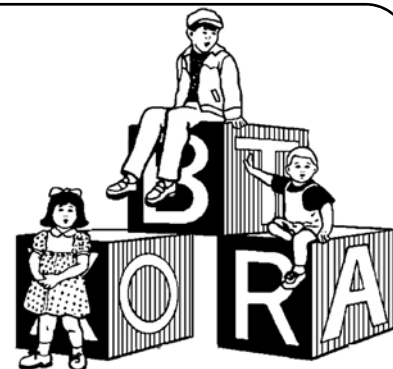


Building Blocks to Safety

A newsletter for prevention of childhood injuries



North Dakota Department of Health

Winter 2010

Division of Injury Prevention and Control

A Safe Sleep for All Babies

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) and Keeping Babies Safe (KBS) are collaborating to get the safe sleep message out to the public and to professionals so that they can create a safe sleep environment for babies. A video that demonstrates how to keep babies safe and sound in cribs, bassinets and play yards is available at www.keepingbabiesafe.org. The video urges parents and caregivers to follow these crib safety tips:

- Place infants to sleep on their backs in their own crib.
- Use a firm, tight-fitting, safety-approved crib mattress.
- Never use extra padding, blankets or pillows under baby.
- Remove pillows, thick comforters and toys from the crib.
- Do not allow smoking around your baby.
- Do not use positioning devices – they are not necessary and can be deadly.
- Regularly check cribs for loose, missing or broken parts or slats.
- Do not try to fix a broken crib.
- Place cribs or playpens away from windows and window covering cords to avoid fall and strangulation hazards.
- Place baby monitor cords away from cribs or playpens to avoid strangulation.

For more information, visit www.ndhealth.gov/sids/ or call 800.472.2286 and ask for Kjersti Hintz.

CPSC Safe Babywearing Tips

Infant slings and wraps have been used for thousands of years in many different cultures. For many parents across the United States, “babywearing” promotes a positive bond between child and parent. The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) wants to make sure that parents and caregivers are aware of important safety information related to the proper use of slings.

CPSC urges everyone to use slings and wraps safely, as CPSC has identified 14 infant suffocation deaths with sling-style carriers during the past 20 years. After reviewing numerous cases, child safety experts at CPSC have determined that parents with infants younger than 4 months, premature babies, low-

birthweight babies, and babies with colds and respiratory problems should take extra care in using a sling, including consulting their pediatrician.



Suffocation/asphyxiation can occur when babies are contained entirely within the pouch of a sling with their face, including nose and mouth, pressed against the adult’s body, blocking their breathing. Suffocation can occur within minutes.

Because of the nature of the product and its use, some slings tend to keep an infant in a curled, chin-to-chest position that can interfere with breathing.

Continued on next page

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and the following firms are recalling the products in this newsletter.

CPSC Safe Babywearing Tips (continued)

When an infant is in the chin-to-chest position, suffocation can occur. Both scenarios are serious concerns to CPSC. Many of the babies who died in slings were twins in separate slings and infants with breathing issues. CPSC recommends that parents and caregivers:

- Make sure you can see your baby's face or eyes in the sling and that your baby can see you. Also, you should place the baby's face at or above the rim of a sling or wrap so that his or her face is visible.
- After nursing your baby, change the baby's position in the sling so that the baby's face is at or above the rim of a sling or wrap and that his or her face is visible and clear of fabric and the mother's body. You should be vigilant about frequently checking the baby in a sling.

Save the Date!

The 2011 Dakota Conference on Rural and Public Health will be March 23 through 25, 2011, at the Best Western Seven Seas Hotel and Waterpark in Mandan, N.D. With the theme "New Horizons in Health Care," the conference will provide continuing education and innovative ways to create healthy communities in the areas of health-care administration, health promotion/disease prevention, environmental health/occupational health, and diverse populations/health disparities. The Dakota Conference creates an environment of learning that is informative and educational, provides participants with the opportunity to informally network with others, and fosters an environment that encourages collaboration among different organizations.

This annual event, which draws more than 300 health-care professionals, is an exciting opportunity to learn more about health-care issues that affect both rural and urban North Dakota and the nation. To find out more about the Dakota Conference and to register for the event, visit www.ruralhealth.und.edu/dakotaconference.

Cribs Recalled

Product: 34,000 Heritage Collection 3-in-1 drop-side cribs imported by Victory Land Group Inc.

Hazard: The crib's drop-side rail partially detaches, creating a space between the drop side and the crib mattress. An infant's or toddler's body can become entrapped in the space, which can lead to strangulation and/or suffocation.



Incidents/Injuries: CPSC and Victory Land Group have received 17 reports of incidents involving drop-side rail detachments from the cribs.

Three infants received bruises and abrasions to the neck, back and legs after becoming entrapped when the drop-side detached.

Description: The cribs were sold at Kmart stores nationwide from February 2007 through October 2008. The recall involves Heritage collection 3-in-1 cribs with Kmart model numbers 07-1248 and 07-1252. They were sold in natural and white colors. A label with Kmart and the model number can be found on the inner side of the crib's headboard or footboard on the bottom rail.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the crib and contact the Victory Land Group for a free repair kit that will immobilize the drop-side rail. In the meantime, parents are urged to find an alternate, safe sleeping environment for the child, such as a bassinet, play yard or toddler bed, depending on the child's age. For more information, contact Victory Land Groups at 866.499.2099.

Visit the following websites for more information about product safety and injury prevention:

www.cpsc.gov
www.ndhealth.gov

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www.ndhealth.gov/injury



Infant Sleep Positioner Warnings

The CPSC and the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warns consumers to stop using infant sleep positioners. Over the past 13 years, CPSC and the FDA have received 13 reports of infants between the ages of 1 month and 4 months who died when they suffocated in sleep positioners or became trapped and suffocated between a sleep positioner and the side of a crib or bassinet.

Most of the infants suffocated after rolling from a side to stomach position. In addition to the reported deaths, CPSC has received dozens of reports of infants who were placed on their backs or sides in sleep positioners, only to be found later in potentially hazardous positions within or next to the sleep positioners. The two main types of infant sleep positioners are flat mats with side bolsters and inclined (wedge) mats with side bolsters.



Both types of sleep positioners typically claim to help keep infants on their backs and reduce the risk of sudden infant death syndrome (SIDS). The FDA has never approved an infant sleep positioner to prevent or reduce the risk of SIDS. In addition, CPSC and the FDA are unaware of any scientific studies demonstrating that infant positioners prevent SIDS or are proven to prevent suffocation or other life-threatening harm.

Sleep positioners also typically claim to do one or all of the following: aid in food digestion to ease colic or the symptoms of gastroesophageal reflux disease (GERD); and prevent flat head syndrome (plagiocephaly). In light of the new safety data, FDA believes any benefit from using these devices to ease GERD or prevent plagiocephaly is outweighed by the risk of suffocation.

CPSC and the FDA are warning parents and child-care providers to:

STOP using sleep positioners. Using a positioner to hold an infant on his or her back or side for sleep is dangerous and unnecessary.

NEVER put pillows, infant sleep positioners, comforters or quilts under a baby or in a crib.

ALWAYS place an infant on his or her back at night and during nap time. To reduce the risk of SIDS, the American Academy of Pediatrics recommends placing

infants to sleep on their backs and not their sides.

CPSC is interested in receiving incident or injury reports related to these products. Please visit www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/incident.aspx to file a report.

Children's Tents Unsafe

Product: 1,500 Circo Children's Space Camp Compo Pack



Hazard: The floor of the tent failed a flammability test and poses a fire hazard.

Incidents/Injuries: None

Description: The pack was sold exclusively at Target stores nationwide from September 2010 through October 2010. The recall involves one model of the pack, which includes a tent, sleeping bag, backpack and headlamp. The tent is green and dark blue with planets, stars and figures printed on it. The UPC number is 490911500926, DPCI: 091-15-0092.

Remedy: Consumers should stop using the recalled tents and return them to any Target store for a full refund or store credit. For more information, contact Target at 800.440.0680

Cabinet Safety Locks Recalled

Product: 41,300 The First Years American Red Cross Cabinet Swing Locks



Hazard: The installed latches can break, and children could gain access to contents of a cabinet, posing the risk of exposure to hazardous items.

Incidents/Injuries: The First Years has received seven reports of latches breaking. No injuries have been reported.

Description: The recall involves The First Years American Red Cross cabinet swing locks with item number Y7181. "American Red Cross" is molded onto the front of the lock. The locks were sold at Toys R Us, Babies R Us and other retail stores nationwide and on the Internet from September 2008 through September 2010.

Remedy: Consumers should remove the locks from the cabinets, record the date code on the back of each latch and contact The First Years to obtain a \$5 coupon toward the purchase of another product. For more information, contact The First Years at 866.725.4407.

Rollerblades Recalled

Product: 29,000 Spark, Spitfire Inline Skates by Rollerblade USA

Hazard: The frame mounting bolts and wheel axle bolts can be loose on new skates. Loose wheels or frames on the skates can cause the rider to fall, posing a risk of injury.



Incidents/Injuries: Rollerblade USA has received 31 reports of loose bolts, including one report of a fall resulting in minor injuries that required medical attention.

Description: The skates were sold at sporting goods stores nationwide and on the Internet from September 2009 through July 2010. The recall involves the following models purchased since September 2009:

- Spark Pro Men's SKU#00792200816 (grey)
- Spark Pro Women's SKU#007923007E2 (grey)
- Spark 80 Men's SKU#00702800956 (black)
- Spark 80 Women's SKU#007029009A6 (grey)
- Spitfire, Boy's SKU#00705500741 (black)
- Spitfire, Girl's SKU#007056007Y8 (Silver)
- Spitfire S, Boy's SKU#00705700956 (black)
- Spitfire S, Girl's SKU#007058009A7 (grey)
- Spitfire LX SKU#00705000955

Remedy: Consumers should inspect all wheel-axle and frame-mounting bolts to ensure they are properly tightened. Rollerblade recommends regular inspection and tightening of bolts. For more information, contact Rollerblade at 800.232.7655.

Bathtub Toys Unsafe

Product: 34,000 Munchkin Bathtub Subs

Hazard: The intake valve on the bottom of the submarine toy can suck up loose skin, posing a laceration hazard to children.

Incidents/Injuries: 19 incidents of lacerations to boys' genital areas have been reported.

Description: Mass merchandise retail stores nationwide sold this product from November 2009 through September 2010. The product is a battery-operated bathtub toy. The toy is yellow and has a smiling face and an orange periscope that turns the toy on and off. The intake valve has a water pump that sucks in water to propel the submarine.



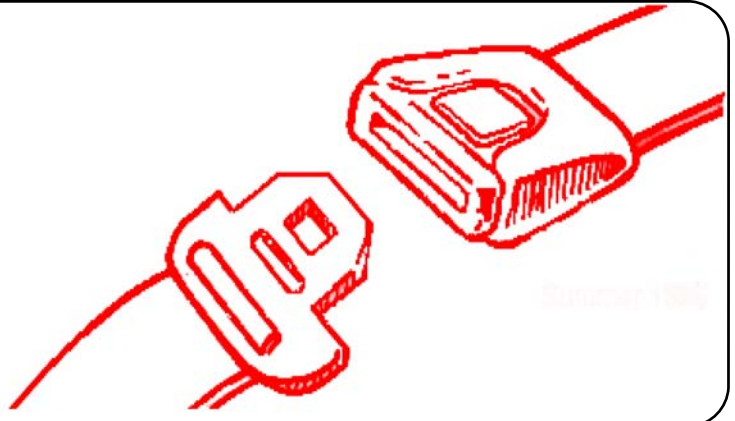
Remedy: Stop using this product and contact Munchkin at 877.242.3134 for instructions about how to return the product for a free replacement toy.

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

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North Dakota Department of Health
600 E. Boulevard Ave., Dept. 301
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The Buckle Update



Car Seat Misuse in North Dakota

Of 1,519 child restraints inspected through the North Dakota Department of Health's car seat checkup program in 2009, only 14 percent were used correctly. That means 86 percent of the car seats were misused.

The car seats were inspected in 2009 at checkups held throughout the state. Each seat was checked by a certified child passenger safety technician who assessed the restraint to see if it was appropriate for the child riding in it, if it was installed correctly in the vehicle, if the child was secured correctly in it and the general condition of the restraint. In addition to assessing the car seats for correct use, the technicians worked with the parent or caregiver to educate them about how to install the car seat in the vehicle and how to secure the child in the restraint.

Highlights of the 2009 data include:

- A total of 15.8 percent of the restraints were not appropriate for the age, weight or height of the child riding in them.
- Sixty-eight percent of the children riding in car seats or seat belts were incorrectly secured in them. In 59 percent of these, the harness was not tight enough. Other securing errors included retainer clips positioned incorrectly (32 percent) and harness straps threaded wrong (22 percent).
- Seventy-four percent of the car seats were installed wrong. Of these, 49 percent were installed too loosely in the vehicle. Other installation errors included incorrect reclines, use of the wrong belt path and incorrect use of the LATCH system.
- Three percent of the car seats were recalled.

- Ten percent of the car seats had been in a crash or the parent was unsure of the seat's crash history.
- Seven percent of the car seats were outdated or the car seat was missing labels, so the age of the car seat could not be determined.
- Eighteen percent of the restraints had an unregulated product attached to it or to the vehicle. Unregulated products included toys on infant seat handles, head inserts, body pillows, etc. These products did not come with the car seat and should not be used.
- For children riding in booster seats, the seat belt did not fit the child correctly in 34 percent of the cases.
- For children riding in seat belts, the seat belt was not positioned correctly in 68 percent of the cases.

On a positive note, parents appear to be learning from their checkup experiences. For car seats that had been checked before, 21 percent were used correctly. This compared to 9 percent correct use for restraints that had not been checked before.

For more information about car seat misuse or to schedule a car seat checkup in your area, contact the North Dakota Department of Health at 800.472.2286.



Britax Recalls Chaperone Infant Seat

Britax Child Safety Inc. has initiated a recall of certain Chaperone infant car seats made from April 2009 through May 2010. The recall affects models E9L69N9, E9L69P2, E9L69P3 and E9L69P5.

According to Britax, the chest clip may break when engaged, causing risk of laceration or choking on small pieces. Contact Britax at 888.427.4829 for a new chest clip.

Parents – Not Sure Which Car Seat To Use?



Are you looking for a new car seat for your infant, toddler or 4- 8-year-old child? Go to www.nhtsa.gov/Safety/Ease-of-Use to see how car seat features differ among various models.

Use the New Five-Star Ease-of-Use Ratings

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) provides parents a new five-star ratings system that allows you to evaluate how easy certain car seat features are to use before you buy a seat.

Are All Seats Safe?

All car seats rated by NHTSA meet Federal Safety Standards and strict crash performance standards. While all rated seats are safe, they do differ in their ease of use in four basic categories:

- **Evaluation of Instructions:** Examines the content and clarity of the instruction manual for the restraint.
- **Vehicle Installation Features:** Examines the ease of using features that pertain to installing the child restraint in a vehicle.
- **Evaluation of Labels:** Examines the content and clarity of the labeling attached to the child restraint.
- **Securing the Child:** Examines the ease of using features that pertain to securing a child correctly in the restraint.

Evenflo Maestro Car Seat Recalled

Evenflo Company is recalling certain Maestro combination car seats made between Nov. 24, 2009, and April 9, 2010. Affected models are 3101198, 3101980, 31011048, 31011049 and 31011059. In the event of a crash, a crack could form at the front of the seat next to the harness adjuster, causing the child to be improperly restrained.

Owners of the seat should call Evenflo at 800.233.5921 for a free metal reinforcement plate to provide additional structural support near the harness adjuster. The seat should not be used with the harness until it is repaired. It may be used as a booster for children over 40 pounds.



Fact or Fiction?

Fact or Fiction: If your vehicle is equipped with the LATCH (lower anchors and tethers for children) system, it is recommended that your car seat be installed with both the seat belt and the lower anchors.

Fiction: Car seats should be installed with either the seat belt or the lower anchors, not both. The use of both systems could make the child restraint stiffer than it would normally be, so it would absorb energy differently. There are concerns that car seats may not function as expected in a crash when the seat is installed with both systems.

Fact or Fiction: Booster seats should be secured in the vehicle even when a child is not riding in them.

Fact: Unused booster seats should be buckled or they may become projectiles in a crash. They can be tossed around the vehicle (like other loose items) and could cause injury to occupants during a crash or sudden stop.

Frustrated with your car seat?
Call 800.472.2286 for help!

