

**U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission**  
**An Overview**



**North Dakota Conference  
on Injury Prevention & Control**  
*Bruce Blackman*

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Views expressed in this presentation are those of the staff and do not necessarily represent the views of the Commission #1

**Questions We Will Answer Today**

- Who are we?
- What do we do?
- How do we do it?
- How can you assist in our mission?
- How can we assist you?

#2

**WHO ARE WE**

#3

**Consumer Product Safety Commission**

- An Independent Agency
- Established in 1972 with the passage of the Consumer Product Safety Act
- Our Mission is to protect the public against unreasonable risks of injuries and deaths associated with consumer products

#4

**Commissioners**



**Inez Tenenbaum**  
■ Chairman



**Thomas Moore**  
Commissioner



**Nancy Nord**  
Commissioner



**Anne Northup**  
Commissioner



**Robert Adler**  
Commissioner

The President appoints one Commissioner as the Chairman, who acts as Principal Executive Officer

#5

**CPSC ORGANIZATION**

CPSC Organizational Offices



#6

### Where is the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission located?



■Headquarters:  
Bethesda, MD



■Lab Facilities:  
Gaithersburg, MD



#7

## WHAT DO WE DO



#8

### Regulate Consumer Products Via These Acts

- Consumer Product Safety Act
- Federal Hazardous Substances Act
- Poison Prevention Packaging Act
- Flammable Fabrics Act
- Refrigerator Safety Act
- Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Act
- Children's Gasoline Burn Prevention Act
- Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act



#9

### What Is a Consumer Product?

- If you don't eat it, fly it, drive it, or shoot it, it is probably a consumer product; and if you do, it still may be one.
- Excludes some products covered by other federal agencies such as:
  - Cars and related equipment (NHTSA)
  - Food, drugs, medical devices, and cosmetics (FDA)
  - Firearms (BATF)
  - Airplanes (FAA)
  - Boats (Coast Guard)
  - Pesticides (EPA)



#10

## HOW DO WE DO IT

- Conduct Research to Identify Product hazards and the Need for Voluntary or Mandatory Standards
- Issue and Enforce Mandatory Standards and Regulations
- Develop Voluntary Standards with Industry
- Recall Hazardous Products
- Inform and Educate Consumers and Industry



#11

### OFFICE OF HAZARD IDENTIFICATION AND REDUCTION

- Collects and Analyzes Statistical Data Related to Deaths, Injuries and Product Hazards
- Reviews and Evaluates Human Health Effects of Products and Their Use
- Studies the Economic, Social, and Environmental Effects of Commission Actions
- Tests and Evaluates Product Hazards
- Tests Manufacturers' Product Corrective Plans



#12

### **OFFICE OF COMPLIANCE AND FIELD OPERATIONS**

- Field Investigations and Inspections
- Manage Product Recalls
- Enforce Mandatory Standards and Regulations
- Seek Civil Penalties, Seizures/Injunctions, or Criminal Prosecutions
- Conduct Customs Import Inspections and Seizures



#13

### **DIVISIONS**

- Defect Investigations
- Regulatory Enforcement
- Field Investigations
- Import Surveillance



#14

### **ENFORCEMENT OPTIONS**

- Recalls /Fast Track
- Civil Penalties
- Seizures/Injunctions
- Criminal Prosecution



#15

### **HOW CAN YOU ASSIST IN OUR MISSION**



#16

- REPORT
- REPORT
- REPORT



#17

### **HOW WE DISCOVER HAZARDS**

- Reports From Industry
- Medical Examiner and Death Certificate
- NEISS Hospitals
- News Reports and Articles
- Consumer Complaints
- State, Local, and Private Professionals



#18



## CHALLENGE.GOV/CPSC



#25

## CONTACTS

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#26

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#27