

Texas Preventable Disease



NEWS

TEXAS STATE DOCUMENT COLLECTION

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BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY

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CONSUMER PRODUCT RECALLS AND SAFETY ALERTS

Under laws administered by the US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an estimated 325 million potentially hazardous products have been called back from the marketplace and consumers since 1973 (when CPSC was created). Most of these were voluntarily recalled by manufacturers who established programs to repair or replace the products or to refund the purchase price.

TOY AIRPLANE RECALL

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a voluntary recall of a toy metal and plastic airplane distributed by TG & Y Stores. TG & Y, which operates in 28 states, has agreed to provide a full refund to consumers who return the toy airplane to its stores.

Although this toy has not been involved in any incidents known to the CPSC or TG & Y, CPSC believes the toy may present choking, aspiration, and ingestion hazards because of small parts which can break off.

The toy airplane is constructed of plastic and metal and is an orange-red color. It bears the identification "Shinwa" and "NOT-600 Made in Japan" on the underside of the wings. The numbers and letters "N4287S" appear on the top of the fuselage and wings. The plane is approximately 4 1/2 inches long and has moveable front and rear wheels and propeller.

When CPSC tested this toy, several components, including the propeller, front wheels, and rear wheel, came off the airplane and were found to be small parts. In addition, the wheel axles and tabs and edges of the fuselage were found to be sharp edges. Approximately 15,000 of these toy airplanes were distributed from July 1983 to May 1984.

Consumers with infants and young children should remove these toys from use and return the product to TG & Y Stores Company for a complete refund. For further information, consumers may call TG & Y Stores Company at 405-528-3141, extension 4525, or the CPSC toll-free hotline at 800-638-CPSC. A teletypewriter number for the hearing impaired is 800-638-8270.

PACIFIER RECALL

The US Consumer Product Safety Commission is urging consumers to stop using and to discard the Binky Squeaky Pacifier, model 593, because it may present a choking and suffocation hazard if the one-piece nipple/handle separates from the plastic shield. Separation of the nipple/handle from the shield occurred during CPSC structural integrity testing which involves boiling the pacifier and then subjecting the handle to pull forces.

The recalled pacifier has a rigid plastic shield with three vent holes and the words "Made in Japan" on the pink and blue shields. The nipple and handle are made of a single piece of rubber. The round handle has a silver-colored metal squeaker on the end. The pacifiers were sold between January and June 1984.

Retailers should discontinue the sale of old model 593. Another model is being distributed which is marked "NEW" above the number and identified by a white plastic squeaker instead of the metal one.

For further information, consumers may call Binky-Griptight, Inc. at 800-526-6320 or the CPSC toll-free hotline at 800-638-CPSC. A teletypewriter number for the hearing-impaired is 800-638-8270.

These recalls were the result of investigations conducted for the CPSC by the Product Safety Program, Bureau of Consumer Health Protection, Texas Department of Health.

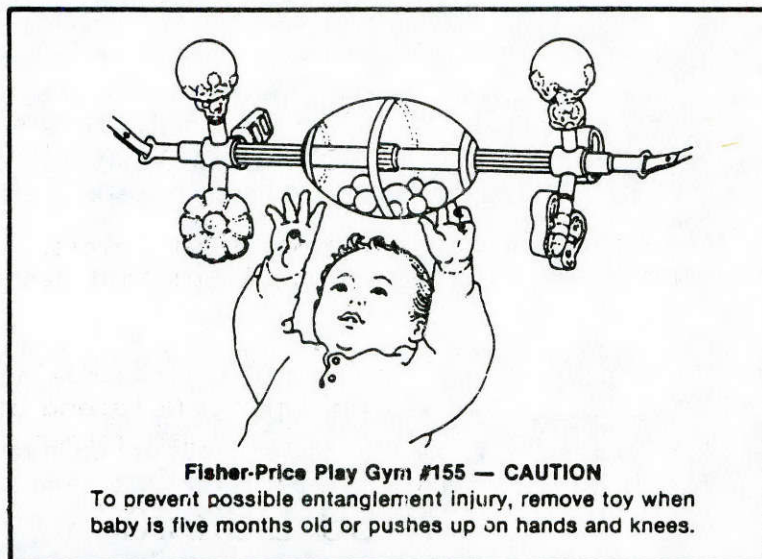
FISHER-PRICE CRIB TOY SAFETY ALERT

Fisher-Price, in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, has voluntarily issued a product safety alert concerning the company's #155 Play Gym — an activity-bar toy for cribs. In late March the Company received a report that a one-year-old child died when a hooded sweater became entangled on a #155 Play Gym. A previous death was reported in May 1980 due to a child's clothing catching on a Play Gym.

In 1981, Fisher-Price voluntarily began labeling this crib toy to warn parents to remove the Play Gym from their child's crib when he is able to push up on hands and knees or reaches five months of age. A child who can push up on hands and knees while wearing loose clothing or any stringlike material around the neck may become entangled on the Play Gym or other similar toys that attach across a crib.

There may be unlabeled Play Gyms still in use. Therefore, the Commission and Fisher-Price are issuing this alert and urging parents to remove these toys from cribs and playpens as soon as their child begins to push up on hands and knees. The Commission and Fisher-Price also advise parents against putting children in cribs while the infants are wearing hooded clothing or any loose-fitting garments that could become entangled about a child's neck.

Consumers outside of New York State who have questions may call Fisher-Price directly on a toll-free line: 800-828-7319. Consumers may also contact the Commission's toll-free hotline for further information at 800-638-CPSC. The teletypewriter number for the hearing impaired is 800-638-8270.



Fisher-Price Play Gym #155 — CAUTION

To prevent possible entanglement injury, remove toy when baby is five months old or pushes up on hands and knees.

DENGUE IN MEXICO

Physicians in Texas are encouraged to consider dengue fever in individuals with febrile illness and history of recent travel to Mexico. Dengue types 1, 2, and 4 are circulating in various parts of that country, and major outbreaks have occurred along the west coast and in the Yucatan city of Mérida.

Classical dengue fever syndrome is characterized by fever (ranging from 100°F to 104°F) lasting from five to seven days, malaise, and a combination of several of the following: retro-orbital pain, headache, macular rash, backache, myalgia and arthralgia. Respiratory or gastrointestinal prodromes do not suggest a diagnosis of dengue. However, many cases do experience mild illness consisting of headache, fever of a few days duration, and other mild constitutional symptoms. The incubation period ranges from three to 15 days but is commonly five to six days.

Physicians who consider dengue as a possible diagnosis should submit acute and convalescent sera for testing to the Texas Department of Health, Bureau of Laboratories, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756. For further information, call the Bureau of Epidemiology at (512) 458-7328.

QUIT TIPS FOR SMOKERS*

- Throw out all cigarettes by breaking them in half and wetting them down. Clean out all ashtrays in your home, office, or car and put them away. Discard matches; hide lighters.
- When the urge to smoke hits, take a deep breath. Hold it for ten seconds, then release it slowly. Taking deep, rhythmic breaths is similar to smoking only you will inhale clean air, no poisonous gases.
- Exercise to help relieve tension. Climb stairs rather than take the elevator, park the car a block or two from your destination and walk the rest of the way. At home, practice touching your toes, jog in place, do jumping jacks.
- When tempted to reach for a cigarette, think of a negative image about smoking. Select your worst memory connected with the habit — the time you burned a hole in your suit or when you were left completely breathless running for a bus that pulled away. Imagine this experience for 15 seconds whenever an urge occurs.
- Reward yourself with oral substitutes in the same way you may have used cigarettes. Good examples: sugarless gum, lemon drops, pumpkin or sunflower seeds, apple slices, carrot sticks, unbuttered popcorn.
- Eat three meals. This maintains constant blood sugar levels, thus preventing urges to smoke. Avoid sugar-laden foods and spicy items that can trigger a desire for cigarettes.
- Scramble up your day and change habits connected with smoking. Drive a different route to work; eat lunch in a new place; leave the "scene of an urge." At home avoid your "smoking chair" after dinner, reach for gum rather than a cigarette when answering the phone.

- Cleanse your body of nicotine. Drink liquids — lots of them. Water (six to eight glasses), herbal teas, fruit juices, and caffeine-free soft drinks all fit the bill. Pass up coffee, caffeinated soft drinks and alcohol, as they can increase your urge to smoke.
- Keep your hands — and mind — busy. Work on a crossword puzzle, knit a sweater, balance your checkbook, fix something around the house, shampoo the dog.

*Reprinted courtesy of the American Cancer Society.

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VIRAL ISOLATES FOR OCTOBER 1984

<u>VIRUS</u>	<u>COUNTY OF RESIDENCE IN PATIENT(S) (NUMBER OF ISOLATES)</u>
Adenovirus	Dallas(1), Harris(2), Hays(1), Lubbock(1)
Cytomegalovirus	Galveston(7)
Coxsackie A9	Bexar(1)
Echo 5	Bell(1)
Echo 30	Bell(1)
<u>Chlamydia trach.</u>	Bexar(8), Travis(14)

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