

Q I S P P

QUEENSLAND INJURY
SURVEILLANCE & PREVENTION PROJECT

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SAFETY BULLETIN

Mater Adults' Hospital Mater Children's Hospital Mater Priority Emergency Centre Redlands Hospital
Logan Community Hospital Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Hospital Princess Alexandra Hospital

This month QISPP examines the data on injuries resulting from :-

- Nursery Furniture**
- High Chairs**
- Exposure to Electric Current**
- Fishing**

Our regular account of the current investigations and findings of the Queensland Department of Consumer Affairs is also included on page 4. We are also reporting on a series of brochures regarding various children's products which the Department has made available to the public.

Nursery Furniture

The data used in this report were collected during 1992. During this twelve month period the number of injuries to children under 15 years of age involving nursery furniture totalled 119.

Of these injuries, eighty five per cent involved children under the age of two. These figures indicate that children of this age are in the high risk category for injuries involving nursery furniture, therefore highlighting

the need to safeguard the environment and take preventative measures wherever possible. (See following information from the Department of Consumer Affairs.)

Almost one tenth of all injuries involving children under the age of two during 1992 were related to nursery furniture. The data also indicated that the head was the most susceptible body part, with sixty per cent of injuries involving the head. Concussion was diagnosed in 20% of the 119 cases while fifteen percent of the children suffered fractures.

The most common nursery furniture items involved were:

- * *strollers /prams* 29%
- * *baby walkers* 21%
- * *high chairs* 14%
- * *cots* 13%
- * *baby change tables* 12%

High Chairs

During the five year period from 1/1/88 to 13/7/93, QISPP recorded 111 injuries to people of all ages involving infants' high

chairs. It is not surprising to see that 90% of those injured were children under the age of five. The remaining 10% of people were injured mainly by kicking or falling over the legs of the high chairs. The rest of this discussion will focus on children under five.

Eighty five percent of the injuries incurred by these children were the result of a fall from the high chair. Of these, one third were reported to be standing up when they fell from the chair.

In 13% of cases, the child was actually attempting to climb into the highchair themselves and succeeded in tipping the chair over, falling and being struck by the high chair.

Three incidents involved the high chair collapsing or malfunctioning, and in two cases the child caught or jammed a body part in a component of the high chair. A recent press report indicated that only two out of 15 high chairs tested by the consumer magazine Choice in its latest issue had passed safety tests. The magazine warns that a small child could easily fall out of many high chairs and be injured. The most common problem appeared to be the fact that a child could easily manoeuvre itself out of the chair even if there were restraints provided, therefore deeming some restraints to be ineffective.

Exposure to Electric Current

There were 97 injury cases resulting from exposure to electric current in the home during the five year period from 1/1/88 to 31/12/92. 'In the home' injuries excluded any injuries occurring whilst a person was in paid employment.

Almost two thirds of these people were under twenty years of age and over half of the injuries occurred in the living or sleeping area of their own home.

The admission rate for these injuries was 53% which is extraordinarily high in comparison to the average database admission rate of 12%. The high admission rate demonstrates the relative severity of the injuries involved.

One in ten injuries were the result of exposure to mains current while the remainder involved exposure through electric appliances. After medical examination in the Accident and Emergency Departments, the majority (85%) were reported to be suffering from the systemic (total body) effects of electric shock. Burns to the hands and fingers accounted for one in five of the injuries.

The most common appliances involved were:-

lights/lamps
workshops tools and appliances
yard and garden equipment
washing machines
hair dryers
electric kettles
fish tank heaters

Failure or malfunction of appliances was the cause of one fifth of all the injuries, while the majority (66%) were the result of people failing to take due care when using electrical appliances; for example, disconnecting or repairing appliances while the power was still switched on.

Fishing Injuries

Fishing injuries represented 0.1% of all injuries on the QISPP database during the period 1/1/88 to 31/3/93 with 177 people being injured while fishing. This small proportion is to be expected, as the QISPP collection area is primarily metropolitan and coastal hospitals such as the Wynnum and Gold Coast hospitals are not contributors to QISPP.

The data show that the majority of people injured while fishing were middle-aged males; 84% of all cases were males and the most commonly presenting group was aged between 39 and 50.

Almost half of the injuries were caused by being snagged by or standing on the fish hook, while a further one quarter of the injuries involved being hit by, tangled in or standing on other fishing equipment, such as a sinker, line or gaff hook.

Other injuries resulting from fishing included falls, which accounted for 14% of the total number of injuries. Ten per cent were the result of being bitten or barbed by a fish. The body part most commonly injured was the finger (15%).

Twelve people were injured while fishing from rocks, including three people who were swept off the rocks by waves and five who fell from the rocks. The remainder injured themselves when tripping or falling on rocks.

However, fishing still remains a relatively safe sport as the injuries sustained tended to be minor, with only 6% requiring admission to hospital.

Did You Know...

In 1990, handguns killed

22 people in Great Britain

13 in Sweden

91 in Switzerland

87 in Japan

10 in Australia

68 in Canada

and 10,567 in the United States.

And...

The ten sports reporting the highest number of injuries are:-

1. Football
2. Soccer
3. Netball
4. Cricket
5. Basketball
6. Baseball
7. Volleyball
8. Martial Arts
9. Squash, racquet or paddle ball
10. Tennis

Department of Consumer Affairs update...

The Department of Consumer Affairs has produced a series of brochures on various children's products. These new style brochures provide guidance for parents and caregivers in relation to the purchase and safe use of:

Bunk Beds

Children's toys

Babywalkers

Change tables and bouncinettes

Strollers, prams, high chairs and cots.

Should anyone require multiple copies please contact the Consumer Safety Section on (07) 239 3588. The Department would also be interested in any feedback on these brochures, or suggestions on other types of consumer safety information that could be disseminated into the community

Product Recall Notices

Electrical

K-Mart: Fan Heaters, Homemaker thermostatically controlled upright fan heater, number 1684-5688. May cause fire under certain circumstances.
(03) 829 4361

Bonaire Pyrox: Bonaire "Elite" Gas Space Heaters manufactured to the 25 May 1993. If not operated in accordance with published instructions control knob can be jammed down in the "ignition" position. In this position the gas valve can be mechanically held open and gas is able to flow uninterrupted to the pilot and one of the main burners.
Mr Max Buckerfield, Product Development Manager, Bonaire Pyrox, 26 Nylex Avenue, Salisbury, South Australia.

Big W: 4 pce cookware set (two saucepans, one casserole and one frypan) Product Style No HW 30010 G, suspect strength of handle attachment to the body of the saucepan items. (02) 498 0441.

Food

Imported Pineapple: Coles brand - Savings and Farmland; Woolworths Home Brand; Franklins No Frills; and Black and Gold. Arsenic poisoning.
Golden Circle Northgate.

Gartrell White: Meat Pastry Products; Big Ben; Jewel - No Name; Bi-Lo; Coles - Savings; Woolworths - Homebrand, Fresh Bake, Best Buy, Franklins - In Store Bakery, Meat Pie. Cyanide find.
Gartrell White, PO Box 63, Ermington NSW 2116.

Canned Potatoes 3kg Catering Pack: Westport Canneries Pty. Ltd has detected defects in can seams and is recalling one of its products because of the potential to cause serious injury if consumer. This recall applies only to canned potatoes in large 3 kilogram cans (catering pack) and bearing one of the following labels: SPC Potatoes 3kg; Admiral Whole New Potatoes 3kg; or Fullers Whole New Potatoes 3kg. These cans of potatoes were manufactured in March 1993. If you have a can of these potatoes you must not consume it but should immediately telephone 008 806193 to arrange for the can to be collected and reimbursed.

Potato Chips: Frito-Lay Australia wish to advise the immediate recall of the following items from sale:

50g Ruffles Plain Potato Chips
200g Ruffles Plain Potato Chips
250g Twin Pack Ruffles Plain Potato Chips
which have a Use By date printed on the packets of 25 September 1993. These products could contain broken glass and consumers should not eat them. Customers who have any of the above products are asked to return them to the address below. All cost will be refunded. Frito-Lay Australia wish to apologise for any inconvenience caused.

Frito Lay Australia, 15-21 Britton Street, Smithfield NSW 2164 (008) 024074

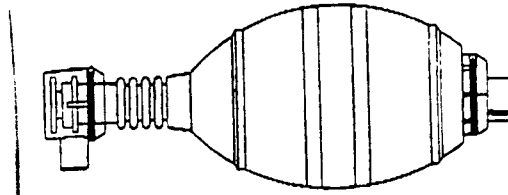
Products

Bi-Lo: Supreme Rat Trap - 447185 (supplied by Davids Holdings) loose staples causing premature action of spring. Bar code number 40088928078633 or 9310077227905.
Davids Holdings, Bessemer Street, Blacktown. (02) 2081222.

Bi-Lo: Straight Sided Bone China Mugs, shattered when boiling water poured into mug. Childs finger cut and requiring stitches. Webb Distributors, 402 Macaulay Road, Kensington, Victoria (03) 376 4011.

Safety Notification

Manufacturer: CIG
Product: Air-Viva 2 Resuscitator



Problem

As a result of a recent report (where the Intake Valve came adrift prior to use, rendering the Air-Viva 2 Resuscitator temporarily inoperative) involving the Air-Viva 2 Resuscitator, CIG Health Care would like to bring to the attention of all users of the Air-Viva 2 the need to follow the testing procedure as detailed in the current Air-Viva 2 Resuscitator Operating Instructions.

Identification

Only Air-Viva 2 Resuscitators with a white semi opaque silicon bag are affected.

Actions

To carry out immediate testing as per Air-Viva 2 amended procedure in new Operating Instructions (page 5). Please call your local CIG Health Care office to obtain a copy as a matter of priority.