

CPSC MEETING LOG
DIRECTORATE FOR ENGINEERING SCIENCES

CPSA 6(b)(1) CLEARED for PUBLIC

~~NO FIRST PARTY BURN OR
PRODUCTS IDENTIFIED~~

EXCEPTED BY: PETITION
RULEMAKING ADMIN. PRCDG

WITH PORTIONS REMOVED: _____

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. William Lerner to discuss thermal contact burn hazards from hot glass on gas fireplaces

LOCATION: Room 714

DATE: April 14, 2011

TIME: 1:00 pm

LOG ENTRY SOURCE: Ronald A. Jordan

ENTRY DATE: April 15, 2011

COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

Ronald Jordan	ESFS	Janell Mayo-Duncan	COIT
Tim Smith	ESHF	Christopher Day	OCR
Sandy Inkster	ESFS	Jenilee Keefe Singer	OCR
George Borlase	ES	Stephanie Marques	HS
DeWane Ray	EXHR	Patty Adair	ESFS
Jay Howell	EXHR	Matt Hnatov	EPHA
Susan Bathalon	EXHR	Charles Smith	EC
Scott Ayers	ESFS		

NON-COMMISSION ATTENDEES:

William Lerner	independent inventor
Kay Winn	Kathleen Winn & Associates
Greg Orloff	Canadian Standards Association
Allan Cagnoli	HPBA
Carol Pollack-Nelson	Independent Safety Consulting
Jennifer Karmonick	Arnold & Porter, LLP
Gregg Achman	Hearth & Home Technologies
Jason Stokes	Hearth & Home Technologies
Rachel Karas	Fair Warning
Ignacio Cundin	Underwriters' Laboratories

MEETING SUMMARY:

William Lerner, an independent inventor, requested this meeting with CPSC staff to discuss thermal contact burns caused by the glass front of gas fireplaces and possible solutions. Mr. Lerner referenced estimates from the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS) data that over 2000 children, between the ages of 0 and 5, received burn injuries from contact with gas fireplaces between 1999 and 2009. Mr. Lerner also cited data from the Children's

Hospital of Colorado that indicated there had been 82 burn injuries in Colorado between 2005 and 2008.

He discussed a number of possible interventions including a light-based technology he developed that he believes could address the problem by projecting a visual warning on to the glass front indicating that it is still hot. He also discussed his views that current warnings found in users manuals and on gas fireplaces, as well as other proposed interventions, such as physical barriers and screens were not effective. Mr. Lerner stated that he had participated in the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Hot Glass Working Group meeting in March 2011, but that no actions had been agreed upon by the WG to resolve the problem. CPSC staff asked Mr. Lerner if he thought that a red light on a glass front might actually attract young children to the glass front. He stated that he did not believe so. CPSC staff asked Mr. Lerner and some of the manufacturers and standards organization personnel in attendance whether the issue could be addressed by pursuing a means to insulate the glass to reduce the exterior surface temperature. One of the manufacturing representatives commented that this was not a viable option since many fireplace designs also use radiant heat through the glass for heating purposes. The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 pm.

Cc:
OS
Colin Church, OEX