be awesome though! I can't find one specific piece of info on the kite tube: Can you use it as a regular "on the water" tube? If it could be used as a regular tube wh friends don't want to go airborne, I would probably give it a try. But \$500.00 for me and maybe my BIL to ride, I'd be better off with a mable or something. If a you found out this info at a boat show, let me know.

Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional!
Green River Lake

Posts: 41 | From: Liberty, KY | Registered: Sep 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#) posted February 27, 2006 05:54 PMEdit
Post

I watch the video at the boat show. It doesn't really look like it can be used as a regular tube. The video showed a person starting out that had to pull back hard reins to get the front end out of the water to prevent the tube from submarining assuming from that video if you put any weight on the tube like two or three people would nosedive. The video really didn't show anyone trying to use it as a tube, person flying on it. Also the video was little more extended then what you see on Internet or in the magazine. While most of the video showed people flying, it also showed a little of the unstable characteristics of it. That's why I would rather decide before I spend \$500.

One thing that the sales guy said is that the driver really needs to watch every second of what's going on. Of course the driver always has to pay attention, but my assumption from his warning is that once the tube is flying it could crash quickly and end up submerging. This means unlike other tubes the drivers gotta be able to throttle quickly to avoid unnecessary drag if the tube goes underwater, and of course to prevent the rider from drowning.

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#) posted March 17, 2006 07:38 AMEdit
Post

Here's the discription of the manta ray..sounds little more all purpose then the Also doesn't look like it gets as high..which I would consider safer.

cheers,

JJ

"The Manta Ray has an 11' wingspan and specially designed body to allow an average sized body to rise out of the water and hover in the air. Double hull construction, directional skegs, special footrests, an oversized backrest and a 2-position bridle give the rider control over the product. Depending on water and weather conditions, skill and experience of the rider as well as the boat operator, the so-called "flight the Manta Ray" can be extended over a long distance.

Sevylor® absolutely discourages attempting to hover with 2 people.

The Manta Ray is extremely safe and stable at low speed. It is much fun for 2 people or even small children. Product has a special towing provision to prevent hovering. Life jackets and helmets are always recommended. It takes approximately 23 mph

against the wind for an average adult to hover and 28 mph with wind. Obviously is subject to water and wind conditions and the skill of the rider and driver. All makes using the Manta Ray a great adventure and great fun."

04' 185 Stingray

Posts: 67 | From: CT | Registered: May 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

mykidsdaddy
First Mate
Member # 6933

posted April 15, 2006 07:27 PM



Edit Post

Hi! I just watched a brand new video of the Manta Ray...Looks totally AWESOME
www.sevylor.com

check it out! Gonna need to order a big set of juevos along with it! LOL! It has numerous warnings regarding max recommended height to soar. Kinda make wonder...they say "Never soar higher than you are willing to fall". My boys still it. Here's the delima...buy it or don't, If I do and one of them gets hurt does that make me a bad parent???



Andy

1978 22'6" Kona Day Cruiser
350 Chevy 280 Volvo-Penta Out Drive

Posts: 19 | From: Reno, Nevada | Registered: Feb 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Bottomlesspit
Captain
Member # 3700

posted April 16, 2006 12:10 AM



Edit Post

Andy,

That's a tough delima, but easily answered. Not a bad parent at all. You are obviously doing research to help make an informed decision. I have seen people seriously just trying to get into a boat, let alone skiing, knee boarding, wake boarding, fit etc, etc.

Boating just has increased risks compared to sitting at home watching TV. I would definitely make sure that the whole crew studied the info on one of the toys, all has to review the literature, have a sit down meeting and go over the rules...what is allowed, not allowed, speeds, signals.....

Then go out and have fun. Any rule breakers and the thing gets pulled in for the of the day.

Good parent for taking the time to do it right!

They do look exciting, but a bit scary to me. I have done a fair amount of paras and would love to get hold of one of those things! I don't know how it would work behind a regular boat on a regular lake...ours were always military!

Ken

'92 Baja Islander 180
4.3LX

Posts: 357 | From: Del Rio, Tx | Registered: Sep 2003 | IP: Logged | Report Post

tlb6311
First Mate
Member # 7177

posted May 02, 2006 04:47 AM



Edit Post

Good Morning People of Trailer Boats Forum,
I hate to be the bearer of bad news. But this Kite Tube is extremely DANGEROUS past Sunday in Southeast Texas waterway a 33 year old man fell from this thing broke his neck and died. His wife and child were in the boat at the time of the

accident. At first when I saw the guy get the thing airborne I thought it looked cool, until I seen the tube catch a light gust from the side and tipped him off for about 15-20'. I'm guessing his speed was about 30+ mph and he hit the water first. As a 42 year old that has been on the water since I was 12. That is the first I ever saw anything like that. So if you decide to buy one just be aware of the danger's. There is a short article on today's (5-2-06) website of www.kogt.com

Posts: **1** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Chesapeake Bowrider

Captain
Member # 3503

 posted May 02, 2006 05:24 AM



While these things look cool, I have to say that its way too early in the product cycle to be trying them. Let a year or two go by while others test them and see many injuries/fatalities there are, before you risk your own family members. They can be dangerous enough, but this is a whole new level. I figure an adult can make their own decision, but these are not a good idea for kids right now. Too much potential guilt for a parent if things go wrong. I'm surprised the company lawyer actually let these products go to market.

Sea Ray 210 Bowrider

Posts: **53** | From: **Baltimore, MD** | Registered: **Jul 2003** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

 posted May 02, 2006 01:54 PM



yeah, no thanks. look at this video.

watch the whole thing.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3662795352661557160&q=kite>

i had considered one of these, but have since changed my mind. i'll stick to skii wakeboarding and good 'ol tubing old school.

"La Bala de Plata!!!"

2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc

2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: **297** | From: **Seattle** | Registered: **Jun 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

sacd785

Captain
Member # 859

 posted May 02, 2006 05:35 PM



While watching the video I wonder how wide it was that day. Looks like a gust picked up the tube and dumps the rider.

Ouch!

I did talk to Sevlor and they said the Manta Ray is not suppose to fly, just hover wonder what the difference is?

On a side note my boss has an advanced degree in Aeronautical engineering. I showed him both tubes and he said the Manta Ray will be much more stable than the We. That being said, he would not get on either tube to fly or hover.

04 Forumla 280 SS

05 Silverado D/A

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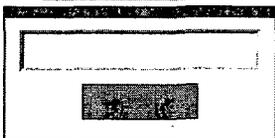
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MONDAY
June 12, 2006

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Two injured on Kite Tubes at Lake Powell

The Salt Lake Tribune

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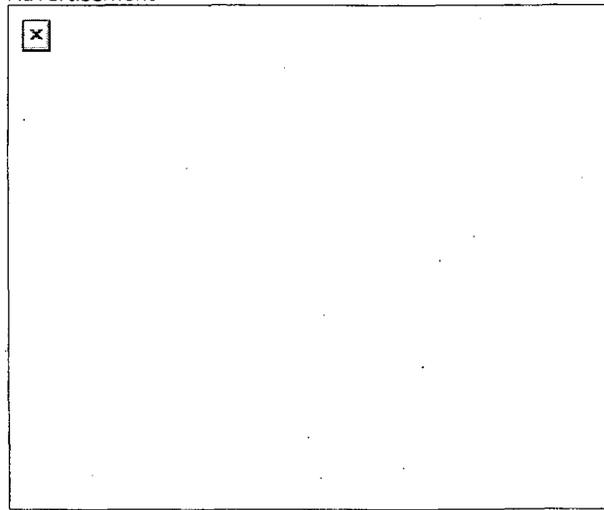
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Two people were treated for injuries they suffered over the weekend while riding Wego Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. It is the first season rangers in the Glen Canyon National Recreation Area have seen Kite Tubes, which are saucer-shaped inflated tubes towed by boats going 20 to 40 mph. The user holds onto the tube as it rises 15 to 60 feet from the water. On Friday afternoon, a 29-year-old man broke his neck when he lost control of a Kite Tube and fell 35 to 40 feet while moving about 35 to 40 mph, according to a news release. He was the third person in his party injured while riding Kite Tubes that day. The others reported minor injuries and were not treated. The following afternoon, a 14-year-old girl lost consciousness when she struck the water after falling 10 to 15 feet while being

towed at 20 to 25 mph, according to the release. The girl suffered no serious injury and was released following examination at a hospital. The accidents marked the third and fourth time people have been treated for injuries suffered while riding Kite Tubes on Lake Powell. On April 7, a man suffered a punctured lung caused by broken ribs. And on May 22, a man suffered chest and back injuries.

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- Justin Hill

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Kite Tubing

Read The Rules



A fun day of boating on the Missouri River turned frightening for a family and their friends when a new water toy became too much to handle.

Colleen York had a queasy feeling as she watched.

"I'm thinking to myself something is going to happen. He's going way too high," she recalls.

A friend riding a newly purchased water toy called the kite tube made a hard landing.

Colleen says, "We turned around and he was unconscious in the water and we're all freaking out. So his dad jumps in and rescues him. He started coughing. I was glad."

Watching the tape of the episode, Nebraska Medical Center emergency room Dr. Richard Walker said water doesn't guarantee a soft landing."

He says, "If you are jerked around quickly in the air you can injure your neck or your back; your spine."

But Paul Davis of Omaha Marine Center says the kite tube comes with written and video instructions to make it a safe and exciting ride.

He says the instructions are, "very specific to the speed you can go, the rope length to use. If you continue to accelerate, about the 30 mile-per-hour range you increase your chances of getting hurt."

The cockpit of the kite tube also comes with instructions on communicating with the boat with instructions to speed up or slow down.

Dan Wiley is a kite tube rider who doesn't think of himself as a daredevil.

He says, "If you go too fast, yes, it's going to be a dangerous situation but it's a very calm, relaxing, fun ride."

Though the kite tube initially made a splash with her friends, Colleen York says they've since returned it.



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527

"It looks fun," she says. "You might think you have control but one gust of wind and they now know better."

Sports Stuff, the manufacturer, says no other towable, inflatable on the market has such an extensive system of warnings and instruction. Markings on the tube are specifically designed to warn the riders of possible dangers in misusing the tube. It's produced by a company in Omaha that conducted numerous safety tests on Lake Manawa before putting the tube on the market.



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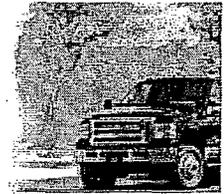
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Author

Topic: Tube Kites

Underwater
Captain
Member # 5191

posted February 15, 2006 12:17 PM



Has anyone out there used any of these new tube kites? Last week I was at the Angeles boat show and saw a demo of a tube kite. The concept isn't new (Mant but this particular product looked new. The video made this thing look like it re: could fly. I'm assuming it's a little bit harder to control the sales guy selling the led to believe.

It would be great to have some way to demo this before buying it.

Please post any feedback

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

230 Mike
Captain
Member # 5500

posted February 15, 2006 02:07 PM

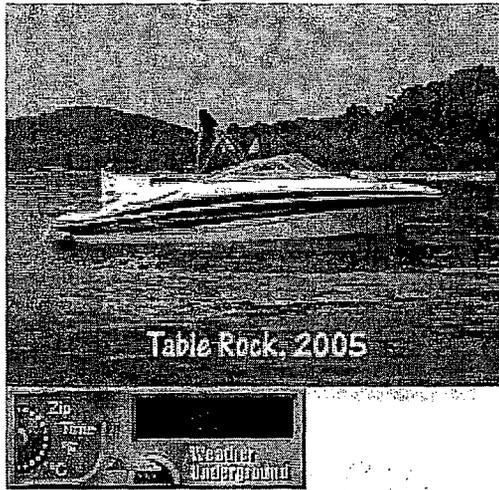


Trailer Boats Magazine just had a short blurb about this one.

I believe they said it was supposed to take off at as little as 10mph, had all kind padding to make it comfortable, and a clear window so the "pilot" could see do through it. They noted that it isn't quite as heavy as it looks since so much of it hollow. Looks like online prices are around \$430-\$500 plus shipping.

522

529



Mike
 2005 Four Winns 230/240
 VP 5.7GX DP/320
 1998 F-150 XLT

Posts: 388 | From: Kansas City | Registered: Mar 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

Underwater
 Captain
 Member # 5191

[posted](#) February 15, 2006 02:42 PM [Reply](#) [Email](#) [Edit Post](#)

Yes I read the Trailer Boats article in Feb. Of course the video at the boat show lot more footage to really show what it can do. I was supriised the video even if some footage of how the tube can be somewhat unstable.

I still would like to hear if anyone has had real time experience on this new tow

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

brucemac
 Captain
 Member # 5948

[posted](#) February 23, 2006 04:53 PM [Reply](#) [Email](#) [Edit Post](#)

this was posted a while back i think

i'd be interested in it. looks pretty spendy though. i wonder how fast you have i get up and also what the max weight range is. i'm a big guy.

 "La Bala de Plata!!!"
 2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
 2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

brucemac
 Captain
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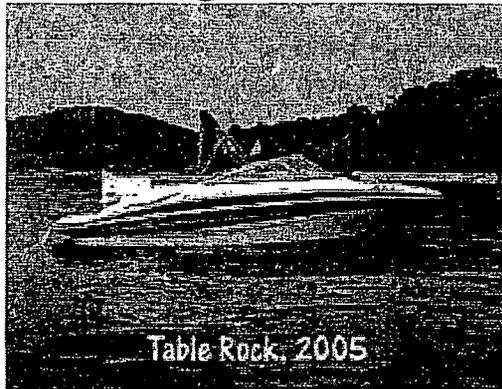
[posted](#) February 24, 2006 12:02 PM [Reply](#) [Email](#) [Edit Post](#)

bummer, won't work for me

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"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

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Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged |  Report Post**NoWorries**Captain
Member # 6550 posted February 27, 2006 07:12 AM

I've also wondered just how easy it is to ride that thing. Looks like it would be awesome though! I can't find one specific piece of info on the kite tube: Can you use it as a regular "on the water" tube? If it could be used as a regular tube wh friends don't want to go airborne, I would probably give it a try. But \$500.00 for me and maybe my BIL to ride, I'd be better off with a mable or something. If a you found out this info at a boat show, let me know.

Growing old is mandatory, growing up is optional!
Green River Lake

Posts: 41 | From: Liberty, KY | Registered: Sep 2005 | IP: Logged |  Report Post**Underwater**Captain
Member # 5191 posted February 27, 2006 05:54 PM

I watch the video at the boat show. It doesn't really look like it can be used as a regular tube. The video showed a person starting out that had to pull back hard reins to get the front end out of the water to prevent the tube from submarining assuming from that video if you put any weight on the tube like two or three people would nosedive. The video really didn't show anyone trying to use it as a tube, person flying on it. Also the video was little more extended then what you see on Internet or in the magazine. While most of the video showed people flying, it also showed a little of the unstable characteristics of it. That's why I would rather decide before I spend \$500.

One thing that the sales guy said is that the driver really needs to watch every second of what's going on. Of course the driver always has to pay attention, but my assumption from his warning is that once the tube is flying it could crash quickly and end up submerging. This means unlike other tubes the drivers gotta be able to throttle quickly to avoid unnecessary drag if the tube goes underwater, and of course to prevent the rider from drowning.

Posts: 54 | From: Modesto, CA | Registered: Jan 2005 | IP: Logged |  Report Post**Javajoe**Captain
Member # 5716 posted March 17, 2006 07:38 AM

Here's the discription of the manta ray..sounds little more all purpose then the Also doesn't look like it gets as high..which I would consider safer.

cheers,

JJ

"The Manta Ray has an 11' wingspan and specially designed body to allow an average sized body to rise out of the water and hover in the air. Double hull construction, directional skegs, special footrests, an oversized backrest and a 2-position bridle give the rider control over the product. Depending on water and weather conditions, skill and experience of the rider as well as the boat operator, the so-called "flight the Manta Ray" can be extended over a long distance.

Sevylor® absolutely discourages attempting to hover with 2 people.

The Manta Ray is extremely safe and stable at low speed. It is much fun for 2 people or even small children. Product has a special towing provision to prevent hovering. Jackets and helmets are always recommended. It takes approximately 23 mph

against the wind for an average adult to hover and 28 mph with wind. Obviously is subject to water and wind conditions and the skill of the rider and driver. All makes using the Manta Ray a great adventure and great fun."

04' 185 Stingray

Posts: 67 | From: CT | Registered: May 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

mykidsdaddy

First Mate
Member # 6933

posted April 15, 2006 07:27 PM Edit Post

Hi! I just watched a brand new video of the Manta Ray...Looks totally AWESOM
www.sevylor.com
check it out! Gonna need to order a big set of juevos along with it!LOL! It has
numerous warnings regarding max reccommended height to soar. Kinda make
wonder...they say "Never soar higher than you are willing to fall". My boys still
it. Here's the delima...buy it or don't, If I do and one of them gets hurt does th
make me a bad parent???

Andy

1978 22'6" Kona Day Cruiser
350 Chevy 280 Volvo-Penta Out Drive

Posts: 19 | From: Reno, Nevada | Registered: Feb 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Bottomlesspit

Captain
Member # 3700

posted April 16, 2006 12:10 AM Edit Post

Andy,
That's a tough delima, but easily answered. Not a bad parent at all. You are ob
doing research to help make an informed decision. I have seen people seriously
just trying to get into a boat, let alone skiing, knee boarding, wake boarding, fi
etc, etc.
Boating just has increased risks compared to sitting at home watching TV.
I would definitely make sure that the whole crew studied the info on one of the
toys, all has to review the literature, have a sit down meeting and go over the
rules...what is allowed, not allowed, speeds, signals.....
Then go out and have fun. Any rule breakers and the thing gets pulled in for th
of the day.
Good parent for taking the time to do it right!
They do look exciting, but a bit scary to me. I have done a fair amount of paras
and would love to get hold of one of those things! I don't know how it would w
behind a regular boat on a regular lake...ours were always military!
Ken

'92 Baja Islander 180
4.3LX

Posts: 357 | From: Del Rio, Tx | Registered: Sep 2003 | IP: Logged | Report Post

tlb6311

First Mate
Member # 7177

posted May 02, 2006 04:47 AM Edit Post

Good Morning People of Trailer Boats Forum,
I hate to be the bearer of bad news. But this Kite Tube is extermely DANGERO
past Sunday in Southeast Texas waterway a 33-year old man fell from this thin
broke his neck and died. His wife and child were in the boat at the time of the

532

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532

accident. At first when I saw the guy get the thing airborne I thought it looked cool, until I seen the tube catch a light gust from the side and tipped him off for about 15-20'. I'm guessing his speed was about 30+ mph and he hit the water first. As a 42 year old that has been on the water since I was 12. That is the first I ever saw anything like that. So if you decide to buy one just be aware of the danger's. There is a short article on today's (5-2-06) website of www.kogt.com

Posts: 1 | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Chesapeake Bowrider
Captain
Member # 3503

 posted May 02, 2006 05:24 AM    Edit Post

While these things look cool, I have to say that its way too early in the product cycle to be trying them. Let a year or two go by while others test them and see many injuries/fatalities there are, before you risk your own family members. Tu can be dangerous enough, but this is a whole new level. I figure an adult can m their own decision, but these are not a good idea for kids right now. Too much potential guilt for a parent if things go wrong. I'm surprised the company lawye actually let these products go to market.

Sea Ray 210 Bowrider

Posts: 53 | From: **Baltimore, MD** | Registered: **Jul 2003** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

brucemac
Captain
Member # 5948

 posted May 02, 2006 01:54 PM    Edit Post

yeah, no thanks. look at this video.

watch the whole thing.

<http://video.google.com/videoplay?docid=3662795352661557160&q=kite>

i had considered one of these, but have since changed my mind. i'll stick to skii wakeboarding and good 'ol tubing old school.

"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: 297 | From: **Seattle** | Registered: **Jun 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

sacd785
Captain
Member # 859

 posted May 02, 2006 05:35 PM    Edit Post

While watching the video I wonder how widy it was that day. Looks like a gust j up the tube and dumps the rider.

Ouch!

I did talk to Sevlor and they said the Manta Ray is not suppose to fly, just hove wonder what the difference is?

On a side note my boss has an advanced degree in Aeronautical engineering. I him both tubes and he said the Mata Ray will be much more stable than the We That being said, he would not get on either tube to fly or hover.

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A

533

04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: 39 | Registered: Apr 2002 | IP: Logged | Report Post

brucemac
Captain
Member # 5948

posted May 02, 2006 07:29 PM Edit Post

yeah, it would be a waste of money for me anyway with my little 4-banger. you some serious pony's to get that baby in the air anyway. it's just not worth the rather stay closer to the water. ☺

"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

etakk7
First Mate
Member # 5852

posted May 03, 2006 10:53 AM Edit Post

Here's another amateur video of people trying out the Sportsstuff Kite Tube for first time. There is a pretty bad fall towards the end that I could easily see break somebody's neck.

http://www.fauxpas.org/modules/xoopsgallery/view_album.php?set_albumName=album44

18' Starcraft w/4.3LX Mercruiser

Posts: 8 | From: Minneapolis, MN | Registered: May 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

brucemac
Captain
Member # 5948

posted May 03, 2006 01:36 PM Edit Post

yeah, is it just me or does that look like it's more fun for the spotter and driver the actual rider!? way too big a risk for me, on both sides of the line. no control, crappy visibility and obviously at the mercy of mother nature. i guess i'm just a wussy.

"La Bala de Plata!!!"
2005 Maxum 1800MX 3.0 Merc
2006 Yukon Denali XL

Posts: 297 | From: Seattle | Registered: Jun 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Brett D.
Captain
Member # 6458

posted May 04, 2006 11:05 PM Edit Post

Won't be long before these are banned on the water by the Coast Guard or even flat out banned by the government.

It's too "accessible" to people and too many will get injured/killed over these things.

2002 Stingray 230SX 496Mag B1
2004 Dodge Ram 1500 "RumbleBee" (And yeah man, It's got a Hemi!)

534

Posts: 446 | From: Wyano, Pennsylvania USA | Registered: Sep 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: 39 | Registered: Apr 2002 | IP: Logged | Report Post

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Member # 5948

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534

Posts: 446 | From: Wyano, Pennsylvania USA | Registered: Sep 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

ModMax

Captain
Member # 5332

posted May 05, 2006 04:53 PM



Amen Brett. This is why I'm holding off. I'm pushing 50 and I'll try anything the being pulled by a boat, but I can see this falling under the same guidelines as parasailing. One would have to figure that Sevylor has a good legal department have ironed things out like this prior to production, but this is too new. Part of r says it's more fun being whipped around the water than trying to hover in a str line anyway. This is why I like Formula 1 over NHRA. And why I like slalom ove barefoot skiing.

Confidence is that feeling you get right before you really mess up big time.

Posts: 256 | From: **Baltimore, OH** | Registered: **Feb 2005** | IP: Logged | Report Post

Cabin Boy

First Mate
Member # 7234

posted May 12, 2006 10:36 PM



<http://www.steadywinds.com/>

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neche River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Advertisers say buy a kite tube, and you'll reach 'incredible heights.'

Water sports enthusiast Don Burnett says, "As wind gets underneath it, you jus to fly."

Three weeks ago Burnett of Lumberton ordered a kite tube.

Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave da its wake. On Sunday 33-year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after fallin kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Wa

Game Warden Robbie Smith says, "Common sense is really an oxymoron. Peop use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in t and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more con over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all c associated with the boat driver."

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he ha been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a his tube when it arrives.

222

535

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the opt far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so t not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com

Posts: 2 | From: **Arizona** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

SBBAMAFAN1

First Mate
Member # 2771

posted May 15, 2006 02:17 PM Edit Post

A friend of mine in Alabama bought one a couple of weeks ago. He called me af first weekend and had a couple of observations. 1st - unbelievably fun. 2nd - at certain attitudes (or with wind gusts) it tends to gain altitude very quickly. Oncr gets too high you have to think about where your towline is tied. Obviously it is the boat (well below it in a sharp angle). Well, when the kite tube gets to that c point (kind of like a slalom skier going as far to the side of the boat as possible) a moment of slack followed by a downward pull(not good) on the front of the tu where you sort of enter a free fall(really not good at all!!!) He said you can mar this by primarily not going too fast. 3rd - there is a matter of stability. It flipped at +/-25' off the water and gave him a really nasty fall.

My friend still thinks its great, it jsut is going to take more practice to master it of like all the other water sports.

Posts: 24 | From: **ROSWELL, GA** | Registered: **Feb 2003** | IP: Logged | Report Post

Mid Lakes Cruiser

First Mate
Member # 7276

posted May 23, 2006 01:24 PM Edit Post

Bummer on the guy in Texas; very sad indeed. But as stated above, all of the t the water are "use at your own risk". Seems to me though that anything you si lie on top of that is to fly up with the control being on the boat driver is ridiculo control can't/shouldn't be with the driver, but with the rider. It's not like the dri rider have a walkie talkie connection!??? Plus, the rider has nothing on his feet with if he falls. Just stupid to ride on top of the a flying kite. However, I'm still interested in teh Manta Ray, which appears more stable and is designed to not high. I just, in the end, don't like that you have to drive 30 m.p.h., or have strc headwinds, to get these things to work. That's just a recipe for an accident no r what the product. If things were at a slower speed, say below 22 or so, then it's lot different story. For example, falling from 15' happens ALL THE TIME in wakeboarding as people pop this kind of air (espeically on a double-up). And wi wakeboarding, people come crashign back down to earth. The difference here is with wakeboarding they are going only 16-20 m.p.h., not 30!. People traveling fast are simply not meant to be flying, unless they're in an airplane. Keep it 20 and under boys, and you'll be allright.

Posts: 1 | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

STIHLBOLTS

Captain
Member # 3367

posted May 23, 2006 04:46 PM Edit Post

Man's quest for flight started with Icarus who glued feathers to his arms and jumper cliff. Legend said he flew to close to the sun and his feathers fell off because the glue melted. Personally I don't think he made it that far. But it was the first ever recorde glider flight. To bad there was not enough left to scrape up after wards.

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the opt far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so t not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com

Posts: 2 | From: Arizona | Registered: May 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

SBBAMAFAN1
First Mate
Member # 2771

posted May 15, 2006 02:17 PM Edit Post

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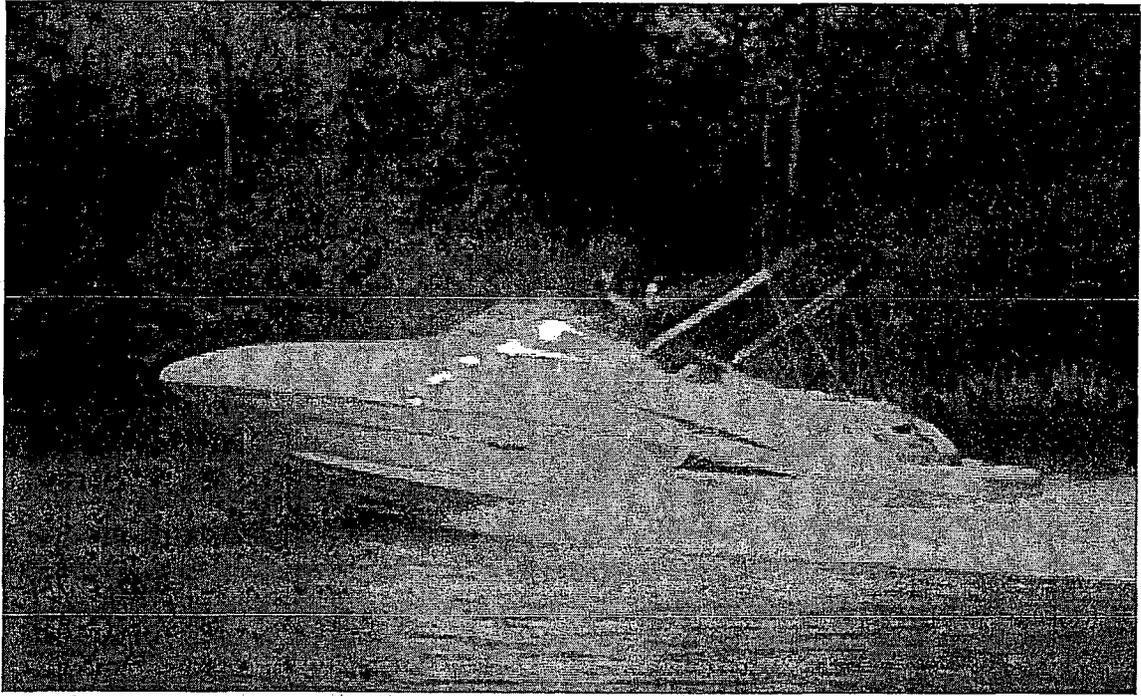
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536

But it sure looks fun! 



Posts: **135** | From: **Thomasville Georgia** | Registered: **Jun 2003** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Beech400IP

Captain
Member # 6578

 posted May 23, 2006 06:11 PM    Edit Post

That google vid certainly changed my mind about kite tubes. At least the sports design. I had that video sent to me by chain-email from someone who doesn't do watersports last week. With that kind of publicity, I'm betting it won't be long until they come up with a much more stable (and expensive) design. I like my vertel and rib cage intact so I probably won't be getting one now!

Posts: **40** | From: **Mississippi** | Registered: **Oct 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Qfsurf

First Mate
Member # 7321

 posted May 31, 2006 11:58 AM    Edit Post

Yea... Kites tubes are a blast! But the sudden gust of wind SUCKS!!! When the attached on the white setting it can reach 30ft real quick and its not very stable height as I found falling back down 30ft.... Got a pretty nasty concussion, cant awaiting to get an MRI on my knee... This sucks I feel like I have been hit by a

Posts: **1** | From: **Orlando** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Puddle Pirate

Captain
Member # 4192

 posted May 31, 2006 12:43 PM    Edit Post

It's pretty clear that these things work on the downward deflection of air as opposed to generating lift like a wing does. As the tube rises, its velocity decreases since angle of the towline pulls the front downward. It then stalls, and drops like a stone throwing the rider.

With the right angle and weight distribution, these things could conceivably drag a rider TOWARD the boat, possibly throwing the rider into it...THAT'S when you wish these things banned.

382

537

2000 Maxum 1900 SR2
1997 Ford Explorer V8 AWD

Posts: 584 | From: Eastern PA | Registered: Mar 2004 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

toddb
First Mate
Member # 7352

posted June 05, 2006 07:47 AM Edit Post

I rode the kite tube with no problems, but I was witness to what can very easily happen, even to an experienced water sports enthusiast. Shortly following my crew of us pulled my unconscious brother-in-law Tim from the water, after cras from 10 feet at 30 miles an hour, and bouncing off the tube. He landed face do the water, and some bystanders say it was at least 1 minute before we could g him. Tim is fine now, after spewing seawater for half an hour, and then spendir night in the hospital. This is a new product on the market, and by no means is i so if you know of anyone who has one, or is thinking of buying one, ask them t twice. If it can happen to stuntman Tim, it can happen to anyone!

Todd

Posts: 1 | Registered: Jun 2006 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

gkm
First Mate
Member # 7357

posted June 05, 2006 12:54 PM Edit Post

I purchased a similar tube last year, the Manta Ray. My son has become an exp riding this Manta Ray, but it is still dangerous and my wife is not happy about h continued riding. Last week I purchased the WEGO Kite Tube and following a re from a friend that watched his buddy fall from about 15 feet last week I am ser the tube back. Everything I have read about this new tube scares the heck out I certainly don't want to be the cause of one of my children or friends being permanently injured or killed as a result of a few minutes of joy riding behind tl boat. They are too unpredictable and the rider doesn't have control, the driver d This is more risk than I am willing to assume.

Posts: 1 | From: Salt Lake City, Utah | Registered: Jun 2006 | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

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UBB.classic™ 6.3.1.1

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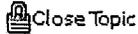
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Author

Topic: Manta Ray vs Tube Kite

Barefoot

First Mate
Member # 7126

posted April 22, 2006 08:44 AM



I am looking to buy one of the new flying tubes either the Sevylor Manta Ray or the Wego Tube Kite. I would like to know what the pros & cons are between the two. Any input would be welcomed.

Ross

Posts: **5** | From: **California** | Registered: **Apr 2006** | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

sacd785

Captain
Member # 859

posted April 22, 2006 03:09 PM



Great post, I would like to add, will either of these tubes get air if you have a low tow point?

A few people have commented that the Manta Ray can trap your foot and cause some injury, is that true?

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A
04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: **39** | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged | [Report Post](#)

Joe From

Mass
Captain
Member # 6658

posted April 26, 2006 10:33 AM



I have been looking also. There are some on EBay with links to video's of both in use.

I wasn't impressed with the Manta's performance based on the video, I am wondering if the video I saw is the same one mentioned in the other posting, but it barely got off the water.

One thing I liked about Wego Kit is the clear window, so the user can see

539

the boat and water easier.

Either one is a big money layout if they don't perform as promised. If anyone owns either, please share your thoughts.

1993 Wellcraft Eclise 216 5.7L

Posts: **97** | From: **Massachusetts** | Registered: **Nov 2005** | IP: Logged | Report Post

Barefoot

First Mate
Member # 7126

posted April 26, 2006 02:07 PM



Edit Post

Well I couldn't wait any longer to make the choice because were going to Lake Mohave NV. in a couple of weeks. So after talking with John at www.utahwatertoys.com who has tried both it was a toss up. He said the Manta Ray was a little more stable than the Wego Kite but the kite was a little easier to get air on and a bit more extreme was the words he used. I decided to go with the Manta Ray for the fact it seems to be a litte more kid friendly for non-flying towing. Their pricing was very good and they were willing to negotiate. John was happy to answer questions and great to work with. I'll post our experience with the Manta when we get back from Lake Mohave.

Ross

Posts: **5** | From: **California** | Registered: **Apr 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

sacd785

Captain
Member # 859

posted April 28, 2006 04:38 PM



Edit Post

Barefoot,

Please let us know how you liked the tube.

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A
04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: **39** | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged | Report Post

Ratfish

Captain
Member # 4303

posted April 30, 2006 09:42 PM



Edit Post

Picked up a Kite Tube at a boat show this past March. Probably will not use it till this June. I'll post my experience as soon as I try it out.

Posts: **64** | From: **New Jersey** | Registered: **Apr 2004** | IP: Logged | Report Post

kcsteve

Captain
Member # 5192

posted May 15, 2006 02:13 PM



Edit Post

Got a Manta Ray and took it out last weekend for the first time. First impression this thing is huge and has several chambers to air up glad I have a 12v pump I don't think a rechargable could have done it.

First run - I could really feel the tube behind the boat. It took longer than I expected to get up to flying speed which seemed to be 30+ mph. Once in the air it seemed to fold up causing rider (my SIL the test pilot) to crash hard resulting in a couple of minor bruised ribs.

Second run - added more air and tube was much more stable. Still need to

540

excede 30 mph to achieve flight

Several more runs all about the same as second run. The greatest height we achieved was with the tail end about 3 ft out of the water. The rider felt like he was much higher. All runs were done with the rope attaced to the transon D ring I have a tower but not sure I want to hook up this big of a tube.

Overall- A pain to inflate and deflate SIL said the ride was great. I'm sure I will try it but I figure my 50 yr old butt will pay the price ☹

2005 Rinker R2

Posts: 98 | From: **kansas city** | Registered: **Jan 2005** | IP: Logged | Report Post

sacd785
Captain
Member # 859

posted May 15, 2006 05:49 PM Edit Post

KcSteve,

Thanks for the report. Did you try the tube w/o trying to fly? It looks like the tube can be used as a normal two person tube.

Do you think that you will get higher in the air with the tube as you have more time with it?

Thanks.

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A
04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: 39 | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged | Report Post

kcsteve
Captain
Member # 5192

posted May 16, 2006 06:34 AM Edit Post

Didn't get to try it as a regular tube but I will. I suspect that is how it will get used most often. Not sure we will be able to obtain greater height without having a higher tow point. What I think we will be able to gain is longer air time Which is okay me.
When you fall off you actually land on the wing and get dragged until it spits you out the back My SIL found the easiest way was to try and lay on your back as you come off.
The difficult part for the driver is that you are unable to see the rider once the tube is airborne or as they are falling off.
What I felt was safest was to shut it down as soon as the tube tipped to one side. This seemed to help soften the landing.
This tube is not for the faint of heart

2005 Rinker R2

Posts: 98 | From: **kansas city** | Registered: **Jan 2005** | IP: Logged | Report Post

kcsteve
Captain
Member # 5192

posted May 16, 2006 06:37 AM Edit Post

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541

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 2005 Rinker R2

Posts: **98** | From: **kansas city** | Registered: **Jan 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

sacd785

Captain

Member # 859

 posted May 16, 2006 05:19 PM



 Edit Post

Thanks.

This tube is on my list however I would like to get some more air. Do you think a longer tow rope would make the tube go higher?

30+ sounds like a lot of speed to get the tube off of the water. Does more speed equal a higher ride?

 04 Forumla 280 SS
 05 Silverado D/A
 04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: **39** | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

morfoot

First Mate

Member # 4126

 posted May 17, 2006 07:19 AM



 Edit Post

Hey all, I'm a PlanetNautique website member and this topic has come under alot of discussion. The following post was on the message boards so BUYER BEWARE. I think I will avoid a kit tube!!!

Here's a post I saw on the "Hydrofoil List":

"Going back about 8 weeks ago i watched this boat towing a Manta Ray in front of our shack.He took of flat out and then the manta ray took of and flew about 30 feet straight up and spat the bloke of big time.He hurt himself and got back into the boat.His mate then jumped on it and of they went.Flat out again spitting the second guy off hurting him as well.Well to top all this of a young girl about 15 years old jumped on it for a ride.I thought to my self this idiot better slow down for her,not.Again flat out,the manta ray shot up to about 35 to 40 feet,rolled over and spat her out.She hit the water so hard and was knocked unconscious,floating face down.It took about 30 seconds for the boat to return.They pulled her out and she came too.They then slowly motored back to the boat ramp and called an ambulance to take her to hospital.This all happened in a 1/4 mile. Stupid driver ,and dangerous toy"

 If you can't do it in, on, or behind a Nautique; It just ain't worth doin!

Posts: **13** | From: **Atlanta** | Registered: **Mar 2004** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

542

morfootFirst Mate
Member # 4126

posted May 17, 2006 07:21 AM



Here is another story out of Texas and the link at the bottom of the page.

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department tonight is investigating the death of a man who fell off something called a kite tube and landed in the water near the Neches River and the Intracoastal Waterway.

Advertisers say buy a kite tube, and you'll reach 'incredible heights.'

Water sports enthusiast Don Burnett says, "As wind gets underneath it, you just start to fly."

Three weeks ago Burnett of Lumberton ordered a kite tube.

Burnett says, "Adrenaline water sport we enjoy doing."

But as Texas Parks and Wildlife knows first hand, the thrill of flight can leave danger in its wake. On Sunday 33-year-old James Freeland of Orangefield died after falling off a kite tube near Stutes Island where the Neches River meets the Intracoastal Waterway.

Game Warden Robbie Smith says, "Common sense is really an oxymoron. People don't use it that often. They don't think before."

According to another game warden's preliminary report, Freeland was about 15 feet in the air on the tube. Several witnesses say the kite tube turned onto its side in the air and then fell to the water. Freeland was knocked off. His neck was injured, and he died at a hospital.

Smith says, "It sounds like it was just an accident. As far as being able to put responsibility on somebody, I don't know you can."

An instructional video on sportsstuff.com says the boat driver has far more control over the rider than in other water sports.

The announcer on the video says, "The speed, height and flight control are all directly associated with the boat driver."

Parks and Wildlife says there is no evidence the driver was impaired, and he hasn't been cited. But the accident has caused Burnett to rethink whether he'll take a ride on his tube when it arrives.

Burnett says, "Certainly something I'll look into and evaluate and weigh the options as far as fun and the risk of getting hurt or harmed."

Game wardens admit they don't know much about this new extreme sport, so they're not suggesting you avoid it. But they agree with the words printed on this tube, 'Never kite higher than you're willing to fall.'

Freeland will be laid to rest on Thursday. KFDM News checked with local stores, and we couldn't find any that sell kite tubes. For comments or questions about this story contact Sally MacDonald at 895-4662 or sallymac@kfdm.com.

<http://www.kfdm1.com/engine.pl?station=kfdm&id=14598&template=breakoutlocal.html>

543

 If you can't do it in, on, or behind a Nautique; It just ain't worth doin!

Posts: **13** | From: **Atlanta** | Registered: **Mar 2004** | IP: Logged | Report Post

Barefoot

First Mate

Member # 7126

posted May 17, 2006 06:02 PM



Edit Post

Ok this was our experience with the Manta Ray. 1.Had a blast, both adults and kids. 2.The driver is in complete control and is paramount to a safe ride. 3.You need to have someone spotting forward due to the driver has little time to watch were he's going and watch the tube and rider. 4.Make your runs into the wind this will help keep your ground speed to a minimum and airspeed up. 5. Make your runs straight and try keep the tube in the wake. 6.Keep it fully inflated. We aired ours up about 3 times a day. This helps the wing create lift at a lower speed. Lower is better when falling off and you will fall off when rigged for flying.

I never went any faster than about 28mph into the wind and didn't let the Ray get any higher than about 2-3 feet. When rigged for the kids, tow rope through D-ring and strap, it was much like a regular towable but if you go fast enough it still gets a little air under it but remains nose level. The over all rating from our group of 10 adults and 10 kids was two thumbs way up. With that said someone could really get hurt if the driver is not keeping it in control the rider is just along for the ride.

Ross

Posts: **5** | From: **California** | Registered: **Apr 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

sr_boatalot

First Mate

Member # 7264

posted May 19, 2006 11:05 AM



Edit Post

Let me tell you about my nightmare with the Wego Tube Kite. I purchased one of these units from Overtons about a month ago and couldn't wait to get it into the water. I must have watched the included instructional DVD video almost a dozen times waiting for the weather to break so I could get someone up on this monster. Well let me tell you it was more than I expected, especially after my 5.0L Mercury blew up from the immense drag this 11 foot tube put on the boat. Now I have a 2005 190 LS Crownline that can pull its fair share, but this tube is way big. On top of it all, I have to pick up the total costs of repairs to my engine, because pulling an inner tube of this size voided my warrantee. I have been back and forth with Crownline and Mercury. BTW- I was able to get the tube up in the air a few times, but it was a lack-luster event.

Posts: **1** | From: **WI** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

mrboatalot

First Mate

Member # 7265

posted May 19, 2006 01:29 PM



Edit Post

I also worried about the continued use of the Tube Kite. It had a tendency to overheat my 18 foot Tahoe that is well equipped with a 5L Mercury w/Bravo-drive. I got tired of the boat constantly shutting down, so I have quit pulling it. In addition, I found that I was too preoccupied with keeping an eye on the tube and passenger that I needed someone to keep an eye out for me so that I wouldn't run the boat into someone. And lets not go into how many fights it caused between the wife and myself...

Posts: **1** | From: **WI** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

kcsteve

Captain

Member # 5192

posted May 19, 2006 01:36 PM



Edit Post

544

Wow! CL and Merc refusing to honor a warranty just because you pulled a tube. I know these thing are heavy but I see people pulling 2 or 3 tubes all the time and I wouldn't think a kite tube would put much more strain on the motor than that.

I also think that 2 to 3ft high in the air is plenty high enough. Falling from 10+ ft is just too dangerous

2005 Rinker R2

Posts: **98** | From: **kansas city** | Registered: **Jan 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

kcsteve

Captain

Member # 5192

 posted May 19, 2006 01:41 PM



 Edit Post

MR and SR are you guys related you are both from Wisconsin and both boatalot? Hmmmmm

2005 Rinker R2

Posts: **98** | From: **kansas city** | Registered: **Jan 2005** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Barefoot

First Mate

Member # 7126

 posted May 19, 2006 04:27 PM



 Edit Post

My 1999 Four Winns 200 Horizon with 5.0L had no problem at all pulling the Manta Ray. Haven't tried the Kite Tube.

Ross

Posts: **5** | From: **California** | Registered: **Apr 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

CWright

First Mate

Member # 7304

 posted May 28, 2006 06:43 PM



 Edit Post

Bought the Manta Ray just before the Memorial Day holiday weekend based on what I saw on the Sevylor website. Here's the feedback from our first day out.

The thing is huge. You need a high output inflator/deflator to even think about pumping it up--and even then you really need a hand pump to top it off at the end. I did a test fill at home and it took about ten minutes to air the thing up on the ground. Out on the water it took more than twice that long as it's very awkward. We have a relatively small boat ('94 Four Winns Horizon 190) and there is nowhere to stow the thing. It weighs 45 pounds and even folded up takes up about 18"x18"x30". For our first day, we relied on a 12v inflator/deflator and I'm not sure we really got it pumped up enough.

That said, we were all eager to get it out and see how it would fly. The first attempt was me (I weigh about 190). It was very clear from the start that the driver is MOST IMPORTANT to a safe ride. Overall I felt it was very stable in the water and it felt very predicable. We really didn't have good water or heavy winds to help but it did act like it wanted to fly. For the first try though, the most it would do was glide along nose high with the tail dragging the water--and that was at 30mph. It felt like I was higher though because with the nose in the air, it's hard to see.

The rest of the adults in the boat all tried with pretty much the same result. It is fun to ride though, even when you're riding it like a normal tube.

SVS

Later in the day, we let my son ride it, who's 9--hooked up through the d-ring so it wouldn't fly. Apparently my son wasn't aware it wasn't supposed to fly. At around 25 it lifted out of the water and glided along fairly well. As I mentioned before, you find out quick that the driver is EXTREMELY IMPORTANT to the safety of the rider. If you come out of power as soon as it starts to roll off it will right itself everytime. It takes a lot of concentration to pay attention to the rider and keep from hitting anything. My son got a huge kick out of being the only one in the boat to make it fly--probably because of his weight.

Riding it again later in the day I found that when it rolls out to the side to toss you, if you just hang on--the wings kinda fold up around you until the boat slows and it rights itself again--that is of course assuming you're not too high in the air. Felt a lot better than letting go into the chop at 30 mph.

We're towing low from the stern ring and I'm wondering if a high mount tow would make it easier to get more air.

At the end of the day, it was a HUGE pain to put the thing away. It was pointless to even try to fold the thing up tight right away until all the water worked it's way out.

Even with the headaches, I'm very anxious to try again in better conditions. I tried inflating it at home with my 18v cordless shop vac and it really punched it up good, and in half the time. Hopefully that will make things a little easier and might make it fly better.

Will post again soon and let you know if things improve.

Posts: **1** | From: **Indianapolis, Indiana** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Bottomlesspit

 posted May 28, 2006 10:58 PM



 Edit Post

Captain
Member # 3700

CWright,

Welcome to the forums! That was a very nice, detailed report describing your first day out with the Manta Ray. Glad to hear you liked it. I agree, it looks huge and would definitely swamp a smaller boat. I have an 18' and could only imagine trying to manuever that best around inside the boat. I guess where there's a will there's a way, huh?!

Keep us informed, and be safe out there. Glad to have you around.

Ken

'92 Baja Islander 180
4.3LX

Posts: **357** | From: **Del Rio, Tx** | Registered: **Sep 2003** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Fordtruckman05

 posted May 30, 2006 07:38 AM



 Edit Post

First Mate
Member # 7310

you guys are really negative about this thing!
its awesome!

my little 12 yr old 85 lb brother got 30 ft of air!

it is so easy to inflate it with a gas powered air compressor! i could even sell you a compressor if you really want me to!

you just point er at the wind and fly!

and for those of you who are afraid of going 30 mph 10 ft in the air,

546

than you are girlier than my little brother and you just don't belong on any tube, because ive gone higher than that on a non flying tube! there is nothing scary about this tube and my little brother cant get enough of it!
 this tube is so fun and we have had so many people staring and even people honk at us!
 its such a blast to fly!
 but for those who don't already have one the have didcontinued making them, so good luck finding one!

Posts: 1 | From: **Wichita, Kansas** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

smccoy1
 First Mate
 Member # 7317

posted May 30, 2006 11:24 PM Edit Post

I am new to these boards, and Actually was just looking for some video of the KitTube. But I felt like I needed to give my experience of the Kitetube. To start, I loved it. It took a lil bit to get the right technique down, but once i did, i was hovering comfortably at 15 -25 feet in the air. However, as caution, I would definately wait to use until there is a consistent to little wind. As when I went on saturday there were gusts. One gust took me more than 25 feet in the air causing me to lose control and fall from 15 feet. *I bruised/broke a couple ribs, but that was because I had taken my hands off the grips, and therefor had no control over the kite.*

Definately havea good driver, as you need to be aware of the rider losing control. Slow down if you see it start to happen. If you keep your hands on the grips you can control it, but try not to move when you're up. The tube is definately an exhilarating experience. But for those of you who want to see it in action, I saw two clips on YOUTUBE, One of a controlled rider, and another of someone who lost control, and in my opinion got lucky.

Otherwise HAVE FUN... it is an awesome adrenaline rush.

CONTROLLED VIDEO:<http://youtube.com/watch?v=4L5WSZyxJ9c&search=kite%20tube>

CRASH VIDEO:<http://youtube.com/watch?v=WquVtOnkI1U&search=kite%20tube>

It also looks like the crash video they are using the beginners length (on the tow rope) which is probably not wise to use if you are going that fast, it will end up pulling you down.

Posts: 3 | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

keithstermcgraw
 First Mate
 Member # 7333

posted June 02, 2006 10:06 AM Edit Post

FordTruckMan05, Why do you say that the Manta Ray or the Wego Kite Tube has been discontinued? Neither has been discontinued.

Posts: 1 | Registered: **Jun 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

smccoy1
 First Mate
 Member # 7317

posted June 03, 2006 05:00 PM Edit Post

AS far as I know none has been discontinued, you can still buy them... However, many lakes are beginning to ban them from their waters, due to serious spinal injuries and 2 fatalities that I have heard of

Posts: 3 | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged | Report Post

5417

Michael P.
First Mate
Member # 7272

posted June 03, 2006 06:39 PM    Edit Post

Tube kites in their original form are dangerous. I have seen multiple postings where someone was injured. I have also seen many videos as well. I purchased one from mail order and have used it several times. The first time I used it, I saw room for improvement. I visited the canvas shop and had loops attached on the far left and far right of the tube. Then we used two ropes instead of one attaching each rope to port and starboard side of the boat. You need to verify strength of the cleats. There is no way you will ever get out of the wake now, but flight is stable and your motions are limited to up and down. None of this flipping you over and slamming you into the water. You fly higher, longer and safer. I would love to know why the manufacturers havent figured this out.

Old boats have character. New boats have payments.

Posts: 15 | From: **Delaware, OH** | Registered: **May 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

jtizzle
First Mate
Member # 7358

posted June 05, 2006 02:40 PM    Edit Post

Well took the wego kite tube out for the first time this past weekend... Went well. Took 6 people flying no injuries. Everyone got up in the air 2 to 6 feet their first run. Second run everyone got the hang of it and got 5 to 20 feet.

I don't think this toy is for people trying to have a regular fun time on the lake... If you want to test your adrenaline and test your limits, get on the kite tub! This is a dangerous toy and I don't pressure friends or anyone to get on it. I use it for the fun of flying and understand the repercussions that could happen. If you are not whiling to potentially get hurt it might not be for you because it will probably happen sooner or later.

I think I there is room for improvement but its new... improvements will come in the future. In the air I had good control of the tube unless wind took it else ware. Had 3 falls from approx 15 - 18 feet that had pain but nothing serious...

It's more intense when you know how to use it because you will want to get higher and higher and it gets easier to get up in the air.

Never went over 30 MPH, used a 45' rope and the kite tube needs to be FULL of air to be used effectively. I will post videos when I edit them. Driver has to be very careful and pay close attention to what is going on, I would not recommend using the tube unless you have a skilled driver behind the wheel. Also, there is no communication between person on tube and driver. Driver must watch or be told by spotter what to adjust.

Posts: 5 | From: **Chicago** | Registered: **Jun 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

sacd785
Captain
Member # 859

posted June 06, 2006 05:50 PM    Edit Post

jtizzle

What lake did you take the tube out on?

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A

548

04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: **39** | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

jtizzle

First Mate

Member # 7358

 posted June 06, 2006 07:13 PM



 Edit Post

small 70 acre lake in MI...

I would look for days with a slight consistent wind, nothing too strong... watch for the shift in wind direction.

Turning for us was not a problem... just slowed the boat down 1-3MPH and turned it like a regular tube.

If you have a larger lake to go on, it could be a better ride just going strait against a slight wind. However going strait for a long period will allow the person to get allot more hang time and air hieght which is good in a way... more of a rush and risk but thats what I'm up there for.

Good luck flyin, let me know if there is anything else.

Posts: **5** | From: **Chicago** | Registered: **Jun 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

sacd785

Captain

Member # 859

 posted June 07, 2006 04:05 AM



 Edit Post

jtizzle

I boat on Lake Michigan, the wind can change in a second. Plus with the cold water and hot air, this does not sound like a good combo for a slight wind.

Maybe I will wait until the second generation of flying tubes is out, I think we will see some redesigns out soon.

That being said, the Rave sports Mambo Duo looks like fun.

04 Forumla 280 SS
05 Silverado D/A
04 Sea Doo GTX

Posts: **39** | Registered: **Apr 2002** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

jtizzle

First Mate

Member # 7358

 posted June 07, 2006 03:17 PM



 Edit Post

Personally... I would not use it on lake michigan, atleast until I used it else where and was very comfortable on it.

I think that is why allot of accidents are happening so sudden, people take it out and realize how easy it is to get high in the air there first time out and something bad happends.

I dont have any suggestions on where else to go... sorry, but good luck!

Posts: **5** | From: **Chicago** | Registered: **Jun 2006** | IP: Logged |  Report Post

Paul1031

First Mate

Member # 7162

 posted June 07, 2006 03:20 PM



 Edit Post

Boat driver is most important factor in flying Manta Ray along w/ a light

549

wind. Do not try to fly w/ wind, as speed has to increase, it does not fly as well. WE always fly into wind. The higher you go the less control you have. If driver slows down too fast it will launch you right out the front as this has happened to us. Please have an observer, that knows what signals to look for from rider. Manta Ray will increase in height drastically. Wear helmet and be sure driver and rider are on same page, as to what rider is trying to do.

Posts: 4 | From: Winter Haven Fl. | Registered: Apr 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Michael P.
First Mate
Member # 7272

posted June 08, 2006 09:14 AM Edit Post

Helmets could actually cause more damage since a helmet could trap water at a high speed causing a distraction injury which basically means your cervical vertabrae are fractured from a pulling force to the head. I am an avid wearer of helmets in white water. My helmets do have a breakaway feature if more than 20 lbs of pulling force are exerted. Just something to consider.

Old boats have character. New boats have payments.

Posts: 15 | From: Delaware, OH | Registered: May 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

jtizzle
First Mate
Member # 7358

posted June 08, 2006 11:18 AM Edit Post

In addition to Pauls Comment...
I agree to always fly into the wind when actually flying the kite tube. However, if you don't have a large enough lake to always fly into the wind and the lake requires turns, etc you can ride the kite tube as a regular tube and keep it on the water until you are against the wind again.

I have never wore a helmet... but was woundering if a life jacket that was not as heavy/floatable (please ignore my incorrect terms) would be beneficial. Meaning when a person hits the water at high speed in a downward motion, his/her life jacket puts added pressure on them when they hit the water compaired to if they were not wearing any life jacket at all. Pertaining to this kite tube... if someone was to wear a life jacket that had less resistance... (meaning will still float somebody) but not be a heavy duty life jacket.. would it help? Im not sure if it would or would not just interested in others opinons... Maybe its a stupid question 😊

Posts: 5 | From: Chicago | Registered: Jun 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Paul1031
First Mate
Member # 7162

posted June 08, 2006 04:22 PM Edit Post

To Micheal p.
Your right about the helmet, but we are using a barefoot jump helmet w/ a break away chin strap. I think you thought I meant a regular helmet.

Posts: 4 | From: Winter Haven Fl. | Registered: Apr 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

Paul1031
First Mate
Member # 7162

posted June 08, 2006 04:26 PM Edit Post

to Jtizzle
Your properly right about the theory w/ the life jackets, we use barefoot suits so it works out good for protection all around your body (rib cage).

Posts: 4 | From: Winter Haven Fl. | Registered: Apr 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

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invertbbFirst Mate
Member # 7378

posted June 08, 2006 06:31 PM



I just purchased a Wego Kite Tube, but only have a Sea Doo to pull it with. We are using a 2004 GTX 4-TEC Sea Doo - will this be enough power?

Posts: 1 | Registered: Jun 2006 | IP: Logged | Report Post

tpenfieldCaptain
Member # 5422

posted June 09, 2006 05:11 PM



these flying tubes seem to be great until you fall off the thing head-long into the water and break your neck. Then, they are not so good. I am sure the injury attorneys are lining up on these things.

Tpenfield

Formula 242 SS

Cape Cod

My Web Page:

http://home.comcast.net/~tpenfield/Web_Page/mpbhome.html

Posts: 307 | From: Cape Cod | Registered: Mar 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

6104696Captain
Member # 5402

posted June 09, 2006 06:12 PM



As noted in several other threads, these thing are accidents waiting to happen. Are riders willing to take the risk? Are the drivers willing to accept to consequences of their actions?

These kites ignore the fundamental aspect of flight control that took hundreds of years and hundreds if not thousands of lives before the wright brothers discovered/invented it.

I can assure you that I will never be injured on one of these, and I will never be the driver who is driving when an injury occurs.....until and unless the "technology" becomes much more developed (the rider can reliably control it or they become crashproof).

Posts: 731 | From: around | Registered: Feb 2005 | IP: Logged | Report Post

BottomlesspitCaptain
Member # 3700

posted June 09, 2006 09:52 PM



I'm with 610 on this one. I have >5,000 hrs military flying and if I can't control it, I'm not going to be in or on it. To me, true flying involves me having some control over the device, and this isn't it. I wonder about trying to hang on to something for dear life? It seems to me that the company's that are advertising these as "you are flying" might be inciting a romantic idea about flight that doesn't really exist. I mean heck, even kites are controllable. I have a stunt kite that has controls that are amazing considering how I grew up holding onto a kite reel, just standing there watching the kite dart back and forth uncontrolled and at the mercy of the wind.

I have nothing against anyone who has one of these or wants one, heck, each to his own seeking excitement. I just hope there are no horrible injuries or worse for any of you all. Also just hope advertisements don't lead any here to get one making them feel they are going to be flying...going after the romantic idea of flight.

I guess I've gone off the deepend on this one. I remember the first ad I saw for one of these things. Before I really thought about it I was thinking wow, cool, this would be great to fly around with. Finally, after thinking

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about it, reality hit me. I had let the hype sucker me in for a brief moment.

Everyone here, please be safe around these things. Watch the winds carefully. You will probably find it hard to accurately judge heights, so be conservative.

Ken

'92 Baja Islander 180
4.3LX

Posts: 357 | From: Del Rio, Tx | Registered: Sep 2003 | IP: Logged | Report Post

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Kerr, Marcia
Sent: Wednesday, June 14, 2006 5:33 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: List of National Drowning Prevention Alliance board members
Attachments: National DPN board list 12 05.doc

Here is the list of folks who will receive the Kite Tube message. I think there are one or two extra board members not on this list--Safe Kids USA and possibly one other. We just had elections and some of the government employees are switching to the new Advisory Council--we won't vote but can still "advise".

If you want to contact Tim Robinson in New Hampshire and Mr. Kim Tyson at the university in Austin, TX, (both on the list) they would be especially helpful--they have lots of contacts in the open-bodies-of-water field.

Here is the NDPA website address: www.drowningprevention.info

Marcia Kerr, Product Safety Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
25422 Trabuco Rd, #105-394
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-829-8249
775-262-9611 Fax

6/15/2006

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS
NATIONAL DROWNING PREVENTION ALLIANCE

12/05

Rosalie Mendez Arguelles

Secretary

Program Coordinator - CIPP
Center for Injury Prevention Policy & Practice
6505 Alvarado Road, Suite 208
San Diego, CA 92120
619-594-1865
rarguelles@projects.sdsu.edu

Christine Branche, PhD

Director, Div. of Unintentional Injury Prevention
Centers for Disease Control
4770 Buford Highway NE, MS K-63
Atlanta, GA 30341
770-488-1494
FAX: 770-488-1317
cbranche@cdc.gov

Mary Ellen Britt

EMS Quality Improvement Coordinator
Clark County Health District
P.O. Box 3902
Las Vegas, NV 89127
702-759-1055
FAX: 702-383-1240
britt@cchd.org

David Calabria

President & CEO
D&D Technologies
7731 Woodwind Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
800-716-0888
FAX: 800-464-6400
dcalabria@ddtechusa.com

Michelle Feczko

Health and Wellness Coordinator
Children's Hospital of Orange County
455 So. Main St.
Orange, CA 92868
714-289-4557
FAX: 714-289-4087
mfezko@choc.org

Timothy Flood, MD

Bureau Medical Director
Arizona Dept. of Health Services
150 N. 18th Ave., Room 550
Phoenix, AZ 85007-3248
602-542-7331
FAX: 602-364-0082
floodt@azdhs.gov

Kristin Goffman

Second vice president, membership

Injury Prevention Consultant
26770 Sol Court
Hemet, CA 92544
951-766-5405
Cell: 951-453-8118
FAX: 951-358-7175
Kristin.goffman@adelphia.net

John Harrington

Chief Executive Officer
Paradise Valley Hospital
3929 E. Bell Road
Phoenix, AZ 85032
602-923-5684
FAX: 602-923-5657
Harrington, John
JHarrington@abrazohealth.com

Diane Holm

First vice president, programs

Drowning Prevention Coordinator
Injury Prevention Prog., Lee Cnty. Hlth. Dept.
3920 Michigan Ave.
Ft. Myers, FL 33916
239-332-9590
FAX: 239-332-9605
Diane_Holm@doh.state.fl.us

Johnny Johnson

United States Swim School Assn.
Blue Buoy Swim School
100 West Main St., Suite 4
Tustin, CA 92780
714-832-8910
johnny@bluebuoy.com

Marcia Kerr

Investigator
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
PMB 394 25422 Trabuco Road, #105
Lake Forest, CA 92630
949-829-8249
FAX: 775-262-9611
mkerr@cpsc.gov

Linda Kirby

Injury Prevention Specialist
Phoenix Fire Dept.
150 S. 12th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85034
602-495-5617
FAX: 602-534-2623
Linda.s.kirby@phoenix.gov

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Ms. Kim Patrick

Treasurer

Coordinator, Inland Empire SAFE KIDS
Loma Linda University Hospital
11234 Anderson St., Room 8700G
Loma Linda, CA 92354
909-558-8118
FAX: 909-558-4219
kpatrick@ahs.llumc.edu

Nadina Riggsbee

Executive Director
Drowning Prevention Foundation
402 Arguello Drive
Benicia, CA 94510
707-747-0191
FAX: 707-751-3735
Cell: 925-389-1650
n.riggsbee@comcast.net

Timothy Robinson

Lieutenant
Concord Fire Dept.
68 Downing St.
Concord, NH 03301
603-224-3994
Trobinson@onconcord.com

Mr. Kim Tyson

Aquatics Director
Department of Kinesiology
University of Texas, Austin
1102 Twin Creek Drive
Pflugerville, TX 78660
512-431-0332
FAX: 512-990-0865
kimwtyson@aol.com

Troy Whitfield

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
Mechanical Engineer
Directorate for Engineering Services
Division of Mechanical Engineering
4330 East West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814
301- 504-7548
twhitfield@cpsc.gov

Maureen Williams

President

Public Relations Manager
D&D Technologies
7731 Woodwind Dr.
Huntington Beach, CA 92647
800-716-0888, ext. 292
FAX: 800-464-6400
Cell: 714-679-4535
mwilliams@ddtechusa.com

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ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING OR SPONSORING WATER SAFETY / DROWNING PREVENTION PROGRAMS

INDEX OF ORGANIZATIONS

	ORGANIZATION	INIT.	WEB	LOCATION	PHONE
1	American Academy of Pediatrics	AAP	www.aap.org	Elk Grove Village, IL	847-434-4000
2	AAPAR Council on Aquatics	AAPAR	www.aapar.org or www.aahperd.org	Reston, VA	800-213-7193
3	American Red Cross	ARC	www.redcross.org	Washington, D.C.	202-303-4498
4	American Safety & Health Institute	ASHI	www.ashinstitute.com	Holiday, FL	800-682-5067
5	Aquatics International		www.aquaticsmnti.com	Los Angeles, CA	323-801-4900
6	Aquatics Resources Network	ARN	www.aquaticnet.com	Amery, WI	715-248-7258
7	Army Corps of Engineers	USACE	www.usace.army.mil	Coeur d'Alene, ID	208-756-7230
8	Assoc. of Pool & Spa Professionals	APSA	www.theaspsp.org	Alexandria, VA	703-838-0083
9	California Dept. of Boating & Waterways	dbw	www.dbwa.ca.gov	Sacramento, CA	888-326-2822
10	Center for Injury Prevention Policy & Practice	CIPPP	www.cipp.org	San Diego, CA	619-594-3691
11	Centers for Disease Control & Prevention	CDC	www.cdc.gov	Washington, D.C.	202-690-8598
12	Children's Safety Network	CSN	www.childrensafetynetwork.org	Newton, MA	617-969-7100
13	Coast Guard	USCG	www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm	Washington, D.C.	800-368-5647
14	Consumer Product Safety Commission	CPSC	www.cpsc.gov	Washington, D.C.	301-504-7923
15	Drowning Prevention Foundation	DPF		Benevia, CA	925-820-SAVE
16	Ellis & Associates		www.jellis.com	Kingwood, TX	800-742-8720
17	Every Child A Swimmer		www.keyclub.org	Indianapolis, IN	800-KIWANIS
18	A Fence Makes Sense		www.afencemakesense.com	Overland Park KS	913-208-1053
19	FirePals		www.firepals.org	Arizona	707-443-7339
20	Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention	FAIP	http://aquaticisf.org	Fenton, MI	800-342-0330
21	Harbor Injury Prevention & Research Center	HIPRC	http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc	Seattle, WA	206-744-9430
22	Home Safety Council	HSC	www.homesafetycouncil.org	Washington, D.C.	202-349-1100
23	I'm Safe / Child Safety Solution		www.imsafe.com	Rockland, ME	877-669-7233
24	Independent Pool & Spa Service Association	IPSSA	www.ipssa.com	Long Beach, CA	888-360-9505
25	Injury Prevention Web	IPW	www.injuryprevention.org	San Diego, CA	619-594-3691
26	International Aquatic Foundation	IAF	www.iafh20.org	Alexandria, VA	703-838-0083
27	International Lifesaving Federation	ILSF	www.ilsf.org	Leuven, Belgium	(32) 16.35.35.00
28	Life Saving Resources, Inc.	LSR	www.lifesaving.com	Harrisville, NH	603-827-4139
29	MISS Foundation	MISS	www.missfoundation.org	Peoria, AZ	
30	Mothers for Water Safety Coalition	MFWSC	www.mfwsc.com	Jackson, SC	803-471-9314
31	National Drowning Prevention Alliance	NDPA	www.drowningprevention.info	Riverside, CA	951-358-7171
32	National Recreation & Park Association	NRPA	www.nrpa.org	Ashburn, VA	703-858-0784
33	National Resource Center	NRC	www.nrc.uchsc.edu	Aurora, CO	800-598-KIDS
34	National Safe Boating Council	NSBC	www.safeboatingcouncil.org	Bristow, VA	703-361-4294
35	National Safety Council	NSC	www.nsc.org	Itasca, IL	800-621-7619

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		NSFI	www.nsf.org		800-NSF-MARK
36	National Safety Foundation International	NSFI	www.nsf.org	Ann Arbor, MI	
37	National Swimming Pool Foundation	NSPF	www.nspf.org	Colorado Sprgs., CO	
38	National Water Safety Congress	NWSC	www.watersafetycongress.org	Mentor, OH	440-209-9805
39	Never Leave A Child Unattended	NLCU	http://neverleaveachildunattended.org	Port St. Lucie, FL	772-878-8878
40	Pool Cool		www.poolcool.org	Atlanta, GA	
41	Professional Pool Operators of America	PPOA	www.ppoa.org	Newcastle, CA	916-663-1265
42	Project Wipeout at Hoag Memorial		www.hoaghospital.org/projectwipeout	Newport Beach, CA	949-764-5501
43	Safe Kids		www.safekids.org	Washington, D.C.	202-662-0600
44	Safer 3		www.safer3.org	Tustin, CA	866-372-3373
45	Safety Policy - Injury Prevention Policy		www.safetypolicy.org	San Diego, CA	916-692-1173
46	Starfish Aquatics Institute		http://Starfishaquatics.org	Savannah, GA	916-692-1173
47	State & Territorial Injury Prevention Dir. Assoc.	STIPDA	www.stipda.org	Atlanta, GA	770-690-9000
48	Stew Leonard's III Water Safety Foundation		www.stewleonards.com	Norwalk, CT	203-750-6121
49	Swim for Life Foundation		www.swimforlife.com	Tustin, CA	866-372-3373
50	Texas Public Pool Council	TPPC	www.tppc.org	Pasadena, TX	832-623-1580
51	Think First		www.thinkfirst.org	Rolling Meadows, IL	800-THINK56
52	United States Lifesaving Association	USLA	http://usla.org	Huntington Beach, CA	866-367-8752
53	United States Swim School Association	USSSA	www.ussswimschools.org	Maricopa, AZ	520-568-0060
54	USA Diving		www.usadiving.org	Indianapolis, IN	317-237-5252
55	USA Swimming		www.usaswimming.org	Colorado Sprgs., CO	719-866-4578
56	Washington State Drowning Prevention Network		www.chmc.org	Seattle, WA	
57	Water Awareness in Residential Neighborhoods	WARN	www.warnonline.org	Indianapolis, IN	888-379-0371
58	Water Watchers at Phoenix Childrens				
59	YMCA - USA	YMCA	www.ymca.net	Chicago, IL	800-872-9622
60	LOCAL AND REGIONAL COALITIONS				
61	Central Texas Water Safety Coalition	CTWSC			
62	Drowning Prevention Coalition Central Arizona	DPCCA	www.childrensafetyzone.com	Phoenix, AZ	602-923-5684
63	Drowning Prevention Network of Orange Cnty	DPNOC			
64	Swim LEE				
65					

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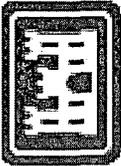
ORGANIZATIONS PROMOTING OR SPONSORING WATER SAFETY / DROWNING PREVENTION PROGRAMS

Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>American Academy of Pediatrics</p> <p>AAP</p> 	<p>Home: www.aap.org/</p> <p>Resources: www.aap.org/healthtopics/watersafety.cfm</p> <p>Address/Contact: The American Academy of Pediatrics 141 Northwest Point Boulevard Elk Grove Village, IL 60007-1098 847/434-4000</p> <p>bgoodman@aap.org</p>	<p>The AAP National Committee on Injury, Violence and Poison Prevention investigates the causes of childhood injuries and poisonings and recommends initiatives to respond to these issues at the chapter and national level. The Committee also authors the <i>Injury Prevention and Control in Children and Youth and Handbook of Common Poisonings in Children</i> manuals.</p> <p>Selected Abstracts Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee on Injury, Violence, and Poison Prevention • Prevention of Drowning in Infants, Children, and Adolescents • Swimming Programs for Infants and Toddlers 	<p>Brochures, Fact Sheets, and Quick Facts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Fact Sheet • Home Water Hazards for Young Children • Life Jackets and Life Preservers • Pool Safety for Children • US Consumer Product Safety Commission, Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools • Water Safety for Your School-age Child <p>AAP Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Watercraft Use by Children and Adolescents • Prevention of Drowning in Infants, Children, and Adolescents • Prevention of Drowning in Infants, Children, and Adolescents (Technical Report) • Swimming Programs for Infants and Toddlers
<p>Council for Aquatic Professionals</p> <p>of the</p> <p>American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR), a division of</p> <p>American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance (AAHPERD)</p> 	<p>www.aapar.org</p> <p>www.aaahperd.org</p> <p>1900 Association Drive Reston, VA 22191</p> <p>800-213-7193, ext. 430</p> <p>Aquatics Council chair: Tomas LeClerc, M.S. tleclerc@leclercaquatics.com</p>	<p>The American Association for Physical Activity and Recreation (AAPAR) is dedicated to enhancing quality of life by promoting creative and active lifestyles through meaningful physical activity, recreation and fitness experiences across the lifespan with particular focus on community-based programs.</p> <p>AAPAR seeks to increase public awareness and support for lifelong physical activity and recreation programs through continuing education for professionals conducting programs across the lifespan. Our main purpose is to serve professionals by disseminating guidelines, standards of practice and providing continuing education based on evidence-based research.</p>	<p>The mission of the Council for Aquatic Professionals include developing leadership within the aquatic profession; supporting aquatic research; and promoting aquatic safety and safety regulations for aquatic instruction and swimming pool construction and sanitation.</p> <p>The Council continues to provide leadership through aquatic credential programs, workshops, and national accreditation standards. The Council also presents annual awards including the National Honor Award, the National Service Award, and the Meritorious Award for outstanding or innovative contributions to the field of aquatics at the national, regional, or State level through research, safety, education, programming, etc.</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>American Red Cross</p> <p>ARC</p>  <p>American Red Cross</p>	<p>Home: www.redcross.org/</p> <p>Health & Safety Services: www.redcross.org/services/hss/</p> <p>HSS Resources: www.redcross.org/services/hss/resources/</p> <p>Swimming and Lifeguarding: www.redcross.org/services/hss/aquatics/</p> <p>Address/Contact: American Red Cross 2025 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20006 Phone (202) 303-4498</p> <p>Contact: Stacey Grissom Phone: (202) 303-4462 Cell: (202) 439-0705 grissoms@usa.redcross.org</p>	<p>American Red Cross Preparedness programs help people lead safer and healthier lives. The Red Cross constantly strives to respond to the preparedness concerns of Americans at home, in school and in the workplace.</p> <p>Resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reference Center • Glossary of Health and Safety Tips • Catalog of Health and Safety Programs • Catalog of Programs for Aquatic Facilities • Catalog of Programs for Schools 	<p>Health and Safety Services: For nearly a century, the American Red Cross has prepared people to save lives through health and safety education and training. From first aid, CPR and blood borne pathogens training to swimming and lifeguarding, HIV/AIDS education and Babysitter's Training, American Red Cross Preparedness programs help people lead safer and healthier lives.</p> <p>Aquatics Links</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US Sailing • Aquatic Exercise Association • American Swimming Coaches Association • Club Swim International • Jewish Community Center Association • National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association • The United Safe Boating Institute • USA Swimming • U.S. Coast Guard • YMCA of the U.S.A. • YWCA of the U.S.A.
<p>American Safety & Health Institute</p> <p>ASHI</p> 	<p>www.ashinstitute.com/</p> <p>American Safety & Health Institute 4148 Louis Avenue Holiday, FL 34691</p> <p>800-682-5067</p> <p>info@ashinstitute.org</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Located in Holiday, Florida, ASHI is a not-for-profit safety and health education association consisting of more than 20,000 professional safety and health education members. • Founded in 1996 as a partnership of safety and health instructors, ASHI has developed to include more than 8,000 Training Centers across the United States and in several foreign countries. • The association serves as a consultant to its members and promotes professional standards for health and safety education and instruction. 	<p>ASHI is comprised of professional safety & health educators who are focused on excellence in education in the areas of CPR, AED, First Aid, workplace safety/disaster preparedness, rescue and wilderness survival skills, among others, while successfully targeting all areas of safety and health, helping to educate the lay public and emergency service professionals alike.</p>

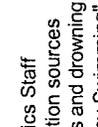
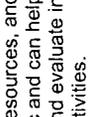
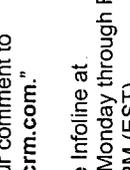
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>AQUATICS INTERNATIONAL (MAGAZINE)</p> 	<p>www.aquaticsmag.com Hanley Wood Magazines 6222 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 600 Los Angeles, CA 90048 323-801-4900</p>	<p>AQUATICS INTERNATIONAL is a source of product information and marketing and management tips for professional in the commercial and recreational pool industry. The magazine provides in-depth, targeted information about designing, building, maintaining, promoting, managing and outfitting aquatic facilities. Professionals who manage, maintain and operate commercial and recreational pools look to AQUATICS INTERNATIONAL to help them do their jobs better and make purchasing decisions.</p>	<p>Founded in 1989, Aquatics International is the only publication devoted exclusively to the commercial and public swimming pool industries. The magazine provides detailed information on designing, building, maintaining, promoting, managing, programming and outfitting aquatics facilities.</p>
<p>Aquatics Resources Network</p> <p>A.R.N.</p> 	<p>www.aquaticnet.com/ Aquatic Resources Network 302 160th St. - Suite 200 Amery, Wisconsin 54001 USA Ph: (715) 248-7258 E-mail: info@aquaticnet.com</p>	<p>Aquatics Resources Network invites people to join over 14,000 athletic trainers, kinesiologists, massage therapists, occupational therapists, physical therapists, therapeutic recreational specialists and other professionals who have aquatic therapy as their common bond.</p>	<p>The Aquatic Resources Network is committed to educating clinicians and students on the practice of aquatic therapy. As such, they put on educational seminars across the USA and abroad.</p> <p>"The Aquatic Resources Network is committed to facilitating aquatic therapy research by qualified professionals and disseminating the results of such research to those who would benefit most. You can now order scientific articles about aquatic therapy online -- for download or for mail/fax distribution."</p>
<p>Army Corps of Engineers</p> <p>USACE</p> 	<p>www.usace.army.mil/ watersafety.usace.army.mil/ Public Affairs Office, CEPA 202-761-0011 Point of Contact - National Water Safety Program: Lynda G. Nutt, CENWW-OD 208-765-7230 Coeur d'Alene, ID 208-765-7230 lynda.g.nutt@usace.army.mil</p>	<p>The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) serves the Armed Forces and the Nation by providing vital engineering services and capabilities, as a public service, across the full spectrum of operations—from peace to war—in support of national interests.</p> <p>The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is the leading provider of outdoor recreation on all Federally-managed public lands in the United States. With a recreation base that is primarily built around water, the Corps has a dedicated focus on water safety.</p>	<p>The Corps, in partnership with other agencies, is active in the National Water Safety Program. This program's site has materials to teach and promote water safety at home or in the classroom, and for links to other water safety sites.</p> <p>USACE partners with various organizations to promote water safety, and will partner with any agency, organization or non-profit group with similar goals of saving lives. Some ways of partnering include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Product development for water safety education • Challenge Cost-Sharing Agreements • Memorandum of Agreement, and • Volunteer Projects

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Association of Pool & Spa Professionals</p> <p>APSP (Formerly NSPI)</p> 	<p>Home: www.theapsp.org/Home/</p> <p>Water Safety Resources: www.theapsp.org/ConsumerResources/Water+Safety+and+Health+Benefits/index.htm</p> <p>APSP 2111 Eisenhower Avenue Alexandria, VA 22314 Phone 703-838-0083</p> <p>(IAF is a brand of APSP)</p>	<p>The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals (APSP) is the world's largest international trade association representing the swimming pool, spa, hot tub and recreational water industries with a mission to enhance the business success of members.</p> <p>The members of The Association of Pool & Spa Professionals fund the publication of a variety of brochures and booklets with a wealth of information about swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs. The information is available by mail or by PDF. APSP has also prepared a checklist of safety measures that encourage pool, spa, and hot tub owners to take to make sure that their installations are as safe as possible.</p>	<p>Water Safety Information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Entrapment Safety Messages • Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer • Children Aren't Waterproof • Healthy Swimming Recommendations from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control • Pool & Spa Emergency Procedures for Infants & Children • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Aboveground/Onground Swimming Pool • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Inground Swimming Pool • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Spa or Hot Tub
<p>California Department of Boating & Waterways</p> 	<p>www.dbw.ca.gov/ dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Drown/drowning_prevention.pdf</p> <p>2000 Evergreen Street, Suite 100 Sacramento, CA 95815-3888 (888) 326-2822</p> <p>www.dbw.ca.gov</p>	<p>Mission Statement: To provide safe and convenient public access to California's waterways and leadership in promoting the public's right to safe, enjoyable, and environmentally sound recreational boating.</p>	<p>The Department of Boating and Waterways offers pool/spa owners the following checklist to help prevent child drownings: http://dbw.ca.gov/Pubs/Drown/drowning_prevention_n.pdf</p>
<p>Center for Injury Prevention Policy & Practice</p> <p>CIPPP</p> 	<p>www.cipp.org/</p> <p>CIPPP San Diego State University Graduate School of Public Health 6475 Alvarado Road, Suite 105 San Diego, CA 92120 Phone (619) 594-3691</p> <p>(CIPPP is affiliated with the IPW Injury Prevention Web, CSN Children's Safety Network, and STIPD—The State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Association)</p>	<p>The mission of CIPPP is to reduce the frequency and severity of injuries by assisting government agencies, and community programs with incorporating injury prevention strategies into their regular on-going efforts.</p> <p>CIPPP hosts the Injury Prevention Web family of sites and provides a weekly update of the injury research and prevention literature at the Website: SafetyLit.org</p>	<p>CIPPP services include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policy Development Project • The California Kids Plates Project • Production of the California Childhood Injury Control Conference • Providing technical assistance to state and local coalitions to prevent residential pool drowning among children • Conducting training workshops on injuries and prevention strategies • Developing materials to assist agencies, organizations, and others with the development and implementation of injury prevention programs.

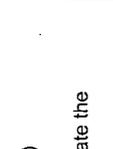
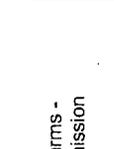
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention</p> <p>CDC</p> 	<p>www.cdc.gov WISQARS: www.cdc.gov/ncipc/wisqars/ CDC/Washington Office 746-G Hubert H. Humphrey Bldg. 200 Independence Avenue SW Washington DC 20201-0004 202-690-8598</p> <p>Email healthyswimming@cdc.gov www.cdc.gov/healthyswimming/ http://www.cdc.gov/ncipc/factsheets/drown-activities.htm</p>	<p>The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is one of the 13 major operating components of the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), which is the principal agency in the United States government for protecting the health and safety of all Americans and for providing essential human services, especially for those people who are least able to help themselves.</p> <p>CDC is committed to achieving true improvements in people's health. To do this, the agency is defining specific health impact goals to prioritize and focus its work and investments and measure progress.</p>	<p>WISQARS—<i>Web-based Injury Statistics Query and Reporting System</i> to calculate injury-related fatality rates for each state—VALUABLE RESOURCE! Information for swimmers, pool operators, and public health professionals to improve the swimming experience by raising awareness about the spread of recreational water illnesses (RW/Is). • Brochures and fact sheets for RWI • Technical information • Newsletters for Aquatics Staff • Links to State information sources CDC Water-Related Injuries and drowning programs: • CDC Brochure "Healthy Swimming" • EPA Brochure: "Before You Go to the Beach" • Three Tragic Seconds: A childhood drowning prevention program</p>
<p>Children's Safety Network</p> <p>CSN</p>  <p>Children's Safety Network</p>	<p>www.childrensafetynetwork.org/ CSN National Injury & Violence Prevention Resource Center Education Development Center, Inc. 55 Chapel Street Newton, MA 02458-1060 phone (617) 969-7100 X2722</p>	<p>CSN is a resource center for maternal and child health and injury prevention professionals in state health departments who are committed to reducing injuries and violence among children and adolescents. CSN staff offer expertise, resources, and contacts on any injury topic and can help you develop, implement, and evaluate injury and violence prevention activities.</p> <p>NOTE: Articles & publications can be sent only to state Maternal and Child Health staff and state public health staff due to copyright laws.</p>	<p>Drowning Prevention Professional Resource Packet contains material relevant to injury control or health promotion efforts related to youth and drowning-related injuries. Components of the packet are intended to provide professionals with relevant injury facts, suggestions for preventive actions, and examples of drowning prevention programs. The packet contains info on Rural Youth Drowning; Selected Drowning Prevention Information Sources and Drowning Prevention Programs; Drowning Prevention Strategies; Farm Pond Safety; Rural Youth Drowning Response Form; Personal Watercraft; Rural Water Safety.</p>
<p>Coast Guard</p> <p>USCG</p> 	<p>www.uscg.mil/USCG.shtm "If you have information requests or questions relating to boating safety, please submit your comment to uscginfoline@gcrm.com." or call the toll-free Infoline at 1-800-368-5647, Monday through Friday, 8:00 AM to 4:00 PM (EST).</p>	<p>The United States Coast Guard is a military, multi-mission, maritime service and one of the nation's five Armed Services. Its mission is to protect the public, the environment, and U.S. economic interests – in the nation's ports and waterways, along the coast, on international waters, or in any maritime region as required to support national security. The Coast Guard establishes and enforces safety requirements on many open bodies of water – rivers, lakes, harbors, coastal areas</p>	<p>The Coast Guard web site provides several links to organizations which promote water and boating safety, including: • National Safety Council • National Safe Boating Council • U.S. Army Corps of Engineers - National Water Safety Program • Washington State Drowning Prevention Project • National Water Safety Congress • United Safe Boating Institute • Boating Safety</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Consumer Product Safety Commission</p>  <p>CPSC</p>	<p>www.cpsc.gov/ www.cpsc.gov/cpsc/pub/pubs/chdrown.html</p> <p>General Information: (301) 504-7923 Mailing address U.S. Consumer Product Safety Comm. Washington, D.C. 20207-0001 Street address 4330 East-West Highway Bethesda, Maryland 20814-4408</p>	<p>The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission is charged with protecting the public from unreasonable risks of serious injury or death from more than 15,000 types of consumer products under the agency's jurisdiction.</p>	<p>CPSC provides several publications promoting pool and spa safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prevent Child In-Home Drowning Deaths • Hair Entrapment in Drain Covers • Backyard Pool: Always Supervise Children • Swimming Pool Safety Alert • Spas, Hot Tubs, and Whirlpools • How to Plan For the Unexpected - Preventing Child Drownings • Safety Barrier Guidelines for Home Pools • Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer
<p>Drowning Prevention Foundation</p> <p>DPF</p>	<p>Nadina Riggsbee E-mail to: dpf@pair.com Drowning Prevention Foundation 707-751-3734</p>	<p>In 1985 Nadina Riggsbee created the Drowning Prevention Foundation, a non-profit agency which works to create awareness and advocate for policy change to prevent childhood drowning.</p>	<p>The DPF foundation was a sponsor of California's 1996 Swimming Pool Act, which requires that all home swimming pools built in or after 1998 comply with safety standards for swimming pool enclosures, safety pool covers, or exit alarms. Drowning prevention brochures are available in English, Spanish and Chinese.</p>
<p>Ellis & Associates</p> 	<p>www.jellis.com/ Jeffrey L. Ellis - President 3506 Spruce Park Circle Kingwood, TX 77345-3033 Answering Service: 281-540-9404 Kingwood Toll Free: 800-742-8720 E-mail: jeffe@jellis.com</p>	<p>Jeff Ellis devised a lifeguarding course for water parks in the early '80s - the National Pool & Waterpark Lifeguard Training course - and created a total risk management program for water parks. In the early 90s, a collaborative agreement with the National Safety Council and NRPA broadened the E&A base to include flat-water parks and facilities, and a Learn-to-Swim program.</p>	<p>Jeff Ellis Swimming™</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Enables individuals of all ages to learn swimming and water safety skills that will provide lifelong aquatic enjoyment and reduce drowning risk. • Encourages rapid success through a teaching philosophy and techniques that provide a positive, fun-filled approach.
<p>Every Child A Swimmer</p>  	<p>www.keyclub.org KEY CLUB INTERNATIONAL 3636 Woodview Trace Indianapolis, IN 46268-3196 USA 1-800-KIWANIS, ext. 390 E-mail: keyclub@kiwanis.org http://www.keyclub.org/keyclub/lit/mepm anual.pdf</p>	<p>Kiwanis is a global organization of volunteers dedicated to changing the world one child and one community at a time.</p> <p>Key Club members will focus their time and talents for 2004-06 on child safety, specifically educating children ages four to eight about bicycle, car, and water safety.</p> <p>For years, Kiwanis and Key Clubs have worked together to produce Every Child A Swimmer programs, which offer swimming instruction free-of-charge.</p>	<p>Key Club Water Safety Program</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact your local Red Cross to sponsor a CPR certification class in your community. • Work with a local pool company to educate homeowners about the importance of installing pool covers and gates around pools. • Become a certified lifeguard, and then teach children to swim. • Work with sponsoring Kiwanis club to organize the "Every Child a Swimmer" Program. • Facilitate the Riley Water Wise game at a local elementary school or with your local K-Kids. • Volunteer with water safety programs.

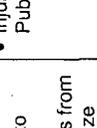
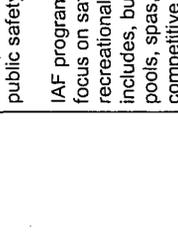
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>A Fence Makes Sense</p> 	<p>www.afencemakesense.com A FENCE MAKES SENSE 6908 W. 135th St., #121 Overland Park KS, 66223-4800 913.208.1053 info@AFenceMakesSense.com</p>	<p>Mission Statement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Help protect children from possible negligence, accidents and injury related to swimming pools. • Raise awareness about possible conflicts with homeowner associations regarding property improvements or safety issues. • Educate homeowners who might find themselves in pool fence situations. <p>Links to Homeowner Association Sites:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Homeowners Association • American Homeowners Resource Center • Community Association Institute (CAI) 	<p>Links to local, regional, state and national organizations concerned with child drowning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • American Red Cross • Center for Injury and Violence Prevention • Consumer Product Safety Commission • National Safe Kids Campaign • National Safety Council • National Spa and Pool Institute • National Spa and Pool Institute • National Swimming Pool Foundation • U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission • U.S. Lifesaving Association
<p>FirePals</p> 	<p>www.firepals.org/ (707) 443-7339 firepals@aol.com</p>	<p>The mission of Fire Pals is simple: To protect people, especially children, from harm. Fire PALS is a non-profit organization offering FREE life safety education to schools grades K-12. "Learn how to promote positive & safe outcomes for children from the experts."</p>	<p>Life Safety Discussion Points</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fire Safety Points • Earth Quake Safety Points (soon) • Water Safety Points • Home-alone Safety Points (soon) • Fundraising techniques • Mini-Conference Package "Educate the Educator"
<p>Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention</p> <p>FAIP</p>  <p>Foundation for Aquatic Injury Prevention</p>	<p>http://aquaticisf.org/ Ronald Gilbert FAIP 11230 White Lake Road Fenton, Michigan 48430 USA Phone 1-800-342-0330 Email: ron@aquaticisf.org</p>	<p>FAIP Services FAIP is engaged in a variety of activities throughout the United States, including: Education: Encouraging water safety through signs, public information and publications. Legislation: The FAIP was instrumental in the creation of a registry of aquatic injuries in Michigan, to pinpoint trouble spots so that educational efforts can target these areas and prevent further drownings. Support for Victims & Families: FAIP provides an informational exchange and a forum for families struck by tragedy.</p>	<p>The FAIP through its website provides comprehensive informational resources on aquatic safety issues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • personal watercraft, water skiing, sailing, canoeing, white water rafting, personal flotation devices, grief counseling <p>Pool Safety links include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evaluation of Swimming Pool Alarms - Consumer Product Safety Commission • National Spa & Pool Institute • Pool & Spa Safety Publications - Consumer Product Safety Commission • Swimming Pool Safety & Toddlers • Think Safety at the Swimming Pool & Beach

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center</p> <p>HIPRC</p>  <p>HARBORVIEW INJURY PREVENTION & RESEARCH CENTER</p>	<p>http://depts.washington.edu/hiprc/practices/topic/drowning/</p> <p>Harborview Injury Prevention & Research Center 325 Ninth Avenue Box 359960 Seattle, WA 98104 206-744-9430</p> <p>EMAIL: hiprc@u.washington.edu</p>	<p>Mission</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To generate new knowledge regarding the prevention and treatment of injuries; To share research results through scientific publications and presentations; To educate colleagues, professionals, policy makers and the public regarding methods to prevent and treat injuries; To offer graduate and professional training in research methods; and To promote the adoption & implementation of effective clinical and public health practice and policy. 	<p>HIPRC, affiliated with the University of Washington, researches how and why people suffer injuries and what can be done to prevent and treat them. They have developed and examined eleven different prevention strategies for child and adolescent drowning:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adult supervision Decreased alcohol use Personal flotation devices General education programs Swimming lessons Drowning Interventions Misc. Boating safety training programs
<p>Home Safety Council HSC</p> 	<p>www.homesafetycouncil.org/index.aspx www.homesafetycouncil.org/PROGRAM/S/pr_weekly_w001.aspx</p> <p>Home Safety Council 1725 Eye Street NW, Suite 300 Washington, DC 20006 (202)349-1100</p> <p>Meri-K Appy; Angela Mickalide info@homesafetycouncil.org</p>	<p>The Home Safety Council (HSC) is "the only national non-profit organization solely dedicated to preventing home related injuries that result in nearly 20,000 deaths and 21 million medical visits on average each year."</p> <p>Through national programs, partnerships and the support of volunteers, HSC educates people of all ages to be safer in and around their homes.</p>	<p>Among the many safety publications made available by HSC, three are specific to water safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Safety Checklist Drowning Preventing Drowning Deaths Outside and In-Home
<p>I'm Safe! / Child Safety Solutions</p> 	<p>info@imsafe.com</p> <p>David and Wendy Gordon</p> <p>I'm Safe! (a division of Child Safety Solutions) P.O. Box 1403 Rockland, ME 04841 877-NOW SAFE (669-7233) 207-594-4149</p>	<p>Originally founded by David and Wendy Gordon in 1997, the <i>I'm Safe! Network</i> is the cyberspace home of <i>Child Safety Solutions</i>. I'm Safe! works cooperatively with individuals, agencies, businesses & communities, both nationally and internationally, in multiple languages, to protect children from preventable injuries; predator-proof our youth; and provide innovative, community-centered injury-prevention programs using a variety of media.</p>	<p><i>I'm Safe! Summer Safety Adventure</i> materials are a perfect way to teach young children and their parents life-saving water safety skills: Help kids think critically about water safety!; Expand the impact of your Water Watcher program!; Drain worries out of the pool.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Water Watcher tags, posters, certificates and programs available

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Independent Pool and Spa Service Association</p> <p>IPSSA</p> 	<p>www.ipssa.com/index.html</p> <p>Independent Pool and Spa Service Association, Inc. P.O. Box 15828 Long Beach CA 90815-0828 1-888-360-9505 All Rights Reserved ipssamail@aol.com</p>	<p>The Independent Pool and Spa Service Association, Inc. exists for the mutual professional benefit and growth of its members and for the continued improvement of the pool and spa industry's image.</p> <p>IPSSA was formed in 1988 as a result of a merger between IPSA and Cal-IPSA; they were a part of the original association founded in 1961 for assisting pool service technicians.</p>	<p>IPSSA has worked with drowning prevention advocates on water safety programs, and was a major sponsor of the 2005 National Drowning Prevention Symposium.</p>
<p>Injury Prevention Web</p> <p>IPW</p> 	<p>www.injuryprevention.org</p> <p>www.cipp.org/ www.stipda.org/ CIPPP - IPW - STIPDA</p> <p>david.lawrence@sdsu.edu</p>	<p>Injury Prevention Web is a service of the Center for Injury Prevention Policy & Practice and the State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors' Association.</p> <p>The IPW is an information resource to further the multidisciplinary approach to injury prevention. IPW looks for injury causes, to find ways to prevent injuries from occurring in the first place or to minimize their impact.</p>	<p>IPW provides links to several sites providing relevant information about child injuries and water safety:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Injury Prevention Books • Injury Prevention Links • Injury Data – USA National, Regional, State Publications Available On-Line from IPW Sites
<p>International Aquatic Foundation</p> <p>IAF</p> 	<p>www.iafh20.org/</p> <p>Carvin DiGiovanni International Aquatic Foundation P.O. Box 4038, Alexandria, VA 22303 Phone: 703-838-0083</p> <p>cdigiovanni@iafh20.org</p>	<p>The International Aquatic Foundation (IAF) is a brand under the umbrella of the Association of Pool and Spa Professionals (APSP). The IAF develops construction, maintenance, and operation standards; best-practices technical information; and public safety messages.</p> <p>IAF programs, publications and standards focus on safety and health in the recreational water environment that includes, but is not limited to, swimming pools, spas, hot tubs, waterparks and competitive water sports.</p>	<p>Water Safety Information Brochures Include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important Safety Information Checklist • Guidelines for Entrapment Hazards: Making Pools and Spas Safer • Children Aren't Waterproof! • Control Plan Your Dive, Steer UPI! • Pool & Spa Emergency Procedures for Infants & Children • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Aboveground/Onground Swimming Pool • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Inground Swimming Pool • The Sensible Way to Enjoy Your Spa or Hot Tub • Layers of Protection

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>International Lifesaving Federation</p> <p>ILSF</p> 	<p>www.ilsf.org/ Gemeenteplein 26 - 3010 Leuven - Belgium Tel: (32.16) 35.35.00 E-mail: ils.hq@pandora.be http://www.ilsf.org/rules/education_water_safety.htm</p>	<p>Mission To enhance the safety and preservation of human life in the aquatic environment by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinating and facilitating the work of national life saving organizations. • Facilitating and developing exchange of information and research and dissemination of best practices. • Working with member organizations to establish and support lifesaving organizations in geographic areas where they do not now exist. • Developing life saving by acting as the International Federation for lifesaving. • Co-operating with other international bodies with shared goals. 	<p>WATER SAFETY GUIDELINES ILS has identified a set of water safety and swimming education guidelines, which it has established as an international education standards framework. This framework is essentially a "learn to swim" and water safety program formatted with achievement levels. The International Water Safety and Swimming Education Guidelines concept serves two purposes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishes an international set of criteria for organizations re: systems for the teaching of swimming and water safety. • Serves as an international standard against which existing "learn to swim" and water safety education systems can be endorsed as meeting ILS water safety and swimming education standards framework.
<p>Lifesaving Resources Inc.</p> <p>LSR</p>  	<p>www.lifesaving.com/ Lifesaving Resources Inc. P.O. Box 905 Harrisville, NH 03450 603-827-4139 Gerald M. Dworkin - admin@lifesaving.com</p>	<p>Lifesaving Resources, Inc. is committed to drowning and aquatic injury prevention and emergency management through the development and conduct of Water Rescue, Ice Rescue, Drowning Prevention, and Aquatic Safety educational programs and services.</p> <p>Mission Statement: To prevent and/or reduce the number of drownings and aquatic injuries throughout the United States through the education and training of Lifeguard, Aquatic Safety, and Recreation personnel; Public Safety and Rescue personnel; and the general public.</p>	<p>Training Programs: PUBLIC SAFETY & RESCUE</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water Rescue Technician (WRT) Course • Water Rescue Awareness (WRA) Course • Swiftwater Rescue Module • Water Rescue - Train-the-Trainer Program • Water Rescue and Ice Rescue Courses <p>The Preparation and Training of Public Safety and Rescue Personnel</p> <p>AQUATIC SAFETY & RECREATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Aquatics Safety Seminar (PASS) • Foundations in the Standard of Care for the Prevention, Recognition and Management of Drowning and Aquatic Injuries • Lifeguard Pre-Service/In-Service Training
<p>MISS Foundation</p> 	<p>www.missfoundation.org/ P.O. Box 5333 Peoria, Arizona 85385 info@missfoundation.org</p>	<p>The MISS Foundation is a 501(c)3, volunteer based organization committed to providing crisis support and long term aid to families after the death of a child from drowning and other causes/</p>	<p>MISS also participates in legislative and advocacy issues, community engagement and volunteerism, and culturally competent, multidisciplinary, education opportunities.</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Mothers for Water Safety Coalition</p> <p>MFWSC</p> 	<p>www.mfwsc.com/ www.mfwsc.com/watersafety.htm</p> <p>M.F.W.S.C. 127 Ellen Dr. Jackson, S.C. 29831 803-471-9314</p> <p>mfwsc@hotmail.com info@mfwsc.com</p>	<p>Lea Owens is Founder of M.F.W.S.C. M.F.W.S.C. is a non-profit organization supported by families of children involved in drownings and water related accidents. We promote water safety across the United States. Water Safety is our number one concern. It is our number one goal to try and prevent drowning and other water related accidents from happening to your children. We are here to fight for new water safety laws, rallying for Swimming Pool laws, Boating laws, Jet Ski laws and any other laws that need to be fought for.</p>	<p>MFWSC promotes the National Water Safety and Remembrance Day on the Third Saturday In July. They promote several closed and open water safety studies and safety slogans on their web site. The primary focus is passing legislation to require barriers of protection for pools and spas.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harley's Law • Pushing for Barriers of Protection for swimming pools. • Not just for swimming pools but also spas, home ponds and fountains. • No Pool will be left uncovered or unguarded or unalarmed.
<p>National Drowning Prevention Alliance</p> <p>NDPA</p> 	<p>www.drowningprevention.info</p> <p>Maureen Williams NDPA President PR Manager, D&D Technologies 7731 Woodwind Dr. Huntington Beach, CA 92647 800-716-0888, ext 292</p> <p>mwilliams@ddtechusa.com</p>	<p>The National Drowning Prevention Alliance (NDPA) was formed in early 2004 to maximize efforts to prevent drowning through the development and implementation of strategies to facilitate and improve education, public awareness, effective barrier codes, and greater utilization of layers of protection.</p> <p>This national organization is comprised of individuals, organizations, policymakers and corporations who have the <i>common goal of saving lives.</i></p> <p>The NDPA facilitates an annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium. The symposiums take a multi-faceted approach to drowning prevention, encompassing safety programs for swimming pools and open water bodies, as well as water safety and drowning prevention programming.</p>	<p>The 5th annual symposium, Working Toward A Sea Of Change, took place in Ft. Myers Beach Florida in January, 2006, co-hosted by SWIM Lee.</p> <p>It was designed to meet the goals of the NDPA by providing "how to" information so that attendees could hear about successful events, programs and strategies, and come away with information to enable them to replicate these programs in their own communities.</p> <p>The 2005 symposium, Creating a Ripple Effect, was held in Austin, TX in April, 2005, and the 6th annual National Drowning Prevention Symposium will take place in Phoenix, Arizona in 2007.</p> <p>The NDPA endeavors to link individuals and organizations involved in drowning prevention to share the "best of the best" in programs and services.</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>National Recreation and Park Association</p> <p>NRPA</p>  	<p>www.nrpa.org/</p> <p>National Recreation and Park Association 22377 Belmont Ridge Road Ashburn, VA 20148-4150 703.858.0784</p> <p>Email: dvaira@nrpa.org</p>	<p>The Mission of the National Recreation and Park Association is "To advance parks, recreation and environmental conservation efforts that enhance the quality of life for all people."</p> <p>The Goals of the National Recreation and Park Association include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote public awareness and support for recreation, park and leisure services. • Facilitate the development, maintenance, expansion and improvement of recreation, parks and leisure programs and services. • Enhance the development of parks, recreation and tourism professionals. • Improve the delivery of service, and expand the body of knowledge relative to parks and recreation programs and services. 	<p>Programs and affiliations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The National Aquatic Branch – Goals are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide to those persons engaged in the delivery of aquatic leisure services an association to represent the interests of these persons. • To provide aquatic personnel with education and training, opportunities for research, publications and technical assistance. • To provide the opportunity to interact with other branches and sections of NRPA while maintaining a distinct identity within NRPA's structure. • The National Aquatic Conference • Aquatic Facility Operator Course • Pool Cool/Sun Safety Program • Aquatic Publications • Workshops and Other Training Programs
<p>National Resource Center</p> <p>NRC</p> 	<p>www.nrc.uchsc.edu/</p> <p>National Resource Center for Health and Safety in Child Care UCHSC at Fitzsimons Campus Mail Stop F541; PO Box 6508 Aurora, CO 80045-0508 1-800-598-KIDS(5437)</p>	<p>The National Resource Center is located at the University of Colorado Health Sciences Center in Denver, Colorado, and is funded by the Maternal and Child Health Bureau, U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, HRSA. The NRC's primary mission is to promote health and safety in out-of-home child care settings throughout the nation.</p>	<p>Water Safety Resources:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Backyard Pool – Always Supervise Children – US Consumer Product Safety Commission • Healthy Swimming: When You Swim this Summer, Swim Healthy (Flyer) (Poster) – Centers for Disease Control • How to Plan for the Unexpected – Preventing Child Drownings – US Consumer Product Safety Commission • Prevent Drowning – California Childcare Health Program • Swimming Pool Safety Standards from Caring for Our Children, 2nd Ed • Water Safety Standards from Caring for Our Children

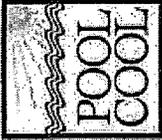
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>National Safe Boating Council</p> <p>NSBC</p> 	<p>www.safeboatingcouncil.org/</p> <p>National Safe Boating Council PO Box 509 Bristow, VA 20136 Ph: 703-361-4294</p> <p>Email: NSBCdirect@safeboatingcouncil.org</p>	<p>The mission of the NSBC is to reduce accidents and enhance the boating experience. The NSBC is the foremost coalition for the advancement and promotion of safer boating through education. The National Safe Boating Council accomplishes this mission by conducting campaigns and distributing safe boating information.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conducting a series of on-going National Campaigns to promote Safe Boating. • Providing opportunities to work directly with national and international leaders in boating education. • Improving the professional development of boating safety educators. • Distributing safe boating information. • Developing and recognizing outstanding boating safety programs. • Supporting research initiatives that strengthen boating education and safety awareness.
<p>National Safety Council</p> <p>NSC</p> 	<p>www.nsc.org/</p> <p>National Safety Council 1121 Spring Lake Dr. Itasca, IL 60143-3201 (800) 621-7619 (630) 285-1121</p>	<p>The National Safety Council is a nonprofit, nongovernmental, international public service organization dedicated to protecting life and promoting health. The NSC is a membership organization, founded in 1913 and chartered by the U.S. Congress in 1953. Members include more than 46,000 businesses, labor organizations, schools, public agencies, private groups and individuals.</p>	<p>NSC provides several safety fact sheets and brochures on water safety topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NSC Family Safety & Health Pool and Beach Safety • Home Swimming Pool Safety - Risk & Tip Sheet, National Safety Month 2005 • NSC Family Safety & Health Safe Summer Water Safety • Water Safety - Risk & Tip Sheet, National Safety Month 2005 • Personal Flotation Devices - Risk & Tip Sheet, National Safety Month 2005 • Water Safety - NSC
<p>National Safety Foundation International</p> <p>NSFI</p> 	<p>www.nsf.org</p> <p>http://www.nsf.org/consumer/pools_and_spas/index.asp?program=PoolAndSpa</p> <p>Pool and Spa Equipment Program</p> <p>NSF International PO Box 130140 Ann Arbor, MI 48113-0140 734-769-8010 800-NSF-MARK</p> <p>Email: pools@nsf.org</p>	<p>NSF International, The Public Health and Safety Company™, a not-for-profit, nongovernmental organization, is a leader in standards development, product certification, education, and risk-management for public health and safety. "For 60 years, NSF has been committed to public health, safety, and protection of the environment. NSF is widely recognized for its scientific and technical expertise in the health and environmental sciences. Its professional staff includes engineers, chemists, toxicologists, and environmental health professionals with broad experience both in public and private organizations."</p>	<p>NSF International has been recognized as a leader in public health safety for over 60 years. For the last 40 years, NSF has been helping people Swim Safer™ by meeting the needs of public health inspectors, product manufacturers, aquatic facility managers, facility users, and homeowners through a vast array of testing and certification services. NSF information includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pools & Spas • NSF Pool and Spa Equipment page • swimming pools, spas, and hot tubs online product database. <p>NSF's website also provides links for information on pool and spa safety for consumers.</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>National Swimming Pool Foundation</p> <p>NSPF</p> 	<p>www.nspf.org/ www.nspf.org/articles.html www.nspf.org/ASC.html</p> <p>NPSF 224 East Cheyenne Mountain Boulevard, Colorado Springs, CO 80906</p> <p>Email: Margaret.Smith@nspf.org (719) 540-9119</p> <p>Tom Lachocki, Executive Director</p>	<p>The National Swimming Pool Foundation® (NSPF®) is a non-profit foundation encouraging healthier living through aquatic education and research. NPSF has several education and certification programs, including the Certified Pool and Spa Operator® (CPO®) program, the world's leading education and certification program for pool operators, and the new Certified Pool and Spa Operator® (CPO®) manual. NSPF offers several brochures and articles, and a CD promoting safety in swimming:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Protecting Bathers by Preventing Entrapment 	<p>AQUATIC SAFETY COMPENDIUM CD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Perspective & Aquatic Safety • Comparison of Risks in and around Swimming Pools • Behavioral Aspects of Pool Safety • Drowning: Mechanics, Prevention and Management • The Mechanics of Diving • Biomechanics of Catastrophic Diving Injuries • Suction Entrapment • Alcohol, Other Drugs and Aquatic Safety • The Effectiveness of Warnings in Preventing Pool Diving Accidents • Fundamentals of Swimming Pool Law and the Legal Process <p>The NSPF also presents a yearly "World Aquatic Conference," and facilitates the CPO program.</p>
<p>National Water Safety Congress</p> <p>NWSC</p> 	<p>www.watersafetycongress.org/</p> <p>National Water Safety Congress</p> <p>Cecilia Duer, Executive Director P.O. Box 1632 Mentor, Ohio 44061 440-209-9805 nationalwatersafetycongress@yahoo.com</p>	<p>The National Water Safety Congress was organized on June 28, 1951 in Nashville, Tennessee in response to growing concerns over water deaths in the region of the Cumberland and Tennessee River Valleys. Blessed with large lakes and a bounty of recreational opportunities, the area saw many summer weekends where more people were drowned than were killed on the highways.</p>	<p>The NWSC is committed to addressing water related recreation accidents and drownings throughout the nation. NWSC actions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meaningful water safety training and education seminars. • Establish and support local water safety councils and organizations. • Award outstanding contributions in water safety education or prevention of accidents or loss of life in connection with the use of the nation's lakes and rivers.
<p>Never Leave A Child Unattended</p> <p>NLCU</p> 	<p>http://neverleaveachildunattended.org/</p> <p>email: lostart@adelphia.net P.O. Box 881225 Port St. Lucie Florida 34986 772-878-8878</p>	<p>The Never Leave A Child Unattended® Public information safety campaign was created by a Port St. Lucie, Florida couple following a tragic summer where three local children drowned. They seek to educate parents and caregivers that there is no substitution for supervision. Their important message of supervision to include water activities, malls, public restrooms, cars and homes. They believe that with proper supervision most tragic injuries, drownings and even child abductions can be avoided.</p>	<p>NLCU provides water safety tips and several safety products:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Never Leave A Child Unattended T-shirts • Display posters • Swim brochure • Reminder postcards with magnet • Print advertisements • Reminder buttons

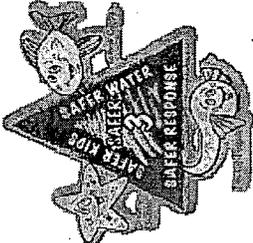
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Pool Cool</p> 	<p>www.poolcool.org Pool Cool Program Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University Behavioral Sciences & Health Education Dept. 1518 Clifton Rd. NE, Room 524 Atlanta, GA 30322 Email: poolcool@sph.emory.edu</p>	<p>POOL COOL is a research-based sun-safety education program especially designed for use at swimming pools. Its main objective is to increase awareness, motivation, and sun protection practices among children ages 5-10 who take swimming lessons, their parents, aquatics staff, and other pool users.</p> <p>The POOL COOL Sun-Safety Program is conducted by the Rollins School of Public Health at Emory University (www.sph.emory.edu) in partnership with the National Recreation and Park Association (www.nrpa.org). It is funded by a grant from the National Cancer Institute (www.nci.nih.gov) grant CA 92505.</p>	<p>Pool Cool is currently conducting an extended study (2003-2006) of the programs at 400 outdoor swimming pools in specific metropolitan areas across the country with a grant from the National Cancer Institute.</p> <p>Related links include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Cancer Institute Skin Cancer Foundation American Cancer Society U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<p>Professional Pool Operators of America</p> <p>PPOA</p> 	<p>www.ppoa.org PPOA PO Box 164 Newcastle, CA 95658 916 663-1265 Email: support@ppoa.org</p>	<p>Professional Pool Operators of America (PPOA) serves and supports swimming pool and waterpark operators. PPOA is dedicated to the betterment and national recognition of professional pool operators who excel in this profession. PPOA publishes the Pumproom Press, the nation's only newsletter exclusively for certified pool operators, which focuses on the technical challenges pool operators face.</p>	<p>PPOA was conceived and carefully structured to serve those who are the functioning operators of the big, costly, complicated and busy public swimming pools or waterparks.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PPOA serves and supports swimming pool and waterpark operators. PPOA is dedicated to the betterment and national recognition of professional pool operators who excel in this profession PPOA intends to improve the quality and the image of public swimming-pool operators. PPOA website has the latest information on technical issues such as advanced water care, mechanical maintenance, automation, and bather comfort and safety.

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Project Wipeout at Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian P R E S B Y T E R I A N</p>  <p>WIPEOUT HOME</p>	<p>www.hoaghospital.org/projectwipeout.html Hoag Memorial Hospital Presbyterian Newport Beach, CA 949-764-5501 Kris Okamoto</p>	<p>Project Wipeout's mission is to save lives and prevent injuries by developing and disseminating beach safety information.</p> <p>Hoag's Project Wipeout teaching packet is available free of charge to schools and non-profit community organizations. The packet includes a Wipeout Beach Safety Video and a sample copy of the Wipeout Beach Safety Brochure, Activity Book and Coloring Book, which can be used in conjunction with the video. Hoag Hospital representatives and Orange County Lifeguards are available upon request to give Wipeout Beach Safety presentations to your class or group.</p> <p>The Project Wipeout Video is seen by thousands of elementary, junior high and high school kids every year. The video is considered mandatory viewing by trainees in Orange County junior lifeguard programs, and is being used throughout the U.S. and as far away as England and Australia.</p>	<p>Project Wipeout: Focuses its efforts on those most at risk – children and young people between the ages of 16 and 30.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Serves as a resource for beach safety information including neck and spinal cord injury prevention. - Participates in community events and provides free beach safety educational presentations and materials to schools, community organizations and the media. - Forms partnerships with members of Lifeguard and Fire Departments, teachers, parents and committed volunteers in order to broaden public access to our beach safety message
<p>Safe Kids</p>  	<p>www.safekids.org/ Safe Kids USA 1301 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Suite 1000 Washington, DC 20004 Phone: 202-662-0600 E-mail: info@safekids.org</p>	<p>Safe Kids USA and Safe Kids Worldwide work to prevent accidental childhood injury. More than 300 grassroots coalitions in all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico bring together health and safety experts, educators, corporations, foundations, governments and volunteers to educate and protect families.</p>	<p>Safe Kids offers water safety brochures and articles, including the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear Danger: A National Study of Childhood Drowning and Related Attitudes and Behaviors (April 2004). • Water Safety Brochure • Basic Water Safety <p>This four-color brochure provides basic, easy-to-read safety guidelines for swimming, bathing or using water at home.</p>

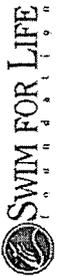
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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Safer 3</p> 	<p>www.safer3.org/swim/</p> <p>Swim for Life Foundation c/o Blue Buoy Swim School 100 West Main Street, Suite 4 Tustin, California 92780 Phone: (866) 372-3373</p> <p>www.swimforlife.com</p>	<p>Also see Swim For Life Foundation and United States Swim School Association</p>	<p>Safer 3 Safer Kids, Safer Water, Safer Response Safer 3 provides a multi-layered approach to drowning prevention.</p> <p>Safer Water.....Safer Kids.....Safer Response are the three elements of the Safer 3 program.</p>
<p>Safety Policy Injury Prevention Policy</p>  <p>CENTER FOR Injury Prevention POLICY & PRACTICE</p> <p>SAN DIEGO STATE UNIVERSITY Graduate School of Public Health</p>	<p>www.safetypolicy.org/</p> <p>Sara B.K. Woo Program Coordinator California Child Care Health Program 6505 Alvarado Rd, Suite 108 San Diego, CA 92120 Phone: 619-594-4373 Email: swoo@projects.sdsu.edu</p>	<p>Injury Prevention Policy Recommendations Selected injury prevention policy recommendations with comments concerning the extent of the problem the policy should address and an assessment of the potential for policy effectiveness.</p> <p>Healthy People 2010 Injury Prevention Objectives A fast loading distillation of the injury prevention-related objectives from all chapters of the HP 2010 document. There are links to references, citations, and the definitions of technical terms.</p>	<p>Injury Prevention Policy Center for Injury Prevention Policy and Practice</p> <p>Background on the Injury Problem</p> <p>Injury Prevention Policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Isolation Fences Around Residential Swimming Pools <p>Model Playground Regulations Playground standards that are part of the California Health and Safety Code.</p>
<p>Starfish Aquatics Institute</p> 	<p>starfishaquatics.org</p> <p>National Office/Aquatic Center 7240 Sallie Mood Drive Savannah, GA 31406 912-692-1173</p> <p>Email: info@starfishaquatics.org</p>	<p>The Starfish Aquatics Institute's mission is to reduce drowning and save lives by providing reputable and responsive aquatic safety training programs and services.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • StarGuard Lifeguard Training – StarGuard gives pool, waterpark, and restricted waterfront lifeguards skills that exceed nationally recognized standards. • The Starfish Swim School – Swimming instruction system for all ages & abilities. • Safety Training and Aquatic Rescue – STAR is an awareness level water safety program designed for non-lifeguards, such as Parents and caregivers, Pool attendants, Slide attendants, Swim Coaches, Public Safety Officers.

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>State and Territorial Injury Prevention Directors Assn.</p>  	<p>www.stipda.org/ STIPDA 2965 Flowers Road, Suite 105 Atlanta, Georgia 30341. P: (770) 690-9000 email@stipda.cbeyond.com</p> <p>STIPDA is affiliated with the IPW Injury Prevention Web, CSN Children's Safety Network, and CIPPP Center for Injury Prevention Policy & Practice.</p>	<p>STIPDA is a national organization of public health injury professionals committed to strengthening the ability of health departments to reduce death and disability associated with injury and violence. STIPDA works to increase awareness of injury as a public health problem, provide injury and violence prevention and control education, training, and professional development for those within the injury and violence prevention field, enhance the capacity of public health agencies to conduct injury and violence prevention programs, and support public health policies designed to advance injury and violence prevention.</p>	<p>Resources available through STIPDA include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Swim Healthy, Swim Safely, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; • Injury Fact Book: Water-related Injuries, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; • Water-Related Injuries Fact Sheet, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; • Pool and Spa Safety Publications, U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission; • Water-Related Injuries Fact Sheet, CDC
<p>Stew Leonard's III Water Safety Foundation</p> 	<p>www.stewleonards.com/water_safety/home.cfm www.stewletheduck.com 100 Westport Avenue Norwalk, CT 06851 Phone: 203.750.6121</p>	<p>The Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation was founded in 1990 with the mission to save lives through water safety education and awareness for both children and adults. The Foundation provides scholarships for swimming lessons and safety equipment through local YMCAs and Swim America, a nationally certified learn to swim program offered by the American Swimming Coaches Association. The Foundation also funds the Stewie the Duck water safety program, which includes "Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim" video and books, a child's first guide to water safety. Written for children ages 2 - 6.</p>	<p>The Stewie the Duck book conveys an important message of how to be safe near the water through the story of Stewie, a duck who wants to swim with the 'big ducks,' but is prevented from going in the water by his older sister until he learns the water safety rules.</p> <p>Links include on the website include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • United States Lifesaving Association • Swim America Norwalk • National Center for Injury Prevention and Control • Pool Safety for Children • U.S. Coast Guard Water Safety Coloring Book • Y.M.C.A. Swimming Programs • American Red Cross Water Safety Tips

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Swim for Life Foundation</p> 	<p>www.swimforlife.com/swim/</p> <p>Swim for Life Foundation Johnny or Cindy Johnson c/o Blue Buoy Swim School 100 West Main Street, Suite 4 Tustin, California 92780 Phone: (866) 372-3373</p>	<p>Also see Safer 3 and United States Swim School Association</p> <p>The mission of the Swim for Life Foundation is to enrich the lives of all people by promoting the lifelong benefits of swimming, implementing proactive drowning prevention programs, and increasing the accessibility of programs for those with special needs whether the challenge is disability, age or finances.</p> <p>The Swim for Life Foundation will also fund a research project to support the value of swimming lessons and skill attainment in preventing drowning events.</p> <p>The primary vehicle through which the Foundation educates the public how to prevent drownings is through a program founded by former U.S. Swim School Association president Johnny Johnson, Safer 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Water • Safer Kids • Safer Response 	<p>Safer 3 Safer Kids, Safer Water, Safer Response</p> <p>Safer 3 provides a multi-layered approach to drowning prevention.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Safer Water refers to the protection against an unauthorized entry to a pool or spa by a child that has little or no swimming skills. There are many types of protection available including barrier fencing with latching gates, alarms, door locks and pool covers. • Safer Kid's involves both caretaker and the potential victim, the child. Constant adult supervision by one with swimming ability, swim skill attainment through on going lesson programs by qualified instructors, education of both parents and children as to proper behavior in and around the water are key components. • Safer Response is the preparation for the event of a drowning accident. Rescue techniques such as CPR and rescue breathing should be learned and reviewed, developing an action plan and having rescue equipment on hand are also important. Everyone should be familiar with the 911-emergency phone number and a phone should be at poolside.
<p>Texas Public Pool Council</p> <p>TPPC</p> 	<p>www.tppc.org/</p> <p>Texas Public Pool Council PO Box 1422 Pasadena, TX 77501 832-623-1580 Email: info@tppc</p>	<p>The Texas Public Pool Council is a nonprofit organization dedicated to providing information and education to aquatic professionals. Although the name says "Texas," the TPPC's objective as an organization is to provide information and education to all those interested, with members all across the nation.</p> <p>Members include senior lifeguard staff, pool supervisors, water aerobic and exercise instructors, recreation directors, waterpark operation managers, maintenance supervisors, and owners and managers of both private facilities and commercial companies.</p>	<p>Provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information and education to aquatic professionals • Information and education to all others interested <p>For over 20 years, TPPC has hosted an annual educational conference.. The Annual Aquatics Conference includes educational tracks, certification courses, and events for both attendees and sponsors. Over the years, the conference has grown in numbers and now over 300 people attend the conference.</p>

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Think First</p> 	<p>http://www.thinkfirst.org/home.asp</p> <p>National Office: 5550 Meadowbrook Drive Suite 110 Rolling Meadows, IL 60008</p> <p>Phone: (847)290-8600 Toll Free: (800)Think56 (844-6556) E-Mail: thinkfirst@thinkfirst.org</p> <p>www.CHOC.org</p>	<p>The ThinkFirst National Injury Prevention Foundation, formally known as the National Head and Spinal Cord Injury Prevention Program, was first implemented nationally in 1986. The American Association of Neurological Surgeons (AANS) and the Congress of Neurological Surgeons (CNS) directed two neurosurgeons to develop a national injury prevention program based on their previous prevention efforts in their respective communities.</p>	<p>Fast Facts is a collection of informational facts that offer safety tips for children and adults, including a PDF on Water Safety.</p>
<p>THREE TRAGIC SECONDS</p> <p>Children's Hospital of Orange County (CHOC)</p>			<p>Comprehensive drowning prevention educational program (CD Rom, downloadable brochures, etc.) targeted to parents. Includes instructor outline.</p>
<p>United States Lifesaving Association</p> <p>USLA</p> 	<p>http://usla.org/</p> <p>USLA PO Box 366 Huntington Beach, California 92648 866 FOR-USLA (866-367-8752)</p> <p>Email: secretary@usla.org</p>	<p>Throughout its history, USLA has been an organization of lifeguards, for lifeguards. The work of the organization has been accomplished by dedicated members volunteering their time to improve upon their profession and the safety of the beach-going public. That work continues today.</p> <p>The National Board of Directors of USLA is made up of delegates sent by the regions to biannual board of directors meetings.</p> <p>There are now more than 100 chapters of USLA, each affiliated with local lifesaving services and beach patrols, and composed of employees of those organizations. The chapters form regions, of which there are eight. Each USLA region has a president and its own board of directors.</p>	<p>USLA:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is a professional association of beach lifeguards and open water rescuers. • Works to reduce the incidence of death and injury in the aquatic environment through public education, national lifeguard standards, training programs, promotion of high levels of lifeguard readiness, and other means. • Programs include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o USLA's Top Ten Water Safety Tips o Educational Activities o USLA National Beach Safety Week

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>United States Swim School Association</p> <p>USSSA</p> 	<p>Home: www.ussswimschools.org/ See also: Swim forLife & Safer 3</p> <p>United States Swim School Assoc. P.O. Box 1018 Maricopa, AZ 85239 (520) 568-0060 info@USSwimSchools.org NOTE: Formerly National Swim School Association (NSSA)</p>	<p>Also see Safer 3 and Swim for Life Foundation</p> <p>The United States Swim School Association, formerly the National Swim School Association, was founded in 1988 to provide a formal trade association for swim school operators in the United States. The United States Swim School Association currently consists of more than 250 national and international swim schools.</p>	<p>The primary vehicle through which the Foundation educates the public how to prevent drownings is through a program founded by former U.S. Swim School Assoc. president Johnny Johnson, Safer 3: Safer Water - Safer Kids - Safer Response</p> <p>Safer Kids, Safer Water, Safer Response</p> <p>Safer 3 provides a multi-layered approach to drowning prevention. Safer Water...Safer Kids...Safer Response are the three elements of the Safer 3 program.</p>
<p>United States Water Fitness Association</p> <p>USWFA</p> 	<p>www.USWFA.com/</p> <p>United States Water Fitness Assoc. P.O. Box 243279 Boynton Beach, FL 33424 561-732-9908</p> <p>John Spannuth, USWFA Director John@USWFA.org</p>	<p>The United States Water Fitness Association is a non-profit, educational organization committed to excellence in educating and promoting Aquatics, including Water Exercise.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Major specialty is Aquatics Program Administration. • Provide a central information source for Aquatics. • Offer home-study based National Certifications 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aquatic Exercise Personal Trainer Manual • Home-study based National Certifications for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masters Swimming Pioneer Program • National Aquatic Newsletter • National Aquatics Awards Programs: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Aquatic Director o Aquatic Fitness Personal Trainer o Master Aquatic Personal Trainer o Master Water Instructor o Primary Water Fitness Instructor o Water Fitness Coordinator o Water Walking Instructor
<p>USA Diving</p> 	<p>www.usadiving.org</p> <p>USA Diving 201 S. Capitol Ave., Ste. 430 Indianapolis, IN 46225 317.237.5252</p> <p>Email: usdiving@usadiving.org</p>	<p>USA Diving, Inc. is a not-for-profit organization recognized by the U.S. Olympic Committee as the sport's national governing body. USA Diving offers a variety of programs for divers of all ages and skill levels. It is a network of people working together to conduct, promote and participate in the United States' most successful Olympic sport.</p> <p>USA Diving is responsible for training, selecting and preparing teams that represent the United States at events such as the Olympic Games, World Championships and FINA World Diving Cup.</p>	<p>USA Diving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offers a variety of diving programs for divers of all ages and skill levels. • Serves as a source of information on all aspects of the sport. • Is responsible for training, selecting and preparing teams that represent the United States at events such as the Olympic Games, World Championships and FINA World Diving Cup.

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>USA Swimming</p> 	<p>www.usaswimming.org USA Swimming One Olympic Plaza Colorado Springs, Colo. 80909 719.866.4578 Email: webmaster@usaswimming.org</p>	<p>Mission Statement USA Swimming is the National Governing Body for the sport of swimming. We administer competitive swimming in accordance with the Amateur Sports Act. We provide programs and services for our members, supporters, affiliates and the interested public. We value these members of the swimming community, and the staff and volunteers who serve them. We are committed to excellence and the improvement of our sport.</p> <p>Vision Statement To inspire and enable our members to achieve excellence in the sport of swimming and in life.</p>	<p>USA Swimming is a non-profit organization made up of very dedicated volunteers! Interested individuals donate their time, energy and expertise at every level from the national Board of Directors to the local swimming clubs. There are 50 standing committees. Staff liaisons, along with these committees, create, implement and evaluate USA Swimming programs.</p> <p>USA Swimming offers a wide variety of programs and services to the membership. There are programs that swimmers, volunteers, coaches, parents and clubs can take advantage of simply by being members of USA Swimming.</p>
<p>Washington State Drowning Prevention Network</p> 	<p>www.chmc.org/DP/ Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center P.O. Box 50020 / S-217 Seattle, WA 98145 drownprev@seattlechildrens.org</p>	<p>Drowning prevention and water safety information from Children's Hospital and Regional Medical Center and the Washington State Drowning Prevention Network, Seattle, WA.</p>	<p>Information on Drowning Prevention Includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drowning Prevention for Families — Useful fact sheets to help you make smart choices so you and your family can safely enjoy the water. • What you Need to Know about Life Vests for Children (PDF) — A life vest or a life jacket is a Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) that helps you and your child float and stay warm in the water. • Water Safety for Children with Seizures — Children with epilepsy or seizures have a much greater risk of drowning than other children. • Washington State Drowning Prevention Project — Useful information and resources on drowning prevention and water safety.

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
<p>Water Awareness in Residential Neighborhoods</p> <p>W.A.R.N.</p>  	<p>www.warnonline.org/</p> <p>Jerry Richert WARN Executive Director 5351 East Thompson, #138 Indianapolis, IN 46237 Local: (317) 536-1874 Toll Free: (888) 379-0371</p> <p>Email: info@warnonline.org</p>	<p>The WARN program has two PowerPoint presentations, one geared towards adults and the other toward children. The youth program has been presented in numerous schools since its creation. The participating schools have responded with positive comments and WARN has become a regular presentation at some schools.</p> <p>For a fee, you will receive the WARN Presentation Program. The package includes the following educational tools:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 Instructional Videos • 2 CD Roms that contain current versions of both the youth and adult Powerpoint presentations • 200 Childrens Activity Books • 200 Informational Brochures • Online support and updates for your program 	<p>W.A.R.N. Safety Tips:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NEVER leave children unsupervised around water. • Keep rescue equipment available! • Teach children to swim at an early age. • Ensure children use personal flotation devices, particularly when they are not strong swimmers. • Install four-sided isolation fencing with self-latching gates around pools. • Always follow the posted rules. • Never dive into water less than nine feet deep. • Know the bodies of water in your area are. • Work as a group to monitor ponds in your neighborhood. • Educate your children about water hazards • NEVER let children wade or swim in a retention/detention pond. • Ice on neighborhood ponds is unpredictable. Don't allow children to play there, and set the example as adults.
<p>YMCA of the USA</p> <p>YMCA</p> 	<p>www.ymca.net/</p> <p>YMCA of the USA 101 North Wacker Drive Chicago, IL 60606 800-872-9622</p> <p>Email: fulfillment@ymca.net</p> <p>www.ymca.net/programs/aquatics/aquatics.htm</p>	<p>YMCA aquatics programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water safety • Water exercise and therapy • Swimming instructions • Competitive swimming <p>YMCA aquatics programs include water exercise and therapy and water sports, including synchronized swimming and master competitive swimming for people 18 and over. Competitive programs are also available for youth. Many YMCAs offer special classes to help children and families learn how to be safer in and around water.</p>	<p>YMCA aquatics programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Water safety • Water exercise and therapy • Swimming instructions • Competitive swimming

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
REGIONAL Central Texas Water Safety Coalition	AND LOCAL DROWNING Jennifer McCrocklin, Director jennifer.mccrocklin@lcr.org (800)776-5272, ext . 3555 Fax: (512)473-3501	PREVENTION PROGRAMS The Central Texas Water Safety Coalition actively promotes water safety awareness and education for Central Texas residents and visitors to reduce the number of drownings and other water related accidents in the region. It emphasizes programs for children and adults to keep them safe while enjoying outdoor activities.	AND ORGANIZATIONS Services provided include boater and water safety education, water safety events, outreach and awareness educational materials, swim lessons and tips on pool, spa and open water safety.
Drowning Prevention Coalition of Central Arizona 	www.childrensafetyzone.com Contact: John Harrington Arizona Heart Hospital 1930 East Thomas Road Phoenix, AZ 85016 602-923-5684	The Drowning Prevention Coalition of Central Arizona is a community-wide organization seeking to decrease water-related incidents and deaths in Maricopa County. The Drowning Prevention Coalition of Central Arizona is made up primarily of Central Arizona Fire Departments and Hospitals, along with other interested agencies and individuals.	This site offers several links to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • safety information • drowning prevention information • pool fence legislation • pool safety tips • pool products • CPR classes • information on water watcher programs • drowning stats for Maricopa County, AZ
Drowning Prevention Network of Orange County Affiliated with Safe Kids of Orange County	Contact: Kris Backouris, Chair krisb@ci.garden-grove.ca.us	Founded in 1991 to bring together entities in Orange County California who work toward drowning prevention, including fire agencies, health and community education workers, and other interested individuals. Now part of Safe Kids of Orange County.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Media events • Water Watcher tags • Health and safety fairs
Swim LEE	Diane Holm Drowning Prevention Coordinator Lee County Health Department 3920 Michigan Avenue Fort Myers, FL 33916 Phone (239) 332-9590 FAX (239) 332-9605	Reduce drowning and near-drowning incidents in Lee County through education of children and adults; Assess the risk for water related incidents in Lee County;; Maintain the current level of information and services available in Lee County; Design a Drowning Prevention System that is easily accessed by the community; Create community awareness around the issue of drowning and near drowning incidents	A. Teach swimming, water safety skills, and water rescue skills to 4 and 5 year old day care children free of charge through the Learn To Swim Safety program. B. Demonstrate free drowning prevention, water safety and rescue skills, rescue breathing, and CPR to parents through the Learn To Swim Safety program.

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Organization Name	Web & Contact	Mission	Services
Water Watchers at Phoenix Children's Hospital			

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Friday, July 21, 2006 4:20 PM
To: Vallese, Julie M.
Cc: Streeter, Robin A.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Topka, Tanya L.; Schoem, Marc J.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Roegner, Russell H.
Subject: Kite tube update
Attachments: KiteTubeIncidents_072106.pdf

Julie,

As of July 20, CPSC staff is aware of 85 incidents in the U.S. that have been associated with Wego kite tubes or kite tubes of unknown brands. These 85 incidents involved 89 victims, including two who died. Attached is a listing, produced by Robin Streeter, of the incident dates, their approximate locations, the number of victims involved, and their injuries.

I hope this helps you and your staff with the press inquiries you mentioned on the phone. Let me know if I can be of further help.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333



KiteTubeIncidents_072106.pdf (...)

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**Summary of Reported Wego Kite Tube Incidents
(Reported as of July 20, 2006)**

Record Number	Incident Date	State	Location	Number of Victims	Injury
325	4/29/2006	AZ	Temple Bar	1	punctured lung
342	6/4/2006	AZ	Gilbert	1	fractured vertebrae (back)
333	5/29/2006	CA	Rio Linda	1	back injury
351	6/12/2006	CA	Whiskeytown Lake	1	broken hip
386	7/5/2006	CA	Ramona	1	fractured ribs
405	6/1/06?; 6/27/06	CA	Simi Valley	2	Victim 1: possible concussion Victim 2: minor injuries
349	6/11/2006	CO	Castle Rock	1	splintered femur
389	7/7/2006	CT	Enfield	1	ankle injury
396	7/9/2006	CT	Somers	2	Victim 1: neck injury Victim 2: minor injuries
327	5/4/2006	FL	Indian Rocks Beach	1	loss of consciousness
370	7/1/2006	FL	Crystal Beach	1	punctured lung
380	7/3/2006	FL	Jacksonville	1	concussion
359	6/20/2006	GA	Columbus	2	Victim 1: loss of consciousness Victim 2: concussion
390	7/7/2006	GA	Braselton	1	fractured foot
343	6/4/2006	IA	Unknown	1	fractured femur
361	6/25/2006	IA	Davenport	1	broken ankle
383	7/4/2006	IA	Bettendorf	1	head injury
392	7/8/2006	ID	Owyhee Reservoir	1	broken back
362	6/25/2006	IL	Huntley	1	concussion
368	6/28/2006	IL	Chillicothe	1	collapsed lung
336	6/1/2006	IN	Terre Haute	1	concussion
338	6/2/2006	IN	Indiana Beach	1	neck injury
375	7/2/2006	IN	Evansville	1	fractured vertebra (back)
397	7/9/2006	IN	Indianapolis	1	concussion
346	6/7/2006	KY	Crestwood	1	dental injury
371	7/1/2006	MA	Wrentham	1	broken femur
350	6/11/2006	MD	Port Deposit	1	severe injuries
398	7/9/2006	MD	Assateague Island	1	eye injury
376	7/2/2006	ME	Unknown	1	possible eye injury
326	5/3/2006	MI	Sanford	1	concussion
332	5/27/2006	MI	Oak Park	1	neck injury
353	6/17/2006	MI	Big Rapids	1	chest injury
377	7/2/2006	MI	Big Rapids	1	concussion
378	7/2/2006	MI	Lake Orion	1	severe injuries
381	7/3/2006	MI	Westland	1	aortic tear
388	7/6/2006	MI	Fowlerville	1	broken ankle
402	7/10/2006	MI	Union Lake	1	loss of consciousness
406	6/24/2006; 7/1/2006	MI	Saginaw	2	Victim 1: ear injury Victim 2: fractured leg
347	6/7/2006	MN	Excelsior	1	unknown
352	6/15/2006	MN	Fridley	1	back pain
363	6/25/2006	MN	Tower	1	ruptured aorta
366	6/27/2006	MN	Alexandria	1	minor injuries
367	6/27/2006	MN	Alexandria	1	punctured lung
369	6/30/2006	MN	Ethel Lake/Battle Lake	1	chest injury
372	7/1/2006	MN	Otter Tail City	1	possible concussion
384	7/4/2006	MN	Wilmar	1	unknown
403	7/11/2006	MN	Bernidji	1	concussion
357	6/18/2006	MO	Unknown	1	unknown
399	7/9/2006	MT	Lakeside	1	broken ribs

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Summary of Reported Wego Kite Tube Incidents, continued
(Reported as of July 20, 2006)

Record Number	Incident Date	State	Location	Number of Victims	Injury
329	5/20/2006	NC	Raleigh	1	fractured femur
344	6/4/2006	NC	Stedman	1	concussion
348	6/8/2006	NC	Raleigh	1	broken ankle
354	6/17/2006	NC	Roanoke Rapids	1	loss of consciousness
385	7/4/2006	NC	Salisbury	1	loss of consciousness
387	7/5/2006	NC	Sanford	1	ankle injury
400	7/9/2006	NC	Salisbury	1	broken neck
401	7/9/2006	NC	Franklin	1	minor injuries
337	6/1/2006	NE	Omaha	1	unknown
358	6/18/2006	NY	Lake Luzerne	1	fractured vertebrae (neck)
330	5/20/2006	OH	Bethel	1	minor injuries
334	5/30/2006	OH	Beaver Creek	1	fractured vertebra (neck)
355	6/17/2006	OH	Centerville	1	ear injury
360	6/24/2006	OH	Delaware Lake	1	severe injuries
382	7/3/2006	OH	Indian Lake	1	severe injuries
393	7/8/2006	OH	Oakwood	1	broken ankle
					Victim 1: minor injuries Victim 2: minor injuries Victim 3: minor injuries
394	7/8/2006	OR	Salem	3	
395	7/8/2006	OR	Owyhee Lake	1	severe injuries
404	7/16/2006	OR	Salem	1	crushed vertebrae (neck)
364	6/25/2006	SD	Aberdeen	1	shoulder injury
379	7/2/2006	TN	Murfreesboro	1	ear injury
345	6/4/2006	TX	Neches River	1	death
373	7/1/2006	TX	Palmer	1	severe injuries
323	4/7/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	severe injuries
331	5/22/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	internal injuries
339	6/2/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	fractured vertebra (neck)
341	6/3/2006	UT	Glen Canyon	1	loss of consciousness
356	6/17/2006	UT	Farmington	1	minor injuries
324	4/16/2006	VA	Cross Junction	1	shoulder injury
374	7/1/2006	VA	Powhatan	1	laceration of liver, spleen
328	5/7/2006	WI	Unknown	1	severe injuries
335	5/31/2006	WI	Greenfield	1	neck injury
365	6/26/2006	WI	St. Germain	1	death
407	7/4/06 w/e	UNKNOWN	Unknown	1	fractured vertebra (neck)

Source: CPSC data bases, Directorate for Epidemiology, July 21, 2006

Note: Includes incidents involving Wego Kite Tubes and kite tubes of unknown brands.

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NOTE: THESE COUNTS SHOULD BE VERIFIED WITH EPHA BEFOR

task number	doc number(s)	assigned	target	incident date	investigator
060609HCC1577	I0660124A	6/9/2006	7/21/2006	5/4/2006	SSG
060612HCC3582	X0660330A	6/12/2006	7/30/2006	6/4/2006	BBW
060614HCC3602	X0660349A	6/14/2006	7/15/2006	6/1/2006	RXP
060614HCC3603	X0660350D, X0660348A	6/14/2006	7/15/2006	5/22/2006	MMB
060614HCC3604	X0660350C, X0660348A	6/14/2006	7/15/2006	4/7/2006	MMB
060614HCC3605	X0660350B, X0660348A	6/14/2006	7/15/2006	6/3/2006	MMB
060614HCC3606	X0660350A, X0660348A	6/14/2006	7/15/2006	6/2/2006	MMB
060619HCC2607	X0660451A	6/19/2006		5/20/2006	
060619HCC3611	X0660452A	6/19/2006	7/20/2006	4/29/2006	RXL
060620HCC2608	I0660269A	6/20/2006		6/17/2006	
060620HCC2617	X0660460A	6/20/2006		6/20/2006	
060621HCC1594 no tkno yet	X0660472A no doc number yet	6/21/2006		5/20/2006	
060628CWE5430	X0660583A, I0660483A	6/28/2006		6/26/2006	
060703HBB2659	I0670001A	7/3/2006		7/2/2006	
060703HBB2656	I0660516A	7/3/2006		6/18/2006	
060705HBB3646	I0670011A	7/3/2006		6/11/2006	
060703HBB2658	I0670004A	7/3/2006		5/7/2006	
060703HBB2657	I0670024A	7/3/2006		6/25/2006	
060703HBB2660	X0670043A	7/3/2006		6/2/2006	
060706HBB3649	I0670059A	7/5/2006		6/12/2006	
060706HBB3650	I0670062A Y0667166A	7/5/2006 7/5/2006		7/4/2006 5/29/2006	
060706HBB16116 task number to come Friday	I0670073A I0670072A	7/6/2006 7/6/2006		6/8/2006 7/1/2006	
task number to come Friday	I0670069A	7/6/2006		6/11/2006	
task number to come Friday	X0670066A	7/6/2006		7/5/2006	
task number to come Friday	X0670067A	7/6/2006		6/17/2006	
060706HBB1615 task number to come Friday	I0670090A I0670098A	7/6/2006 7/6/2006		7/3/2006 7/1/2006	

NOTE: THESE COUNTS SHOULD BE VERIFIED WITH EPHA BEFOR

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location of incident	type of report
Indian Rocks Beach, FL	CPSC website
Neches River near Intercoastal Waterway, TX	News Report -KFDM.com
Missouri River - Omaha, NE	News Report - WOWT
Glen Canyon, UT	NPS and NEISS hospital
Glen Canyon, UT	NPS and NEISS hospital
Glen Canyon, UT	NPS and NEISS hospital
Glen Canyon, UT	NPS and NEISS hospital
Bethel, OH	Ohio DNR
Temple Bar, AZ	NPS
Big Rapids, MI	CPSC website from Health Care Provider
Lake Harding, near Columbus, GA	news report - WTVM.com
Falls Lake, near Raleigh, NC	KUTV/CPSC's OIPA
St. Germain, WI (Little St. Germain Lake)	news report, DuluthNewsTribune.com
Pretty Lake, Big Rapids, MI	CPSC website from Health Care Provider
Missouri?	CPSC website
Castle Rock, CO?	CPSC website
Wisconsin	CPSC website
Tower, Minnesota	CPSC website
Indiana Beach, Indiana	online news clip -- jconline.com
Whiskeytown Lake, Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Northern CA	CPSC website
Bettendorf, Iowa?	CPSC website
Rio Linda, CA?	Retailer report
Falls Lake, near Raleigh, NC	CPSC website
Wretntham, MA?	CPSC website
Port Deposit, MD?	CPSC Website
Union Lake, near Detroit, MI	Detnews.com
near Roanoke Rapids, NC	email
Jacksonville, FL?	CPSC website
Crystal Beach, FL?	CPSC website

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victim ID male, 28 James Freeland, 33	ORIG INVEST AGENCY TX Dept. Parks and Wildlife	manufacturer/distributor/brand Wego Sports Stuff
Gregory Irvine, 34 Casay Nelson, 30 Laura Merchant, 14 Blake Hansen, 29	NPS NPS NPS NPS	 Sports Stuff
Tony Noertker, 36 Richard Radmacher, 33	Ohio DNR Arizona Game and Fish Dept.	Wego from Sports Stuff
withheld	Mecosta Co. Emergency Department	Sports Stuff
Chase Bailey, Ryan Reid		Sports Stuff
male, 20s Rusty Grey	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	Wego
Gregory Bykowski, 42 Shawn Jennings, 35 Dwight Riney, 27 Virginia Wilson, 26	Vilas County Sheriff's Dept, also possibly a "conservation warden"	 Wego Wego
Ryan Rescheske, 26 Travis Kladivo, 19		Wego Wego
male, 16	Indiana conservation officers	
James Dalziel		Wego
Scott Olderog nephew of William Davies		Wego Wego/Sports Stuff
Iain Hamilton		Wego/Sports Stuff
James Kirby		Wego
Richard Henderson III		Wego/Sports Stuff
female, age 42	Oakland County Sheriff's Marine Divison	
Heather Olesevich, 34	NC Wildlife Resources Commission	Wego
Shannon Terrell, 31		Wego/Sports Stuff
William Church, 42		Wego/Sports Stuff

notes

thrown off, landed in water unconscious

15' up, kite turned on side and dived to water. Neck injury, died at hospital.

traveling 25-30mph, gust of wind took tube up very fast, flipped in wind. Internal injuries.

15' up, 75' behind boat. Inverted, dropped to surface. Knocked unconscious, serious injuries.

traveling 20-26mph, 15-30' above water, inverted and corkscrewed to surface. Unconscious, neck pain.

traveling 35-40mph, 10-12' above water, inverted and accelerated to surface. C-spine vertebra break.

travelling 30 mph, at least 15' above water, gust caused tube to turn to side, victim fell off, hit water face first, unconscious in water. Internal bruising.

traveling 45mph, 25' above water, dived to surface. Punctured lung, broken ribs, cracked vertebra, bleeding flipped by air gust several times, flew to 25' before falling onto chest onto kite tube cause facial trauma, chest wall contusion, coughing up blood.

gust of wind took kite tube 65 ft in air, fell, victim face down unconscious in water; other victim landed on kite like trampoline, "shocked knee", "exploded chin", broke 2 teeth, concussion.

Being pulled at speed at a height of approx. 20'; boat had to suddenly slow, and kite tube dived to the surface. broke his right femur.

kite tube veered sharply to right then down into water, victim fell off, face down, unconscious; regained consciousness but died five hours later. Head and chest injuries.

victim up several feet in air, kite tube flipped, victim fell off, LOC, vomiting, concussion, cervical neck strain

nose dived into water. Splintered femur. Hospitalized for 9 days:

"soared to uncontrollable heights", lost control, hit water, broke right femur. Surgery and rehab, more than \$40,000 in med. expenses.

gust of wind cause loss of control, fall from 20 feet at 30 mph.

rope pulling tube kite during ski show tightened and struck a boat passenger in neck, causing him to fall and strike boat? Victim hospitalized.

35 mph, tube caught gust of air, reached ht. of 30-35 ft, stable, then suddenly flipped over. Tube swung back between victim and water, victim landed on tube, then the water. Broken hip, surgery.

25 ft above water, kite tube turned in air, victim lost grip, fell to water, knocked unconscious; broken blood vessel in brain.

victim flew kite tube 40 ft in air, tube turned on side, victim fell and hurt his back.

at 6 ft off water, the tube twisted and dived uncontrollably to water, foot took impact, snapped ankle bone; 3 titanium screws installed in ankle.

broken femur, bruised ribs, in ICU for at least 5 days; scenario unknown.

25 mph, tube abruptly flew 25 ft in air, ejected victim; coughing up blood, flown to trauma center.

partial paralysis

tube shot up approximately 10 feet and turned sideways and the victim was slammed to water and knocked unconscious

gust of wind piked kite up 10-15 feet, flipped over, slammed back down into water; victim lost consciousness; headache, shoulder and abdominal pain, concussion, bruises, hematoma, strained muscle, nausea flying 25-30 feet in air, 40 mph, inverted, whipped victim into water, victim unconscious face down in water; bruised, 2 broken ribs, punctured lung.

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 1:24 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Bell, Belinda V.; Stern, Richard L.; Mullan, John G.
Cc: Vallesse, Julie M.; Blasius, Dennis R.; Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Poster
Attachments: Poster draft 07-11-06.doc

FYI

Here is the recall poster. The firm developed their own rather than use our suggested poster. I approved its use and they hope to begin transmitting them today to retailers.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
 Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 1:19 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Poster

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
 Brown & Gidding, P.C.
 3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
 St. 242
 Washington, DC 20016
 Telephone: 202-237-6008
 Fax: 202-237-5259

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From: Michael J. Gidding
Sent: Thursday, July 13, 2006 12:33 PM
To: 'Schoem, Marc J.'
Subject: Poster

Hello, Marc. The client has approved the poster (copy attached) that I sent you yesterday. Please confirm that it is satisfactory (for my records) and I'll have the client start sending it out. Also, I've talked with the client about developing an internet on-line registration form and a short description of what consumers have to do to take advantage of the replacement program. They are starting work on that. I'll let you know about the progress of this initiative. Hope your day continues to go well. Mike

7/17/2006

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Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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7/17/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 5:31 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Topka, Tanya L.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: Info

Thank you - thank you - thank you!

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 5:28 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.
Subject: RE: Info

Marc,

We have found very little on the products in the attachment you sent.

However, we did find two reported incidents on the Sumo, both involving children. (The Sumo is shaped like a cone, and the user is inside with his head coming out the top of the cone.) One was a report of a 9-year-old boy who was with his parents and jumped in the water with the Sumo. He immediately went feet up with his head submerged. Apparently he was too light for the product to function properly. The other was a similar report of an 11-year-old boy for whom the same thing happened, but his father reported that because of the product's tight fit, it doesn't allow the user to get out quickly; hence, the boy was underwater and trapped until he could be lifted out of the water.

These incidents occurred in May 2005 and July 2005, respectively.

That appears to be all we have on the listed products.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

-----Original Message-----

From: Roegner, Russell H.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 3:51 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: FW: Info

-----Original Message-----

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 3:43 PM
To: Roegner, Russell H.

Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Bell, Berinda V.; Mullan, John G.; Vallese, Julie M.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Info

Russ,

Attached is a list of Wego Replacement Options (these products will be given as replacements for the Kite Tube which we hope to announce in the morning). It would be helpful if someone could at least run the names in the first attachment - Wego Replacement Options - 7/10/06. Under each Option - each of those products will be given as a replacement for the recalled Kite Tube. Consumers can pick from 5 options and all products within that group would be given to them as a replacement. I just want to be sure we don't have any significant injuries or deaths with any of these products before we allow them to be used as a replacement.

More information on each of the products can be found at www.sportsstuff.com

Thanks!

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 3:33 PM.
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Info

Hello again, Marc. Here is the list of replacement products that Sportsstuff intends to offer. I have not done a complete review of the various products, but the few I checked exceed the suggested retail price of the kite tube. As we discussed, a consumer who selects Option A will receive all of the products in that group. Also, in response to your inquiry about refunds, the client would, of course, prefer that consumers accept replacement products. Should a consumer request a refund, the company will deal with such requests on a case by case basis. I do not anticipate that this will be a significant issue, however, since the client has indicated its desire to continue to foster good customer relations. Slowly, we are inching toward resolution.

Mike

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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-----Original Message-----

From: James Koranda [mailto:james@sportsstuff.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 12:39 PM
To: Michael J. Gidding

Cc: Leroy Peterson; Beckelmaier, Michael
Subject: Fw: Info

Attached are 5 different groups of products that the consumer will have a choice to choose from along with retail value. Retail value is based on price what various catalogs companies are selling these products at. These products can be viewed on are web site.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Rick Hull" <rhull@sportsstuff.com>
To: "Jim Koranda" <james@sportsstuff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 3:51 PM
Subject: Info

>
>
>

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 3:43 PM
To: Roegner, Russell H.
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Bell, Belinda V.; Mullan, John G.; Vallese, Julie M.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: FW: Info

Attachments: exchange items.xls



exchange items.xls
(30 KB)

Russ,

Attached is a list of Wego Replacement Options (these products will be given as replacements for the Kite Tube which we hope to announce in the morning). It would be helpful if someone could at least run the names in the first attachment - Wego Replacement Options - 7/10/06. Under each Option - each of those products will be given as a replacement for the recalled Kite Tube. Consumers can pick from 5 options and all products within that group would be given to them as a replacement. I just want to be sure we don't have any significant injuries or deaths with any of these products before we allow them to be used as a replacement.

More information on each of the products can be found at www.sportsstuff.com

Thanks!

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

-----Original Message-----

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 3:33 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: FW: Info

Hello again, Marc. Here is the list of replacement products that Sportsstuff intends to offer. I have not done a complete review of the various products, but the few I checked exceed the suggested retail price of the kite tube. As we discussed, a consumer who selects Option A will receive all of the products in that group. Also, in response to your inquiry about refunds, the client would, of course, prefer that consumers accept replacement products. Should a consumer request a refund, the company will deal with such requests on a case by case basis. I do not anticipate that this will be a significant issue, however, since the client has indicated its desire to continue to foster good customer relations. Slowly, we are inching toward resolution.

Mike

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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-----Original Message-----

From: James Koranda [mailto:james@sportsstuff.com]
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 12:39 PM
To: Michael J. Gidding
Cc: Leroy Peterson; Beckelman, Michael
Subject: Fw: Info

Attached are 5 different groups of products that the consumer will have a choice to choose from along with retail value. Retail value is based on price what various catalogs companies are selling these products at. These products can be viewed on are web site.

----- Original Message -----

From: "Rick Hull" <rhull@sportsstuff.com>
To: "Jim Koranda" <james@sportsstuff.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 3:51 PM
Subject: Info

>
>
>

WEGO REPLACEMENT OPTIONS 7/10/06

OPTION A (\$500 retail)

Sumo

Patriot Single

Mega Bowl

OPTION B (\$500 retail)

Mable

Acrobat Solo

Liberty Duo

OPTION C (\$500 retail)

Wet N Wild Flyer

Super Mable

OPTION D (\$500 retail)

Sumo

Patriot Triple

OPTION E (\$700 retail)

Thrill Zone

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<u>Name</u>	<u>Sale</u>	<u>Regular</u>
Wet N Wild		\$ 229.98
Frequent Flyer		\$ 169.98
Wego		\$ 499.98
Half Pipe Scrambler		\$ 299.98
Big Mable		\$ 219.98
Gazebo		\$ 199.98
Liberty Duo	\$ 229.98	\$ 189.98
Banana Cabana		\$ 249.98
Acrobat Trio		\$ 319.98
Acrobat Duo		\$ 249.98
Mot Pod 2		\$ 199.98
Moto Pod 1		\$ 139.98
Great Big Mable		\$ 299.98
Super Mable		\$ 259.98
Half -Pipe Thrash		\$ 169.98
Mini Lounge		\$ 119.98
Half-Pipe Rampage		\$ 219.98
Half-Pipe Frantic		\$ 289.98
Chair Pool	\$ 139.98	\$ 119.88
Big Chair Pool		\$ 179.98
Double Chair		\$ 199.98
Cabana Islander		\$ 299.98
Venture Pontoon		\$ 399.98
Super Slope Slide		\$ 329.98
Playmate Kayak		\$ 99.98
Posse Tube		\$ 199.98
Crazy 8		\$ 139.98
Speed Zone 2		\$ 199.98
Speed Zone 3		\$ 299.98
Boston Valve		\$ 3.98
Xplorer Kayak		\$ 79.98

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Name	RETAIL	COST	A	B	C	D	E	F
Outlaw	\$ 59.99	\$ 17.03						
Zip Ski	\$ 69.95	\$ 13.73						
Big Bertha	\$ 99.95	\$ 37.05						
Sumo	\$ 99.99	\$ 23.87	X				X	
Gyro	\$ 129.99	\$ 32.68		X				
Mable	\$ 129.99	\$ 46.78			X			
Moto Pod 1	\$ 139.99	\$ 31.40						
Crazy 8	\$ 139.99	\$ 38.46						
Thrash	\$ 169.98	\$ 48.80						
Acrobat Solo	\$ 179.99	\$ 45.25		X	X			
Posse Tube	\$ 179.99	\$ 57.01						
Liberty Duo	\$ 189.98	\$ 68.04			X			
Patriot Single	\$ 199.95	\$ 62.28	X					
Mega Bowl	\$ 199.99	\$ 55.50	X	X				
Mot Pod 2	\$ 199.99	\$ 46.92						
Big Mable	\$ 229.98	\$ 63.69						
Half-Pipe Rampage	\$ 229.98	\$ 64.33						
Wet N Wild	\$ 229.99	\$ 79.12				X		
Acrobat Duo	\$ 229.99	\$ 62.74						
Super Mable	\$ 259.99	\$ 78.92				X		
Patriot Double	\$ 279.95	\$ 83.07						
Acrobat Trio	\$ 299.99	\$ 82.06						
Half-Pipe Frantic	\$ 299.99	\$ 78.37						
Great Big Mable	\$ 329.98	\$ 106.24						
Half Pipe Scramble	\$ 329.99	\$ 96.32						
Speed Zone 3	\$ 329.99	\$ 108.50						
Patriot Triple	\$ 399.95	\$ 110.00					X	
THRILL ZONE	\$ 699.99	\$ 195.15						X
TOTAL EST RETAIL			500	510	500	490	500	700
TOTAL COST			141.65	133.43	160.07	158.04	133.87	195.15

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 10:38 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Cohn, Murray S.; Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: Kite Tube Ebay

Ebay already agreed to prevent the sale of these items at my request last Thursday. I have a similar request into Amazon.com.

Ebay doesn't generally take them down immediately – they usually step in within 48 to 72 hours of the auction and then shut down the auction. They have a schedule for products that are removed from sell based upon a priority system they have established. For instance, weapons of mass destruction are taken down immediately! Other things like human body parts, etc..fall within certain established time frames. I assume that's what this is following but will also have Murray check with his contact to be sure.

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 9:59 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Cc: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: Kite Tube Ebay
Importance: High

Marc,

Did you speak to your contact at Ebay about the Kite Tube? Apparently they are still for sale on Ebay.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 9:26 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW:

Tanya,

Can we prevent people from selling kite tubes on ebay?

Robin

From: Andres, Craig D.
Sent: Monday, July 17, 2006 9:11 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject:

The one I saw last night is already gone, so either ebay yanked it or it got sold. Here is another one though. I would check with ebay and see if they are monitoring for these, and if not they may do so if asked.

Craig

http://cgi.ebay.com/Wegi-Kite-Tube-Flying-Innertube-Like-New-Used-Once_W0QQitemZ150011983942QQihZ005QQcategoryZ71169QQssPageNameZWDVWQQrdZ1QQcmdZViewItem

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 5:50 PM
To: Michael J. Gidding
Cc: Topka, Tanya L.; Bell, Belinda V.; Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: RE: Final drafts attached

I confirm with the changes we just discussed on the phone that the consumer letter and the distributor letter can be issued by the firm. Specifically, use the words To date, in the third sentence and specify Sportstuff in the 5th sentence.

Thanks

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 5:41 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Final drafts attached

Marc, please E-mail me to confirm these are o.k. Mike

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Bell, Belinda V.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 5:40 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: REVIUSED

Marc,

I am concerned about the language in these retailer and consumer letters. I always thought that the language in these letters mirrored closely the language in the press release.

Seems like they should at least say add that they are investigating the incidents. The way its written now, makes it sound like those incidents are a closed matter.

Also, the way its written now, with COmmission in the same sentence as "are defective or reasonably dangerous", could lead the reader to believe that we Commission doesn't believe its defective either. If the firm wants to say that it should at least spell out "Sportsstuff" does not believe, rather than say "it". Change the nouns around. We could rewrite the sentences.

If we go along with only this language now, won't the firm try to hold us to that same language later.

Belinda

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:35 PM
To: Bell, Belinda V.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
Office of Compliance and
Field Operations
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject:

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008

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7/11/2006

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Stern, Richard L.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 7:26 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: RE: REVIUSED

Marc showed me some of them late this afternoon. I think we can actually get a recall announced this week then what he gave up on the language is a reasonable trade-off. The best part of it is that our names/initials are not on any of the approvals :)

Richard L. Stern
Associate Director
Fuel, Electrical & Recreational Products
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
voice: 301-504-7620
fax: 301-504-0359
e:mail: rstern@cpsc.gov

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 7:22 PM
To: Stern, Richard L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED

Thought you might want to see the letters Marc approved. I did not have ability for suggestions but they are what they are.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Mon 7/10/2006 4:34 PM
To: Bell, Belinda V.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject:

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
1201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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7/11/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 10:43 AM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count

As of 10:30 am on July 12, CPSC staff is aware of 40 incidents associated with kite tubes, including 2 deaths.

Among the injuries resulting from kite tube incidents are:

Cracked vertebrae, broken vertebrae, punctured lungs, broken ribs, injured spleens, broken hips, splintered/broken femurs, head injuries, neck injuries, broken teeth, facial trauma, loss of consciousness in water, respiratory injuries, severed aortas, bruised chests, broken ankle, lung contusions, kidney contusions, other internal bruising, internal bleeding, torn muscles, strained muscles and death.

Robin L. Ingle
Health Statistician, Emerging Hazards
Directorate for Epidemiology
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission
4330 East-West Highway
Bethesda, MD 20814 | Phone 301.504.7333

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 9:28 AM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: kite tube incident count
Importance: High

Has the count total changed? Just want the most accurate number. Also Marc wants me to list the types of injuries tell me if I would be correct in saying Fatalities, ruptured aortas, fractures to legs, arms, collar bones, hips, and ribs, concussions, neck fracture, broken noses, rib cartilage swelling, lacerated spleen, and bruised internal organs. Am I missing any types of injuries that you can think of?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

From: Ingle, Robin L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 2:37 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.
Cc: Roegner, Russell H.; Stralka, Kathleen A.; Blasius, Dennis R.
Subject: kite tube incident count

As of 2:30 pm on July 11, CPSC staff is aware of 35 injury incidents involving kite tubes. Two of the 35 resulted in deaths.

7/12/2006

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From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 12:52 PM
To: Ingle, Robin L.
Subject: RE: 7/05/06. Woman injured in kite tubing accident. Union Lake, MI.

I think a press release might be going out tomorrow on this if not Thursday from what Marc tells me. Can you get us an official count for the press release?

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Wolfson, Scott J.
Sent: Wednesday, July 12, 2006 7:50 AM
To: Vallese, Julie M.; Schoem, Marc J.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: Sportsstuff Press Release - 7/12

Sportsstuff, Inc. Wego Kite Tube

Sportsstuff is aware of recent incidents involving injuries to customers using the Wego Kite Tube and other kite tubes as well as the US Consumer Products Safety Commission Advisory Warning with regard to these products. Sportsstuff, Inc. is fully investigating these incidents in cooperation with the CPSC.

HOUSTON, TX (PRWEB) July 12, 2006 -- Sportsstuff, Inc. has been in the business of selling inflatable towable sporting goods for the past nineteen years and is committed to providing reasonably safe water sport products to its customers. The Wego Kite Tube was the winner of the 2006 Sporting Good Manufacturers Association Product of the Year Award and has been well-received in the water sports market.

Sportsstuff is aware of recent incidents involving injuries to customers using the Wego Kite Tube and other kite tubes as well as the US Consumer Products Safety Commission Advisory Warning with regard to these products. Sportsstuff, Inc. is fully investigating these incidents in cooperation with the CPSC.

It appears preliminarily that many, if not all, of the incidents brought to Sportsstuff's attention involved serious abuse of the product in direct contravention of the warnings and instructions provided with the product.

Each Wego Kite Tube is accompanied by an instructional DVD, user's manual and extensive warning labels on the product. The warnings printed on the tube state that the tow boat should never exceed the speed of 20 miles per hour when towing adults or 15 miles per hour when towing children. Media reports concerning these recent incidents state that the boats were towing the kite tube at speeds exceeding 30 miles per hour, a speed far in excess of the maximum towing speed indicated on the Wego Kite Tube.

The Owners Manual specifically states that misuse or improper use of the Kite Tube could result in serious injury or death. Copies of the Wego Kite Tube Owners Manual are available online at Sportsstuff.com.

As with any water sport, kite tubing is not without some risk of physical injury. Sportsstuff, Inc. believes that the Wego Kite Tube is a reasonably safe product if used responsibly and in compliance with the instructions and warnings that accompany this product.

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7/12/2006

607

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Tuesday, July 11, 2006 8:54 AM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Sportsstuff

Marc,

I assume since you are attempting to get the press release out tomorrow or Thursday then you will want to send out a accept cap package to gidding. I think it is appropriate since you handled all the negotiations on this case to have the accept cap package come from you. I can prepare the things electronically and email to you for your signature. I do not know all the things you negotiated with the firm so I suggest I provide to you electronically so you can add or change things at your leisure but you have all the basic things that are necessary for the package. Let me know what your decision is on this matter.

Tanya Topka, Compliance Officer
U.S. CPSC
301-504-7594
www.cpsc.gov

7/11/2006

608

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Topka, Tanya L.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 7:22 PM
To: Stern, Richard L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED
Attachments: Distributor letter draft rev client 07-10-06.doc; Consumer letter draft 07-10-06.doc

Thought you might want to see the letters Marc approved. I did not have ability for suggestions but they are what they are.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Mon 7/10/2006 4:34 PM
To: Bell, Belinda V.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject:

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259.

This electronic message is intended for the use of the individual or entity to which it is addressed, and may contain information that is privileged and confidential. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this transmission in error, please notify us immediately by reply e-mail or by telephone at 202-237-6008, and destroy the original transmission and its attachments without reading or saving them to disk. Thank you.

7/11/2006

609

Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:35 PM
To: Bell, Belinda V.; Topka, Tanya L.
Subject: FW: REVIUSED
Attachments: Distributor letter draft rev client 07-10-06.doc; Consumer letter draft 07-10-06.doc

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:32 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject:

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
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7/11/2006

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Topka, Tanya L.

From: Schoem, Marc J.
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:15 PM
To: Topka, Tanya L.; Bell, Belinda V.
Subject: FW: Draft distributor and consumer notice
Attachments: Distributor letter draft rev client 07-10-06.doc; Consumer letter draft 07-10-06.doc; Addresses.xls.htm

Marc J. Schoem
Deputy Director
**Office of Compliance and
Field Operations**
301-504-7520 - phone
240-638-6955 - cell

From: Michael J. Gidding [mailto:MJG@brown-gidding.com]
Sent: Monday, July 10, 2006 4:08 PM
To: Schoem, Marc J.
Subject: Draft distributor and consumer notice

Hello again, Mark. Attached are the two letters I discussed. I've made the changes to the distributor letter to reflect the possibility that distributors may have resold some tubes to retailers. As I indicated in our prior conversations, Sportsstuff does not view this product withdrawal as any admission that the products involved are defective or present a substantial product hazard or unreasonable risk of injury. To accommodate the Commission, Sportsstuff has used the word "recall" in these communications in recognition that the Commission prefers to use that term to assure that actions such as this get sufficient attention. Please let me know if the letters are satisfactory. Also, attached is the complete customer list that you requested.

Hope your evening goes well. Mike

Michael J. Gidding, Esquire
Brown & Gidding, P.C.
3201 New Mexico Avenue, N.W.
St. 242
Washington, DC 20016
Telephone: 202-237-6008
Fax: 202-237-5259

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6/11

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

WEGO KITE TUBES

Dear _____:

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, you purchased a Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tube. In recent weeks, Sportsstuff has received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. At present, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While it does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous when used according to the instructions that accompany them, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

We therefore request that you stop using your kite tube and contact us at 1-888 for instructions how to obtain the replacement product(s).

Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may cause you.

Sincerely yours,

[Appropriate Sportsstuff official]

IMPORTANT SAFETY RECALL

WEGO KITE TUBES

Dear _____:

Our records indicate that, during 2005-2006, Sportsstuff, Inc. sold you Sportsstuff Wego Kite Tubes. In recent weeks, we have received reports that persons have been seriously injured or died while using these kite tubes. At present, Sportsstuff has been unable to determine the causes of these incidents. While it does not believe that the products are defective or unreasonably dangerous when used according to the instructions that accompany them, in an abundance of caution, Sportsstuff is cooperating with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to withdraw the kite tubes from the market and to undertake a voluntary recall to replace those in the possession of consumers with products of comparable value.

To accomplish this, Sportsstuff is requesting that all distributors and retailers who are currently in possession of these products IMMEDIATELY take the following steps:

- (1) CEASE FURTHER SALES of the products;
- (2) RETURN ALL INVENTORY of the products to Sportsstuff to the following address:

for a full credit;

- (3) FORWARD A COPY OF THIS LETTER to any retailer or other distributor to whom you sold the products; and
- (4) FORWARD A COPY OF THE ATTACHED LETTER to any consumers to whom you have sold the kite tubes.

If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Sportsstuff immediately at 1-888-814-8833. Thank you for helping us in this important safety matter. We regret any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Sincerely yours,

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From: Gordon Harting [gordonh@sportsstuff.com]

Sent: Thursday, June 29, 2006 3:54 PM

To: Jim Koranda (E-mail)

Subject: Addresses.xls

Page 1 of 3
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IVM BillName	IVM BillAddress	IVM BillAdd2	IVM BillAdd3	IVM BillCity	IVM E
41st Street Scheels	2101 W 41st St			Sioux Falls	SD
Al Boom Marine	212 Al Ramool Showroom #7	United Arab Emirates		Dubai	NE
Alan Petersen	604 Pearl St			Elkhorn	NE
Ample Harvest International Co Ltd	No 32-2 Wunsyue St			Fongshan City	KAOHSIUN
Appleton Scheels	Fox River Mall	4301 W. Wisconsin Ave		Appleton	WI
AquaFun Inc	PO Box 137			Scales Mound	IL
Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL
Bart's Water Sports	7581 E. 800 N.	P.O. Box 294		North Webster	IN
Bass Pro, L.P.	2500 E. Kearney			Springfield	MO
Bay Marine & Sportscenter	PO Box 7880			Horseshoe Bay	TX
Bell Industries	580 Yankee Doodle Rd. Ste 1200			Eagan	MN
Big Bear Sports Center	2618 King Ave W			Billings	MT
Big Daddy D's	502 Hazelview Rd			Bruceton Mills	WV
Bilison's Sport Shop	201 Lander Ave			Turlock	CA
Boater's World	6711 Ritz Way			Beltsville	MD
Body Sculpture	PO Box 141	Unit 44, Trevallyn Industrial Park	Cnr Hans Strydom & River Rd	Kya Sand	
Byggplast & Batprylar Sverige AB	Lowbacksvagen 4	SE-141 71		Segeltorp	
Cabela's, Inc.	3200 Rd 101			Sidney	NE
Carol Christensen	3055 S 46th Ave			Omaha	NE
Chelseas's Boutique	P.O. Box 29134			Indianapolis	IN
Coast Distribution	P.O. Box 1449			Morgan Hill	CA
College Square Scheels	College Square Mall	6301 University Ave		Cedar Falls	IA
Crown Enterprises	DBA: Sportsman & Ski Haus	40 E. Idaho St		Kalispell	MT
Dakota Square Scheels	Minot Dakota Square	2400 10th St SW		Minot	ND
Den Bol Sport & Recreatie BV	Heerewaardensestraat 30			Heerwaarden	
Des Moines Scheels	Jordan Creek Town Center	101 74th St Bldg 4000		West Des Moines	IA
Dick's Sporting Goods	PO Box 6700			Coraopolis	PA
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA
Diversified Marine	1914 S. Mateo St.			Los Angeles	CA
Diversified Marine	3528 Garfield Ave			Commerce	CA
Dolphin Marine Co	66 Eltaweniate Smouha			Alexandria	CA
Domeyer Implement	46950 100th St			Tea	SD
Donovan Marine, Inc	6316 Humphreys St.			Harahan	LA

Dub's Sporting Goods	1917 N. Broadwell				Grand Island	NE
Eau Claire Scheels	4710 Golf Rd				Eau Claire	WI
Eliett Brothers	267 Columbia Ave				Chapin	SC
Exceed Int'l / Hot Products	8949 Kenamar Dr. Ste 111				San Diego	CA
Freestyle	475 Westfield Road				Charlottesville	VA
Fun, Inc	254 S. River Ave.				Holland	MI
Gene Lockwoods Sportmart	12101 W. Markham				Little Rock	AR
Hardware City	1060 S. Riverside Dr				Clarksville	TN
Imidex Ltd	Pribinova 32				Bratislava	
Iowa City Scheels	1461 Coral Ridge Ave				Coralville	IA
J. Osawa & Co., Ltd	521 Kobo, Misato'shi				Saitama ken	
Joe's Sporting Goods	33 E County Rd B				St Paul	Mn
Keller Marine	P.O. Box 190			Routes 11 & 15	Port Trevorton	PA
Kellogg Marine Supply	5 Enterprise Dr				Old Lyme	CT
Ken Williams Marine Supplies	R.M.B. 1550 Yarrowonga.			Lewington's Rd	Bundalong	Victoria
Kimpex	5355 Rue St-Roch				Drummondville	PQ
Kirkwood Scheels Sports	802 Kirkwood Mall				Bismarck	ND
Lake Elmo Sports	1121 E Cliff Rd				Burnsville	MN
Land N Sea Dist Inc Benrock Region	6900 Alcoa Road				Benton	AR
Land 'N' Sea Distributing	3131 N Andrews Ave Ext				Pompano Beach	FL
Lifestyle Sport	N Fiskaregatan 16			SE-441 50	Alingsas	
Lincoln Scheels	2960 Pine Lake Rd., Suite B				Lincoln	NE
Links Unlimited Inc	1249 W 7th Street				Cincinnati	OH
Little Chapel of the Flowers	1717 Las Vegas Blvd S				Las Vegas	NV
Lorenz & Jones Marine	PO Box 1028				Ankeny	IA
Marine Equipment & Supply Co	1401 Metropolitan Ave				Thorofare	NJ
Marine World, Inc.	601 E. First St				Wichita	KS
Mark Dowland Marine	Park Wood House			Charter Ave	Canley, Coventry	
MC Sports	3070 Shaffer Ave SE				Grand Rapids	MI
Medart Marine	124 Manufacturers Dr				Arnold	MO
Mills Fleet Farm	P.O. Box 971				Braihard	MN
Moorhead Downtown Scheels	505 Center Ave				Moorhead	MN
Morgan Recreational Supply	6013 Denny Dr				Farmington	NY
Omaha Marine Center	9610 L Street				Omaha	NE
Omaha Scheels All Sports	17202 Davenport St				Omaha	NE
Oriental Wakeboard Group	Ground Floor			46 Tai Tam Tuk Village	Tai Tam	HONG KOI
Outfitters, Ltd.	3027 Breard St				Monroe	LA
Overton's Inc	P.O. Box 8228				Greenville	NC

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Parks Sportsman	644 N. State			Orem	UT
Pelican Leisure Sports Pa Inc.	620 North Saint Cloud St			Allentown	PA
Platinum Direct Source LLC	2907 Burnbrae Ln			San Ramon	CA
Pro Boating Supplies	7712 Parkwood Plaza Dr			Fort Worth	TX
Resuco USA, Inc	23011 Moulton Pkwy Suite L-6			Laguna Hills	CA
Retail Concepts Inc - DIP	4001 Greenbriar Suite 100			Stafford	TX
River Hills Scheels	River Hills Mall	1850 Adams St #404		Mankato	MN
Sail & Ski #1	12971 Research Blvd.			Austin	TX
Sav-On Drugs Inc	21118 Bridge St			Southfield	MI
Scheels - Fargo	3202 13th Ave S			Fargo	ND
Seacoast Distributors LLC	684 N Queens Ave			Lindenhurst	NY
Seacoast Distributors LLC	105 Warburg Ave			Copiague	NY
Seas and Deserts	Amiry Trade Center	Shuwaikh Bank Street		Safat	
Ski-n-See	772 E. 9400 S.			Sandy	UT
SkyMall	1520 E. Pima St			Phoenix	AZ
Southern Hill Scheels	4400 Sergeant Rd Suite 54			Sioux City	IA
Southern Marine Supply	6600 Murray St Suite 1			Little Rock	AR
Speed Marine	Will Advise			Doha	
Sports Imports	249 Cumberland St			Dunedin	
St. Cloud Scheels	40 North Waite Avenue			Waite Park	MN
Studio Marina SAS	Di Rodio Evaristo & C	Via T Tasso 7		Veglie	LE
Summit Sports Inc	330 Enterprise Court			Bloomfield Hills	MI
Target Stores	33 S. 6th St			Minneapolis	MN
The Backyard Oasis	1 Cardiff Court			Algonquin	IL
The Brennar Company, Inc	8523 S. 117th St.			Lavista	NE
Trinexus Aqua	Szabadkikoto ut 2			Budapest	
Trinity Sport	Vorontzovo Polye St	5/7 Bldg. 9		Moscow	*
Unipart Automotive Limited	Park Wood House	Charter Ave		Canley	COVENTRY
Utah Water Toys	395 W 400 N			Manti	UT
V & V Marine	6642 Baker Blvd			Fort Worth	TX
Vita Plate Battery	304 Buckeye Blvd.			Port Clinton	OH
Wal-Mart Stores, Inc.	702 S.W. 8th St			Bentonville	AR
Watermark Trading Australia	Unit 6/1 Akuna Drive			Williamstown	VIC
WCDI, Inc.	P. O. Box 527525			Miami	FL
West Marine Products	P. O. Box 50011			Watsonville	CA
WM&K Enterprises Inc	d/b/a Play it Again Sports	PO Box 944		Brookfield	CT

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