



KIDS IN DANGERSM

A nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety

Smoldering Hazards:

***Fire and Burn Hazards of
Children's Product Recalls***

2002-2007

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Executive Summary

Fires and burns are leading causes of unintentional injury and death of children in the United States. Household fires alone are responsible for thousands of these injuries and deaths annually. Given the enormity of the problem, identifying avoidable injuries and deaths becomes all the more important. Every year, hundreds of thousands of units of toys, sporting goods, nursery items, and children's clothing are pulled off of shelves for fire and burn-related risks. Unfortunately, this often only happens after a child has been injured. Even worse, injuries do not stop after a recall, as the flow of information is limited. Kids in Danger was compelled by the danger that these products pose to undertake an examination of children's product related fire and burn hazards in its report *A Burning Threat: Fire and Burn Hazards of Children's Product Recalls*, released in July, 2002. *Smoldering Hazards* is a continuation of that initial report, and documents fire and burn-related recalls of children's products from June 2002-June^{*} 2007.

- o Since the publication of the last report in 2002, the number of units recalled for fire and burn hazard has decreased to less than a third of the 16,305,700 recalled between 1992 and 2002. The percentage of products recalled for failing to pass the *Flammable Fabrics Act* is down to 30% from 36%. While the number of injuries rose to 121 from 65 over this period, there were no fatalities in the last five years.
- o Because the prior report covered 10 years, compared to the five years that have elapsed since that report, the increase in injuries is of even greater concern. This increase correlating with a decrease in recalled units underlines the importance of inquiring into the effectiveness of these recalls.
- o Since June 2002, 40 recalls have been issued by manufacturers and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) for burn and fire-related hazards, accounting for the recall of over 5 million individual units. Products were recalled for different reasons, including battery failure, electrical wiring defects, and flammability.
- o Between June 2002 and July 2007, 121 children have been injured by fifteen products. These injuries ranged from minor burns on fingers to battery acid leaks chemically burning infants. The other twenty five products recalled were deemed hazardous before any children were hurt.

Kids In Danger is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. This report is based on public information about recalls released by the CPSC. An educated consumer is a safer consumer. Therefore, this report seeks to shed light on the fire and burn risks children's products can present and the recall process which removes them from the market, as well as provide advice for ensuring children's safety.

* One product, the Easy-Bake Oven, was recalled during this period, but additional injuries were reported in July, along with a more complete corrective action plan. Those injuries are included in the totals.

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Introduction

On Halloween 2004, 7 year-old Cary was trick-or-treating with his brother and sister. As he walked by a jack-o-lantern, the sleeve of his Lord of the Rings costume brushed the flame of the candle inside. Within seconds, the cape had ignited and Cary's body was engulfed by flames. A neighbor ripped the costume off, but Cary had already been nearly fatally burned with third and fourth degree burns covering his face, neck, and left hand.¹ Cary spent days on a respirator before doctors began the long, painful ordeal of treatment including skin grafts. Cary survived, but he faces a lifetime of pain. His Lord of the Rings Ringwraith costume was never recalled.

In an age of technology that produces consumer products ranging from flashing sneakers to wafer-sized gadgets that serve as telephone, media player, and personal computer all in one, even a single avoidable fire-related injury to a child is unacceptable. The advances in science that allowed doctors to perform the life-saving skin grafts on Cary, flood the market with new and exciting products every day, many designed exclusively for children. Most consumers assume that if a product can be bought in stores or on the internet, it must have been strenuously tested to have gotten there. Unfortunately that is not the case. In fact, as described below, an alarming number of children's injuries and deaths are caused by these very products malfunctioning.

The diversity of available children's products combined with their technological sophistication has revolutionized both child care and child leisure. Today a mother feels secure leaving her toddler napping with the night light on, while she keeps an eye on her young daughter cooking with her toy stove, perhaps watching her son ride his scooter outside with his father. Few would reproach her peace of mind. Yet, it could be short-lived. In the last five years, over 300 consumers reported failure incidents for at least one version of scooters, toy ovens, and night lights. In each case, the product was jointly recalled by the government and the manufacturer, and deemed hazardous. A total of 1,109,811 units were recalled for those three products alone. Furthermore, in 83 of those cases, a child was injured. In one of those cases, a five-year-old burned her finger so badly that it was amputated.

Public information obtained in press releases from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reveals that an unsettling number of children's products have been recalled for fire-related defects ranging from faulty electrical wiring to products overheating and melting. These defects put children in serious danger of burns, electric shocks, and other avoidable injuries. As the 21st century progresses, it is unconscionable that advances in technology correlate with failures in protecting our children.

¹ "Boy's Burns Spur Family To Back Electric Candles." *The News-Times*. Sunday, October 30, 2005. Visit www.newstimeslive.com for full story and ways to prevent further mishaps.

This report was undertaken to raise awareness about common fire and burn risks in children's products that often go unnoticed. Its goal is also to give an overview of both the government's and the manufacturers' responses to the issue. Finally, this report seeks to provide some guidance to the consumer and emphasize their role in keeping children safe, given the holes in the regulatory system. The battle for increased children's product safety cannot be fought from only one angle; it is only through a collaborative effort involving all elements -- the government, the manufacturer, the retailer and the consumer -- that anything will get accomplished.



Electric Scooters sold at Target, backpacks from Land's End, and a crib mobile made by Fisher-Price were all recalled since June 2002.

Understanding Recalls

The importance of interpreting recall data for injuries and incidents of failure within the context of the recall process can hardly be emphasized enough. When a product is voluntarily recalled, as all the products examined in this report were, the recall notice is issued jointly by the CPSC and the manufacturer. Every word within the notice is negotiated on a case by case basis with lawyers from both sides. This accounts for the lack of consistency in recall notices. Two different manufacturers, depending on the individual skill of their legal teams, can produce wildly divergent recall notices for similar, if not identical, product malfunctions. This can lead to confusion about the severity of the hazard.

Each recall notice contains data for incidents of failure, injuries, and a description of the hazard. Manufacturers however, are not required to produce the total number of consumer complaints, nor disclose any relevant civil settlements. While the data is indisputable, it should serve in the consumer’s mind as a minimum measure of the product’s danger. Not present in the recall are numbers for incidents of failure and injury after the recall, unreported injuries and incidents, and injuries and incidents that the manufacturer attributes to the consumer’s misuse.

Within this report, products were classified as either “toys”, “nursery”, “clothing”, or “sporting goods”. This helps to illuminate trends within specific types of product, such as the failure on the part of many manufacturers of apparel to meet inflammability standards. Additionally, product defects were classified as “flammable”, “battery failure”, “electrical failure”, “ignitable”, or “exposed heat surface/substance”. This should help to navigate the extensive vocabulary employed by recall notices concerning fire and burn-related hazards to describe often very similar defects.

Table 1: Children’s Product Recalls for Fire, Burn, or Electric Shock Hazards, 2002- 2007

Product	# Recalls	% Recalls	# Units	# Incidents	# Injuries
Toys	19	47.5%	3,621,633	438	107
Clothing	12	30%	301,870	0	0
Sporting Goods	7	17.5%	1,208,511	260	8
Nursery	2	5%	268,000	39	6
Total:	40	100%	5,400,014	737	121

Product Defects and Hazards

Given the enormous variety of children’s products recalled for fire and burn-related hazards, the diversity of product defects and malfunctions makes a lot of sense. Thirty percent of products recalled failed to meet the requirements specified under the *Federal Flammability Act* and all were articles of clothing. The rest of the product’s defects included electrical failure, battery failure, ignitable, and an exposed hot surface or substance.

Battery failure accounted for 37.5% of product defects. Products as different as Land’s End’s Cool Blue Backpack and QSP Inc.’s Flying Saucer Toys both had battery packs which ran the risk of overheating and burning children. Within the eight products recalled for electrical failure, there was considerable overlap of defects as well. Both AmerTac’s Forever-Glo Nite Lites and Leoch E-Vehicle Ltd.’s Electric Scooters ran the risk of short-circuiting, potentially burning a child and starting a fire.

Products which ran the risk of igniting were in the minority as were products recalled for an exposed heat surface/substance, at 8.5% and 5%, respectively. However, the two products recalled for exposed hot surfaces or substances had the greatest number of reported failures and injuries. The products, Hasbro Inc.’s Easy-Bake Oven and Pace Product Inc.’s Soap Making for Kids were responsible for more than a third of all failures and 70% of injuries. With both products, a burning hot surface or substance was accessible to the child. In the oven, the child could reach the metal around the opening and inside of the stove and in the soap making kit, following the instructions made the soap too hot and it spilled out. This underlines the fact that even the least technologically-advanced aspect of a toy can prove dangerous if it is not properly designed.

Because the wording on recall notices varies so greatly, initially it can appear as if the defects in products do not demonstrate any trends. However, as discussed above, many different products can exhibit the same design oversight. As products grow more technologically sophisticated, the pre-market testing of such products must naturally follow. The severity of injuries correlates with products becoming more advanced. Testing of these products becomes all the more important.

Table 2: Failure Rate, Product Recalls, and Injuries by Product Defect

Product Defect	# Products Recalled	# Reported Failures	# Injuries
Battery Failure	15 (37.5%)	272	19
Flammable (Clothing)	12 (30%)	0	0
Electrical Failure	8 (20%)	166	9
Ignitable	3 (8.5%)	18	8
Exposed Hot Surface/Substance	2 (5%)	281	85
Total:	40 (100%)	737	121

Injuries

While sometimes a manufacturer recalls a product independently of incidents where a child got hurt, all too often that is not the case. More than a third (37.5%) of children’s products recalled for fire and burn-related hazards were recalled too late. Between 2002 and 2007, 15 products injured 121 children. These injuries ranged from minor burns on fingers to a mobile leaking battery acid onto an infant lying in a crib. The other twenty five products recalled were deemed hazardous before they had a chance to injure a child. The majority of injuries (73%) that children sustained were caused by toys malfunctioning.

Table 3: Top Five Injury-Causing Products from 2002-2007

Manufacturer	Product	Injury	Injury Type
Hasbro, Inc.	Easy-Bake Ovens	82	Thermal Burns, 1 Amputation
Creative Innovations & Sourcing LLC	Pro Flying Saucer (Radio Control)	7	Thermal Burns
Fisher-Price	Crib Mobile Toys	6	Chemical Burns
Briggs & Stratton Corp.	Engines used on Fun-Karts	4	Thermal Burns
Elkton Sparkler Company, Inc.	Bamboo Stick Sparklers	4	Thermal Burns



Easy-Bake Ovens, a division of Hasbro, Inc., recalled 1,000,000 Easy-Bake Ovens in 2007 after 278 failure reports were made and 82 injuries were reported.

The Scale of a Recall

Often the publicity over the injuries or deaths that triggered the recall distracts attention from the scale of a recall. On average, 135,000 units were recalled for each of the 40 products examined in this report. This constitutes well over 100,000 consumers at risk per product, even if each product were used by only one person. Even more alarming is the success of a recall. Adjunct lecturer of public policy at Harvard University's Kennedy School E. Marla Felcher writes that for the hundred or so children's products recalled every year by the CPSC, "consumer response rates [are] stuck at 10-30 percent."² This means that the majority of the defective products remain in homes and child care facilities even after a recall.

From June 2002 to June^{*} 2007, the CPSC issued 40 recalls of children's products because of fire or burn hazards. Combined, these add up to over five million individual units, just over the period of five years. Of these products, 47.5% were toys. Clothing followed at 30% and sporting goods at 17.5% with nursery products at 5%.

Table 4: Top 6 Children's Product Recalls by Units

Product Recall	Manufacturer	# Units	Defect	# Reported Failures	# Injuries
Bamboo Stick Sparklers	Elkton Sparkler Company	1,700,000	Ignitable	4	4
Easy-Bake Oven	Hasbro, Inc.	1,000,000	Exposed Hot Surface	278	82
PowerMax Battery Chargers	Leadman Electronic Co., Ltd.	584,000	Battery Failure	144	None reported
Radio Control Trucks	Nikko American, Inc.	287,000	Electrical Failure	5	None reported
Battery Packs for Toy Vehicles	JAKKS Pacific, Inc.	245,000	Battery Failure	33	3
Crib Mobile Toys	Fisher-Price	233,000	Battery Failure	30	6

² Felcher, E. Marla, *It's No Accident: How Corporations Sell Dangerous Baby Products*, Common Courage Press, Philadelphia 2001, p. 93

* One product, the Easy-Bake Oven, was recalled during this period, but additional injuries were reported in July, along with a more complete corrective action plan. Those injuries are included in the totals.

Sometimes a manufacturer recalls multiple products in a short span of time. Two manufacturers were responsible for four of the forty recalls in one year alone. In February 2006, Creative Innovations recalled 8,000 of its Thunder Spin R.C. Road Rage Stunt Machine Trucks after 14 consumer complaints. Over a month later, it recalled 180,000 radio-controlled Pro Flying Saucers after 56 incidents of malfunctioning and after the product had burned seven children. Spin Master Toys waited even longer between recalls: nearly three months elapsed between their recalling 7,500 radio-controlled airplanes and 46,200 remote-controlled helicopters. The nearly 300,000 units recalled in total all shared a similar problem: a power source that overheated.



Pictured above is Creative Innovations' Pro Flying Saucer. To the right is their Thunder Spin R.C. Road Rage Stunt Machine Truck.

The U. S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) was created in 1972 by Congress under the *Consumer Product Safety Act* and charged with protecting the public “against unreasonable risks of injuries associated with consumer products.” Sadly, as the number of products on the market has climbed steadily each year, the CPSC has shrunk to less than half of its original size: 400 staff members, a budget under \$63 million.³ Lacking significant support from the current administration, the CPSC has no Chairman, and were it not for the 6 month reprieve recently granted by Congress, would have insufficient Commissioners to form a quorum. The CPSC has been effectively immobilized and is unable to act quickly to protect our children from dangerous products.

These obstacles aside, the CPSC’s responsibilities are still gargantuan. While they do not have jurisdiction over all products; for instance, drugs and food are regulated by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA); they are responsible for ensuring the safety of over 15,000 consumer products used in and around the home, in schools and in sports and recreation. In the nearly forty years since its conception, the CPSC has pulled millions of hazardous items off store shelves and out of production.

Another challenge for the CPSC is that unlike the FDA which is entrusted with similar responsibilities, the Consumer Product Safety Commission lacks pre-market testing authority⁴ and is therefore unable to test products before consumers buy them. While under Section 15 (b) of the *Consumer Product Safety Act* manufacturers are required to inform the CPSC within 24 hours of “information which reasonably supports the conclusion that a product does not comply with a safety rule issued under the CPSA or contains a defect which could create a substantial risk of injury to the public or presents an unreasonable risk of serious injury or death,”⁵ manufacturers have no real incentive to self-report. This reliance on incomplete information constitutes an enormous hurdle for the CPSC.



³ “U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission: 2008 Performance Budget Request”
<http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PUBS/REPORTS/2008plan.pdf>

⁴ “Children’s Products and Risk”, *The Atlantic Monthly*, November 2000

⁵ <https://www.cpsc.gov/cgibin/sec15.aspx>

The Federal Flammable Fabrics Act

The *Flammable Fabrics Act* was originally passed by Congress in 1953 and, since 1972, has been enforced solely by the CPSC.⁶ It covers general wearing apparel, children's sleepwear, carpets, rugs, mattresses, and mattress pads. Among these products, children's sleepwear is subject to the most stringent testing. If the garment meets the CPSC definition of tight fitting or if it is used by infants nine months and younger, the fabric used in the garment must be rated as Class I and have a flame spread rate of more than four or seven seconds, depending on the type of fabric.

Loose fitting sleepwear garments must pass a more rigorous flammability test under the *Act* as they are more likely to come into contact with a flame without the wearer's noticing. The air beneath the garment also helps to feed the fire, increasing the likelihood of serious burn injuries. In the last year, hundreds of thousands of children's clothing items were pulled off the shelves in "voluntary recalls". These recalls affect every demographic, with the recalled products being found in both high-end retailers as well as in more affordable stores:

- o Family Dollar recalled about 120,000 "Creepy Cape" Halloween Costumes due to the costume's failure to meet flammability standards.
- o Nordstroms, Inc. recalled 78,000 units of N-Kids Brand Girl's Drawstring Flannel Pants and Pine Peak Blues Brand Boy's Drawstring Flannel Pants due to the product's failure to meet flammability standards.
- o Quiksilver, Inc. recalled 48,000 units of Quiksilver and Roxy Girl Lounge Pants due to the product's failure to meet flammability standards.

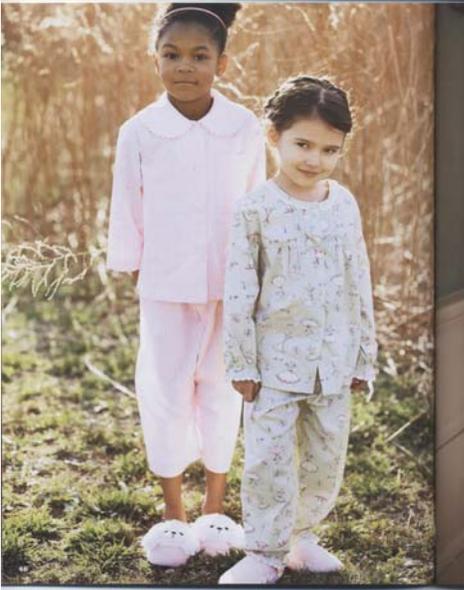


Last year the CPSC recalled 740 "Que Cute" children's bathrobes because they failed to meet the children's flammability standard, and posed a burn hazard. They were made in China and sold at Ross Stores during February 2006⁷

⁶ http://www.apparesearch.com/flammable_fabrics_act.htm

⁷ <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml06/06260.html>

A recent letter to the editor of *Earnshaw*⁸, a children's-wear-industry magazine, illustrates the overall confusion concerning what products are hazardous, as well as the complex nature of assigning responsibility for flammable fabrics being sold on the market.



Earnshaw put these two sets of children's pajamas side by side. If it hadn't been for Rob Hunt's letter, consumers never would have known that the pink flannel pajama set on the left is flammable and hazardous.

Writing in response to the May spread of children's sleepwear, manufacturer Rob Hunt identified several of the pajama sets as flammable and therefore illegal. "I called the manufacturers of the above items and asked what the content was," he wrote, "your editors did not." The photographs that *Earnshaw* showed, Hunt said, "only served to perpetuate the confusion that continues to exist in this industry" about flammability standards for children's sleepwear. *Earnshaw's* response was unequivocally apologetic. The editor replied that while "we did speak with each manufacturer prior to the shoot, the ultimate responsibility was ours...children's sleepwear is strictly regulated to include only garments that are proven to use fabrics that pass certain flammability tests or are tight fitting." The editor's response concluded with a link to the CPSC website's regulations section. Two of the items displayed were later recalled by CPSC.

⁸ *Earnshaw*, May 2007, p. 46; July 2007 p. 15

Full Prosecution of Violators

While the term “voluntary recall” suggests a collaborative, genial environment between the CPSC and a manufacturer, the rhetoric can be misleading. The CPSC fights an uphill battle to get information about production, consumer complaints, and private testing. Often the story leading up to a voluntary recall provides a much more accurate picture of the relationship between the CPSC and the manufacturer, as well as a product’s hazards, than the official recall notice.

On August 9th, 2002, one day after they recalled 160,000 engines used on Fun Karts, Briggs & Stratton settled with the Consumer Product Safety Commission for under a half a million dollars, finally removing their dangerous product from the market after burning at least 4 children. However, due to the terms of their settlement, Briggs & Stratton never had to admit any wrong-doing over what emerged as nearly a decade of deception.

According to the CPSC Staff Allegations in the Settlement Agreement and Order,⁹ Briggs & Stratton first received news of an engine’s leaking gasoline and starting a fire in 1994. Between 1994 and 1999, Briggs & Stratton became aware of at least eight more similar incidents, resulting in four Fun Kart riders, ages 10-16, receiving severe burns. Starting in 1995, in response to these complaints, Briggs & Stratton put out an improved version of the engine, and subsequently received at least an additional nine reports of Fun Karts catching fire with the new engine. According to the CPSC, it was not until March 17, 1999 that Briggs & Stratton notified the agency. The CPSC concluded by charging Briggs & Stratton with violating the *Consumer Product Safety Act* by failing to report information which reasonably supported substantial risks of injury and death. In addition, Briggs & Stratton failed to report to the CPSC any information about civil settlements in lawsuits concerning the engines.

Briggs & Stratton’s defense constituted a complete denial of all allegations: that the engines were dangerous, that they had violated CPSA reporting requirements, of the existence of civil lawsuits concerning the engines. Instead, the multi-million dollar corporation agreed to pay a \$400,000 fine contingent on the fact that “in settling this matter, Briggs & Stratton does not admit any fault, liability or statutory or regulatory violation.” Unfortunately, this case is not an exception, but rather the norm as CPSC’s deficits in staff and funds make it impossible for them to fully prosecute violators of their laws.



The Fun Kart with Briggs & Stratton’s engine.

⁹ <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml02/BriggsStratton.pdf>

Progress

Since the publication of the last report, there have been improvements. The *Children's Product Safety Act*, requiring by law government notification of child care centers of recalled children's products, was passed into law in five additional states. The number of units recalled for fire and burn hazards between 2002 and 2007 constitutes less than a third of the 16,305,700 recalled between 1992 and 2002. The percentage of products recalled for failing to pass the *Flammable Fabrics Act* is down slightly as well; from 36% to 30%. The percentage of toys recalled for fire and burn risk-hazards has remained essentially a constant. While the number of injuries rose from 65 to 121 in half as many years, a 372% increase, there were no fatalities.

Unfortunately, in the last few years, the CPSC's effectiveness is increasingly under question. The decade from 1992-2002 was full of victories for the CPSC and for consumer protection. The CPSC fined manufacturer's unprecedented amounts for failing to report hazardous product failures. Additionally, they began assigning responsibility to retailers for selling these products. In April of 2001, the CPSC fined Federated Department Stores, the parent company of such retailers as Macy's, Bloomingdale's, Stern's, and Goldsmith's; \$850,000 for knowingly selling flammable children's sleepwear. Following the fine, Federated Departments implemented a new program that included marking children's sleepwear to clearly distinguish it from normal apparel. They also started a children's sleepwear training program for Federated employees. CPSC Chairwoman Anne Brown complimented their efforts, saying "This is the type of program all retailers should have. Selling safety profits stores and consumers."

In the nearly six years since, the CPSC has not fined a single retailer or manufacturer for children's products that run a risk of fire or burn. As the report has showed, this is not because these products are no longer on the market.¹⁰ Instead, the tendency of CPSC to settle with manufacturers has all but eclipsed full prosecution of a CPSC violation, as demonstrated by the case of Briggs & Stratton discussed earlier. While the overwhelming majority of the products recalled in this report were manufactured in China, (67.5%), the only conclusion that should be drawn is that pre-market testing needs to include imports. A xenophobic attitude towards children's products merely distracts from the disregard for children's product safety everywhere.

¹⁰ <http://www.cpsc.gov/CPSCPUB/PREREL/prhtml01/01123.html>

Conclusion

The need for increased transparency in the recall process has become abundantly clear. The current ineffectiveness of recalls cannot continue unchecked as Hasbro Inc.'s expanded recall this year illustrates. In the months following the first recall of its Easy-Bake Oven, the number of injuries, including second and third-degree burns, more than doubled. The severity and scale of the injuries prompted Hasbro to issue a modified recall, stressing once again the danger of the product. However, it was too late. A five-year-old girl had already burned her finger so severely that it had to be amputated.

The government and manufacturers must find ways to make more successful and effective recalls. Concrete standards for children's products must be set by the government and followed by the manufacturers; and consumers must assume responsibility both for keeping themselves aware of news concerning household products and of voicing their concerns about dangerous products.

In combating the many difficulties inherent in as complex an issue as child product safety, there can be a temptation to try and play a version of the blame game as a means of assigning responsibility. However, the only way to better protect our children from hazardous products is for manufacturers, the government, and consumers to work together.

What Can Be Done

Manufacturers must...

- o Test products more thoroughly and before they are sold to retailers.
- o Test component parts or require certification of testing from contractors.
- o Report consumer complaints immediately to the CPSC.
- o Devote greater resources to designing safe products.
- o Act more quickly to alert consumers of recalled products and get them off of the market.

Retailers must....

- o Require their manufacturers and distributors to show proof of product testing and safety
- o Become a trusted source of information for consumers when a product is recalled
- o Report quickly to the manufacturer and CPSC when a consumer complains about the safety of a product.

The CPSC must....

- o Require compliance with all mandatory and voluntary safety standards
- o Fine companies more severely so that the penalties of flouting federal standards are felt.
- o Communicate more effectively with families, child-care providers, and retailers about recalled items.
- o Be more open in the process, giving consumers product safety information rather than filing it away at the agency.

The Consumer must...

- o Stay educated and aware of product recalls (<http://cpsc.gov>).
- o Report to the CPSC (<http://cpsc.gov>) as well as the manufacturer any product defects and injuries.
- o Read all instructions accompanying purchases and return product registration cards
- o Learn more about fire and burn safety at safekids.org.
- o Urge public officials, whether appointed or elected, to make children's product safety a priority at the local, state and national level.

About Kids in Danger

Kids In Danger (KID) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting children through improving children's product safety. KID was founded in 1998 by the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago childcare home when a portable crib collapsed around his neck. Although the portable crib had been recalled five years earlier, word of its danger had not reached Danny's parents, caregiver, or the state inspector who visited the home just eight days before Danny's death. To date, 15 children have died in cribs of similar faulty design. And portable cribs are just one of the myriad of children's products that have proved to be dangerous.

In the days following his death, Danny's parents, University of Chicago professors Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, sent out thousands of e-mails to friends and acquaintances warning them of the dangers of recalled children's products. KID continues to interact directly with communities; reaching out to parents, caregivers, service providers and others through workshops on dangerous children's products, media coverage, speaking engagements, and printed materials.

KID addresses the developmental side of child product safety by encouraging designers and engineers to build safety into each product, and promotes the development of the safest products possible for our children. This past year, Executive Director Nancy Cowley met with a team of Northwestern professors from its Department of Engineering Design and Communication to design a safe and affordable version of the baby walker, responsible in the past for over 200 baby injuries.

In addition to its outreach and educational programming, KID is responsible for drafting and promoting the *Children's Product Safety Act*; legislation that prohibits the sale of dangerous children's products and their use in childcare facilities, as well as provides strict framework for the publicizing of recalled children's products. First passed in Illinois in 1999, the CPSA has since been passed in six other states and awaits a gubernatorial signature in one more. KID does not restrict its activities to the local and state levels, however, but pushes at the national level for independent pre-market testing of children's products.

KID's mission, to promote the development of safer children's products, advocate for a legislative and regulatory strategy for children's product safety, and educate the public, remains true to its roots as a community endeavor, while maintaining a national perspective.

Methodology

- o In researching this report, recall press releases issued jointly by the product manufacturer and the CPSC were examined and children's products posing a fire, burn, or electric shock hazard were recorded (Appendix A). A children's product is any product designed or intended for the care of or use by children.
- o Sources of data not collected from public information about recalls released by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission are noted in footnotes.
- o A children's product is defined as any product designed or intended for the care of or use by children. Other products that pose a potential danger to children but are not intended for their use or care are not counted as children's products. For example, IKEA's Outdoor Candles were recalled in 2006 because the candles' wax could catch fire, causing a high flame and possible fire and burn hazards. Although candles are a large contributor to fires and burn injuries, they are not intended for use by children, and thus are not considered a children's product.
- o The CPSC web site (<http://www.cpsc.gov>) was searched for press releases dated from June 2002 to June 2007. Press releases issued jointly by a product manufacturer and the CPSC reporting children's product recalls were examined. Those posing a fire, burn, or electric shock hazard were included in this study.

APPENDIX A: Children's Products Recalled for Fire and Burn Related Hazards, June 2002- June2007¹¹

Date	Manufactured In	Manufacturer	Product	Product Type	Defect	Units Recalled	Incidents	Injuries
3/8/2006	CHINA	American Tack & Hardware Co. Inc. (AmerTac)	"Forever-Glo Nite Lites"	Nursery	Electrical Failure	35,000	9	0
6/15/2004	CHINA	Associated Electrics Inc.	Reedy Quasar Pro Battery Charger	Toy	Battery Failure	4,900	3	2
8/8/2002	US	Briggs & Stratton Corp.	Engines used on Fun-Karts	Sporting Goods	Ignitable	160,000	9	4
11/30/2004	CHINA	Classic Sport Companies, Inc.	Table Soccer Game	Toy	Electrical Failure	1,470	2	0
3/29/2006	HONG KONG	Creative Innovations & Sourcing LLC	Thunder Spin R.C. Road Rage Stunt Machine Trucks	Toy	Electrical Failure	8,000	14	0
2/24/2006	CHINA	Creative Innovations & Sourcing LLC	Pro Flying Saucer (Radio Control)	Toy	Electrical Failure	180,000	56	7
4/17/2007	CHINA	Disney Stores North America	Baby Einstein Sleepwear	Clothing	Flammable	200	0	0

¹¹ One product, the Easy-Bake Oven, was recalled during this period, but additional injuries were reported in July, along with a more complete corrective action plan. Those injuries are included in the totals.

10/27/2005	CHINA	Dorel Juvenile Group USA / Cosco	Battery-Powered Ride-On Vehicles	Sporting Goods	Electrical Failure	141,000	49	0
12/23/2002	CHINA	Elkton Sparkler Company, Inc.	Bamboo Stick Sparklers	Toy	Ignitable	1,700,000	4	4
3/27/2007	CHINA	Estes-Cox Corp.	Radio Control Model Airplanes	Toy	Battery Failure	66,000	9	1
11/19/2002	US	Estyle, Inc.	Ultimate Snuggle Jackets	Clothing	Flammable	160	0	0
9/17/2002	TAIWAN	EV Global Motors Co.	Lithium batteries in Mini E-Bike electric bicycles	Sporting Goods	Battery Failure	2,000	5	0
11/12/2002	CHINA	Eveready Battery Co. Inc.	Kidz Club flashlights	Toy	Battery Failure	24,000	3	1
10/31/2006	CHINA	Family Dollar Inc.	"Creepy Cape" Halloween Costumes	Clothing	Flammable	120,000	0	0
6/19/2003	CHINA	Fisher-Price	Crib Mobile Toys	Nursery	Battery Failure	233,000	30	6
2/4/2005	INDONESIA	H&M	Girls' Cardigan Sweaters with Faux Fur Trim	Clothing	Flammable	470	0	0

3/19/2007	PERU	Hanna Andersson	Crossover Tee/Lounge Pant Sets/ Cropped Johns	Clothing	Flammable	12,300	0	0
2/6/2007	CHINA	Hasbro, Inc.	Easy-Bake Ovens	Toy	Exposed Heat Surface/ Substance	1,000,000	278	82
12/8/2005	CHINA	J&F Design, Inc.	Girl's "Bobby Jack" Pajama Set	Clothing	Flammable	18,800	0	0
2/13/2007	CHINA	JAKKS Pacific, Inc.	Battery Packs for Toy Vehicles	Sporting Goods	Battery Failure	245,000	33	3
3/27/2007	CHINA	Lai Apparel Design Inc.	"Quacker Factory" Chenille Robes	Clothing	Flammable	15,000	0	0
8/17/2006	CHINA	Land's End	Cool Blue Backpacks	Toy	Battery Failure	400	0	0
6/14/2005	CHINA	Leadman Electronic Co., Ltd.	PowMax Battery Chargers	Sporting Goods	Battery Failure	584,000	144	0
9/2/2004	CHINA	Leoch E-Vehicle Ltd.	Leoch Electric Scooters	Sporting Goods	Electrical Failure	74,811	20	1
10/17/2006	CHINA	Light & Motion	ARC Lithium Ion Bicycle Light Batteries	Sporting Good	Battery Failure	1,700	0	0
5/10/2006	CHINA	Masterfoods USA	M&M'S Brand Menorah	Toy	Ignitable	1,008	5	0

4/13/2006	CHINA	McNair Technology Co. Ltd. And Unitech Battery Ltd.	Battery Packs Sold w/ Disney DVD Players	Toy	Battery Failure	102,000	17	3
6/6/2002	CHINA	Megatech	Battery Packs used with radio-controlled airplanes	Toy	Battery Failure	3,000	2	0
4/13/2004	Unknown	Nikko America, Inc.	Radio-Control Toy Trucks	Toy	Electrical Failure	287,000	5	0
3/8/2007	INDIA	Nordstrom Inc.	N-Kids Brand/Pine Peak Blues Brand Flannel Pants	Clothing	Flammable	78,000	0	0
1/9/2003	US	Pace Products Inc.	Soap Making for Kids	Toy	Exposed Heat Surface/ Substance	145,000	3	3
11/4/2004	TUNISIA/FRANCE	Petit Bateau	Children's Bathrobes	Clothing	Flammable	2,700	0	0
3/3/2005	CHINA/HONG KONG	QSP Inc.	Battery-Powered Flying Saucer Toys	Toy	Battery Failure	555	5	0
8/9/2006	USA, INDIA, MACAO	Quiksilver Inc.	Quiksilver and Roxy Girl lounge Pants	Clothing	Flammable	48,000	0	0
9/19/2006	CHINA	Roden Industries Inc.	"Que Cute" Children's Bathrobes	Clothing	Flammable	740	0	0

8/22/2006	SOUTH AFRICA	School Specialty Publishing	"Ideal" and "Brighter Child" Brand Science Kits	Toy	Battery Failure	43,000	1	1
11/9/2006	CHINA	Spin Master Toys	Helix Remote Control Micro Helicopter	Toy	Electrical Failure	46,200	11	1
8/22/2006	CHINA	Spin Master Toys	Air Hogs RC Skywinder Radio-Controlled Airplane	Toy	Battery Failure	7,500	15	2
12/12/2003	US	The Wet Seal Inc.	Zutopia Girl's Loungewear	Clothing	Flammable	5,500	0	0
12/18/2006	CHINA	ThinkGeek Inc.	Remote-Control Dragonfly King HX-242 Helicopter	Toy	Battery Failure	1,600	5	0