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Public Affairs Office
U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20207
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Date: Dec. 7, 1998 Time: 3:20 a.m./p.m.

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Subject: Holiday Safety Bound-Up Press Release

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Pages (including cover sheet): 5

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NOTE:

Please keep us posted if either the President or the Vice-President are interested. Thank you.

News from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

Washington, D.C. 20207

For Immediate Release

December ??, 1998

Release # 99-???

Contact:

(301) 504-0580 Ext.

CPSC Announces Holiday Toy Safety Round-Up

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) is conducting a holiday toy safety round-up to get hazardous toys out of people's homes before the holidays. Despite recall notices and public warnings, CPSC has found that many products with the potential to seriously injure or kill are still being used by consumers.

CPSC has some of the most stringent toy safety standards in the world, and toys on store shelves are safe because of the day-to-day enforcement work by CPSC. "We do a good job getting recalled toys off store shelves," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "The real challenge is to get recalled toys out of people's homes."

Today, CPSC will launch the holiday toy safety round-up at a press conference by issuing a list of recalled toys. This list identifies recalled toys that are off store shelves, but may still be in people's homes. Some examples of recalled toys that might be in consumers' homes include:

--"Soft Walkin' Wheels" toy vehicle with serial numbers lower than 9528 or no serial number at all (1,000,000 toys) by Tonka with a small wheel hub that can be a choking hazard.

--"Big Storage Chest" toy chest (350,000 chests) by Step 2 Company with a lid that can fall, causing strangulation or suffocation.

--"Flying Dolls" spinning toy (670,000 dolls) by Tara Toy with plastic wings that can fly off and cause eye injury.

--"Power Wheels" battery-powered ride-on vehicles sold before October 22, 1998, (10,000,000 cars) by Fisher-Price with electrical wiring, connectors, and fuses that can cause a fire.

"We urge people to get this list, and get the recalled toys out of your home before the new ones arrive for the holidays," said Brown.

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(toy recall round-up)

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CPSC's toll-free telephone hotline and web site provide information about recalled products and information on what to look for when buying products. Consumers can reach the hotline at 800-638-2772 or visit the web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

To get a list of toy recalls, consumers should send a postcard to "Toy Safety Round-Up List," CPSC, Washington, D.C. 20207.

CPSC will broadcast a video to television stations across the country, identifying the recalled toys that might be in consumers' homes. The video news release will be fed ?

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U.S. CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY COMMISSION **TOY SAFETY ROUND-UP: December 1998** **Selected Recalls**

CPSC News Release	Product and Firm	Problem	Remedy
97-064 01/29/97	Soft Toy Vehicle with serial numbers lower than 9528 or no serial number at all. Brand: Tonka "Soft Walkin' Wheels" Tonka Corporation, a division of Hasbro Inc. Pawtucket, RI	Small wheel hubs can separate from the axle, creating a potential choking hazard. 1 million units 2 children started to choke	Free replacement Call firm 800-524-8107
97-082 03/10/97	Roller Fun Balls with small plastic fish inside the balls Brand: Felix the Cat, distributed with kids' meals at Wendy's restaurants Determined Productions Inc. San Francisco, CA	The seam holding both halves of the ball may separate, releasing small plastic fish which present a choking hazard. 800,000 units 1 child started to choke	Free replacement Return to local Wendy's restaurant or call firm 800-443-7266
97-103 04/16/97	Toy Tractor with a red plunger Brand: "Weebles Tractor" Playskool Pawtucket, RI	The red plunger can crack and break apart, presenting a choking hazard 116,000 units 1 non-choking injury	Free replacement Call firm 888-377-3335
97-122 05/15/97	Lawn Darts , all brands	Effective December 19, 1988, CPSC banned all lawn darts because they could cause brain injury or death. Destroy all banned lawn darts immediately. CPSC knows of 3 deaths	Destroy banned lawn darts immediately
97-176 08/27/97	Flying Dolls with plastic wings Brand: "Star Wonders" Placo Products Company Commerce, CA	During use, the wings of the flying dolls can break off, causing serious eye injuries. 140,000 units 7 injuries	Refund Return to store Call firm 800-583-5029
98-161 09/02/98	Flying Dolls with plastic wings Brand: "Flying Warriors" Tara Toy Corp. Hauppauge, NY	During use, the wings of the flying dolls can break off, causing serious eye injuries. 670,000 units 2 eye injuries	Refund Return to store Call firm 888-669-7087

NOTE: Products listed above may have already been repaired or there may be similar products that do not have the identified problems. For assistance in identifying recalled products, call the manufacturer listed or the CPSC toll-free Hotline at 800-638-2772.

CPSC News Release	Product and Firm	Problem	Remedy
98-024 11/06/97	Wooden Clown Toys with small clown's hat Brio Corporation Germantown, WI (subsidiary of BRIO AB of Sweden)	Small clown's hat presents a choking hazard. 79,000 units; 1 death (in Germany)	Redesigned replacement hat; send hat to BRIO Corp., N120 W18485 Freistadt Road, Germantown, WI 53022 Call firm 888-274-6869
98-055 01/12/98	Toy Chests with falling lid Brand: "Big Storage Chest" Step 2 Company Streetsboro, OH	Lids of toy chests can fall down onto child's head or neck, resulting in entrapment and strangulation 350,000 units; 16 minor injuries	Free lid-support kit Call firm 800-347-8372
98-146 07/22/98	Toy Chests with falling lid Crate & Barrel Northbrook, IL	Lids of toy chests can fall down onto child's head or neck, resulting in entrapment and strangulation. 7,000 units; 2 reports of lids falling	Free lid-support Call firm 800-352-0688
98-071 02/19/98	High Chair Gym Toys with clacker balls The First Years Avon, MA	Clacker balls hanging from center of the toy present a choking hazard 108,000 units; 2 reports of children getting one of the clacker balls stuck in the throat	Free repair kit Call firm 800-533-6708
98-125 06/11/98	Bouncing Toy Cars Brand: "Bouncing Buggies" Safety 1st Chestnut Hill, MA	The cat "Stop" sign and dog "Go" sign toys attached to the toy may be broken off by a child, creating a sharp plastic edge 106,000 units; 33 reports of scratches, cuts, or bruises; 1 child started to choke.	Free replacement toys Call firm 800-723-3065
99-009 10/15/98	Xylophone Mallets Brand: "Little Ones" Playwell Toy Inc. Lake Forest, CA	Rounded end of mallet can get stuck in throat of young child, blocking airway. 351,800 units; 1 child suffered severe brain damage	Replacement mallet Call firm 877-PLAY-WELL
99-012 10/22/98	Battery-Powered Ride-On Vehicles Brand: "Power Wheels" Fisher-Price East Aurora, NY	The vehicles' electrical components can overheat and cause fires. 10,000,000 units; 150 fires, 9 injuries (minor burns) to children, and property damage to 22 houses and garages. Also 71 reports of vehicles not stopping.	Free repair Call firm 800-977-7800 or website: www.powerwheels.com

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