

# *icphso update*

News and information for members of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Summer 2000

---

## **President's Message**

---

It is during these times of beach-going, family reunions, traveling, picnicking, sporting activities or just relaxing around the house that we appreciate the continuous efforts of safety professionals around the world. Through all of your conscientious and professional actions, families everywhere can feel confident that today's products are becoming safer every year.

During the past few months, the ICPHSO Board and other contributing leaders have been quite active in building the committee structure, enlisting new board members and planning for the 2001 Symposium. Some of the major initiatives include the following:

- ICPHSO Website ([www.icphso.org](http://www.icphso.org)) and New Brochure
- New Officer and Board Member Nominations
- International Membership Drive
- Symposium Workshops and Speakers
- Financial Planning
- Future Safety Events and Meetings

All of these initiatives benefit from your participation and we welcome your comments as you read this month's newsletter. Everyone should have a little more time now that we know the outcome of CBS's "Survivor".

I hope that everyone is enjoying a safe and fun-filled summer, while appreciating the presidential campaigns and issue discussions. Thank you for your involvement to make a stronger ICPHSO and safer world in the new millennium.

John Kupsch  
ICPHSO President, 2000-2001  
Intertek Testing Services

## **UPDATE ON THE ICPHSO WEB SITE**

In the spring issue of *icphso update*, we reported that the ICPHSO Web site was moving to a new location -- with a Web consulting service. This past winter, ICPHSO signed a contract with Wall & Associates, a Bethesda, Maryland based technology planning and Internet services company to enhance, maintain, and keep the ICPHSO Web current with state-of-the-art technology. Wall & Associates completed the move of the Web site to its headquarters in the spring.

Web site improvements began immediately. The goal of the ICPHSO Web is to provide membership with easy access to information about upcoming ICPHSO's meetings, regional workshops, and training programs; quick access to membership information (membership and profile snapshot directories); and links to health and safety research.

As this issue of the ICPHSO newsletter goes to press, we are pleased to report that the revamped ICPHSO Web site has been re-launched! Please visit the Web site at [www.icphso.org](http://www.icphso.org) and bookmark the location.

At the Web site, you will find, among other items of interest, preliminary information about the 8th Annual ICPHSO Meeting and Training Symposium scheduled for February 28 through March 2, 2001, at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Orlando, Florida. Also, please review your membership and resource directory information and provide updates as necessary. If you have supplied this information previously, but you do not find it on the ICPHSO Web, please accept our apologies and resubmit the information using the instructions provided on the Web.

As you continue to use the ICPHSO Web site, we would appreciate hearing your views on ways it can be improved and links you would like to see established. Unfortunately not all suggestions will be implemented, but we will try to make the Web site as useful and user-friendly as possible -- so your comments and suggestions are important to us.

*Elaine A. Tyrrell, Office of Planning & Evaluation  
U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission  
(Voice) 301-504-0416, Ext. 2191 (FAX) 301-713-0047  
E-mail: [etyrrell@cpsc.gov](mailto:etyrrell@cpsc.gov)*

---

## From The Editor's Desk

---

ICPHSO is still a young organization that relies on volunteers to be successful. It is crucial to the future of our organization that we have a continuing influx of "new blood" to serve on our committees. Trust me, all of ICPHSO's Committee's need additional help and I urge all of our members to seriously consider giving your time and talents to serve on a committee. A listing of our standing committees follows:

- Annual Meeting Committee:  
Chairperson: Kitty Pilarz, Fisher Price  
Telephone: 716-687-3343  
E-mail: [Pilarzki@Fisher-Price.com](mailto:Pilarzki@Fisher-Price.com)
- Membership Committee:  
Chairperson: John Kupsch  
Intertek Testing Services  
Telephone: 973-785-3220  
E-mail: [jkupsch@itsqs.com](mailto:jkupsch@itsqs.com)
- Strategic Planning Committee:  
Chairperson: Denise Pozen  
McDonald's Corporation  
Telephone: 630-623-3873  
E-mail: [denise.Pozen@mcd.com](mailto:denise.Pozen@mcd.com)
- Outreach Committee:  
Chairperson: Elaine Tyrrell  
US Consumer Product Safety Commission  
Telephone: 301-504-0416  
E-mail: [etyrrell@cpsc.gov](mailto:etyrrell@cpsc.gov)
- Events Committee: (Other than Annual Meeting)  
Chairperson: Jack Walsh  
The Danny Foundation  
Telephone: 925-327-1440  
E-mail: [dannycrib@earthlink.org](mailto:dannycrib@earthlink.org)
- Sponsors/Scholarship Committee:  
Chairperson: Joan Lawrence  
Toy Manufacturers of America  
Telephone: 212-675-1141  
E-mail: [joan@toy-tma.org](mailto:joan@toy-tma.org)

The more volunteers we have to actively participate in our committees and make contributions to our mission, the stronger the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization will be. We need you! Please contact a Committee Chairperson and volunteer.

### **PREPARATIONS FOR ICPHISO'S 2001 ANNUAL MEETING ON TARGET**

Under the leadership of President Elect/Symposium Planning Chairman Kitty Pilarz, plans are well underway for our 2001 Annual Meeting and Training Symposium. The dates are February 28-March 2, 2001 to be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel in

Orlando, Florida. Kitty and her Symposium Planning Committee promise the most exciting and educational meeting to date. Lunch by the pool and co-ed basketball are possibilities. Practice your slam dunk!

The Workshop format will be similar to past years. Time for Workshop questions and answers will be made a priority. Preliminary subjects that will be covered in the Workshop include:

- \* E Safety
- \* Skills Building - Safety/Quality Engineering
- \* Safety and the Media
- \* Retail Safety Responsibilities
- \* Fire Safety
- \* Transportation Safety
- \* Hazard and Injury Data - organization and analysis
- \* How to Handle a Recall
- \* International Toy Standards

Our exhibitors will be pleased that we are moving our exhibits out of a room and into the hallways and reception areas--for more attendee traffic.

A new program this year will be Poster Presentations. The poster format gives ICPHISO participants the opportunity to share information about relevant research or organizationally developed programs not included in one of the nine workshops. Abstracts accepted for a Poster Presentation will be listed in the program and published in the ICPHISO Syllabus. Each poster presentation accepted must be available for public viewing for the entire two-day conference. Authors must be available to discuss their work during a designated time period. Details of how to participate in the Poster Presentations are included with this newsletter.

Recent ICPHISO meetings have been highly attended--breaking attendance records year after year. Let's keep our streak going. See you in Orlando.

**Negotiations are underway with a new hotel for our meeting in 2002. As plans are finalized we will keep you informed.**

---

## Member News

---

### **ELAINE TYRRELL ELECTED VICE PRESIDENT**

At the Board meeting of August 3<sup>d</sup>, Elaine Tyrrell of the US Consumer Safety Product Commission, was nominated and unanimously elected to the office of Vice President.

### **NEW ICPHISO BOARD MEMBERS**

John Baker  
Sr. Manager Merchandise Compliance / Regulation  
Pier 1 Imports

Jeanne Bank  
Manager, Consumer and Member Services  
Canadian Standards Association International

Jytte Olgaard  
Head of Division  
National Consumer Agency of Denmark

## **TOM MESSENGER RETIRES**

Tom Messenger, ICPHSO's first President and the Director of the Consumer Protection Division, retired on June 30, after 27 years with the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment. Without Tom's outstanding organizational skills, ICPHSO would not have been launched with the vigor and commitment that it was. Tom has always been a steadfast advocate of cooperation between the state, local and federal health and safety agencies and has been very successful in bringing these entities together with regulated industries to address the problems of needed legislation, emerging health issues, and new sources of funding for a better delivery of services.

Tom has received numerous awards including, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission's Chairman's Commendation and under his leadership the Division received Vice President Al Gore's Hammer Award. Most recently he was given the Colorado Environmental Health Association's highest award, the Milton Miller Award.

Tom's future plans include spending more time at his second home near West Yellowstone enjoying the variety of wildlife surrounding his property and fine-tuning his golf game.

---

## **ICPHSO Committee Reports**

---

### **INTERNATIONAL ENFORCEMENT COLLABORATION PLANNING COMMITTEE**

#### **Chairpersons:**

Jytte Olgaard jo@consumer.dk  
Elizabeth Nielsen Elizabeth\_Nielsen@hc-sc.gc.ca

#### **Mission**

To improve the safety of consumer products by establishing mechanisms for the international community to work together.

#### **Purpose of Planning Committee**

To draft and implement an international compliance and enforcement protocol in order to develop collaborative approaches to reduce product related injuries, to improve dialogue internationally and to improve the exchange of information.

#### **Proposal for a Workshop to develop the protocol.**

A proposal for a workshop will be developed for the consideration of ICPHSO. The proposal will specify who will be invited to attend, will outline the purpose and general format of a workshop.

#### **Ideas for Workshop Format:**

It is proposed that the workshop be 1 day, preferably the Tuesday before the ICPHSO conference February 2001.

#### **Target Audience:**

Government, industry, NGO, Associations. Fifty people representing these groups will be invited to participate.

#### **Format:**

There will be a plenary session to introduce the proposal, workshops to discuss and finalize sections of the protocol, a workshop to develop a collaborative enforcement pilot project and a workshop on information exchange.

## **MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

#### **Mission:**

To serve the existing membership and provide long-term growth for ICPHSO in member services, participation, and overall membership representation.

#### **Objective:**

- \* To contact and recruit new members
- \* To offer services that benefit the membership

#### **Action Plan:**

#### **1. Conduct membership drive. Initial contacts to be made with:**

- \* NAMA
- \* Toy Association in Europe and Hong Kong
- \* ASQ
- \* Sporting Goods and Exercise Equipment Manufacturers
- \* AAMA
- \* Law Enforcement Agencies
- \* Premium Companies
- \* Insurance Companies
- \* Consumer Groups
- \* Colleges/Universities
- \* Product Liability lawyers
- \* Medical Organizations
- \* Consumer Product Companies not attending
- \* Ask the general membership (recently a letter was sent to the ICPHSO membership asking for help in identifying potential new members)

## 2. Member Service

- \* Membership Directory; add an asterisk\* to those names who attended the conference; categorize by industry group; indicate new members
- \* Hold new member orientation breakfast; include first time symposium attendees
- \* Expert Networking; add list of subject matter experts on ICPHSO Web Site
- \* Membership Benefits; construct page for website
- \* Papers and Proceedings; Available for sale and down loading

---

## News Of Interest

---

### FINDING UNITED STATES REGULATIONS ON THE INTERNET

#### *From the Information Resources Center (IRC)*

By: Lisa Carbone, MLS, Senior Information Specialist, Information Resources Center, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas

“Are there any US regulations on....?” is one of the most frequently received questions by the IRC. The answer to this and other questions on product regulations can be found on the Internet by searching the *Code of Federal Regulations* (CFR) and the *Federal Register*. To ensure a thorough search, check both sites for information.

#### **Code of Federal Regulations**

<http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/cfr-table-search.html>

This web site contains the final version of US federal regulations, and is the first place to look for US Government regulatory information. *Search hint:* Generally, the easiest way to search this site is to select ‘Search the entire set CFR by keyword’ and follow the instructions.

#### **Federal Register**

[http://www.gpo.gov/su\\_docs/aces/aces140.html](http://www.gpo.gov/su_docs/aces/aces140.html)

This web site provides proposed changes to the CFR as well as final regulations that have been adopted and will be incorporated in the CFR as the volumes are updated on a rotating basis. *Search hints:* Since it can take up to one year for final regulations to be published in the CFR, be sure to include both 1999 and 2000 year volumes of the Federal Register as part of your search. To find information by key words, scroll down until the ‘Search’ box appears. Use the ‘Browse’ option to scan the table of contents on a daily basis.

Additional resources to expand your search are provided below.

#### **US Code**

<http://www4.law.cornell.edu/uscode/index.html>

The US Code contains the text of the Acts passed by the US Congress. Search hint: Use the ‘Table of

Popular Names’ to quickly-find legislation by its common name, such as, “The Flammable Fabrics Act.”

#### **Thomas**

<http://thomas.loc.gov/>

Thomas includes proposed legislation currently passing through the Congressional approval process. The *Congressional Record*, along with information and documents from US Senate Committees and the US House of Representatives, are available at this site.

#### **Keeping up with Regulatory Changes the Easy Way**

The IRC can help clients keep up with regulatory changes with its *Federal Register Notification Service*. This service tracks defined subjects or regulatory issues, and notifies clients as changes are proposed and final regulations are published.

#### **For more information**

Please contact Karen Kreizman Reczek, IRC Manager, ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas, at (800) 277-3300, ext. 3392, (716) 505-3592, or e-mail: [irc.buffalo@actstesting.com](mailto:irc.buffalo@actstesting.com)

### CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION

The California Department of Consumer Affairs web page, containing extensive information on licensing and regulation of a variety of businesses and professional practices affecting California consumers, can be found at: [www.dca.ca.gov/](http://www.dca.ca.gov/)

The Bureau of Home Furnishings and Thermal Insulation web page can be found at [www.dca.ca.gov/bhfti/](http://www.dca.ca.gov/bhfti/)

The Bureau's web page contains several consumer and industry-targeted fact sheets, complaint information, Bureau Flammability Law and the entire text and drawings of seven of our frequently cited Flammability Technical Bulletins (standards) for upholstered furniture and bedding. These flammability protocols are frequently quoted and referenced beyond the borders of California.

*For additional information you may contact John McCormack, Technical Coordinator, CALIFORNIA BUREAU OF HOME FURNISHINGS AND THERMAL INSULATION at [John\\_McCormack@dca.ca.gov](mailto:John_McCormack@dca.ca.gov)*

## CONSUMER GROUPS ASKS GOVERNMENT TO BAN BABY BATH SEATS

Consumer Federation of America (CFA) joined with eight other consumer and safety organizations to petition the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to ban infant bath seats. Citing continued deaths and a deadly misperception by parents and caregivers regarding the product's safety, the groups asked CPSC to reconsider its 1994 vote against rulemaking.

"Baby bath seats are an invitation to danger. Since 1994 when CPSC decided not to take action, an additional 52 deaths have occurred. Enough is enough—the assembly line for this product should be shut down immediately," said Mary Ellen Fise, CFA's General Counsel and author of the petition.

To date there have been at least 66 drowning deaths to infants and 37 reports of near drowning incidents. In the first six months of 2000 alone, five babies have died. When CPSC last considered this issue, just 14 children had drowned.

Drownings typically occur when the infant tips over, climbs out of, or slides through the product. In most, but not all cases, the child is left unattended for a brief time by the parent or caregiver.

A recent study conducted by Dr. Clay Mann, Intermountain Injury Control Research Center, found that parents and caregivers of infants that use baby bath seats engage in more risk taking behavior than parents and caretakers not using bath seats. Caregivers using bath seats prepare baths with deeper water and are more likely to leave a child unattended in the bath for conscious, willful reasons (e.g., to perform household chores). There is a false sense of safety that is propagated by having a mechanical aid to "help" to hold a slippery baby upright. This "sense of security" promotes the idea that a child could be left alone in the bath for "just a minute."

Baby bath seats (and products called bath rings) are intended to assist in bathing infants by holding the infant in a sitting position in a full size bathtub. These products usually have suction cups to hold them in place in the bathtub and a plastic seat with leg openings to secure the baby in a sitting position while being bathed. With a bath ring, the baby sits directly on the tub surface or on a mat attached to the legs of the bath ring.

Infant bath seats have very limited utility. They are not recommended for use until 6 months of age, when most infants can sit securely. Once an infant can pull up (generally between 7 and 9 months of age) or attempt to stand while holding onto objects, infant bath seats should be discontinued, since the infant could climb from the seat. This time interval indicates that

bath seats have a useful product life of approximately 2 months.

Joining CFA in the petition were: The Drowning Prevention Foundation, The Danny Foundation, Intermountain Injury Control Research Center, the California Coalition for Children's Safety and Health, the California Drowning Prevention Network, The Contra Costa County Childhood Injury Prevention Coalition, the Greater Sacramento SAFE KIDS Coalition, and Kids in Danger.

Baby bath seats sell at retail in the \$10-\$20 range, making them affordable for most families. CFA recommends that families **not** purchase bath seats found on retail shelves or at yard sales and **not** use bath seats loaned by friends and family. "Throw your baby bath seat away and remove this potential risk of drowning for your baby today," advised Fise.

In addition CFA (as well as CPSC) recommends that parents and caregivers never leave a baby alone in the water for even a second and that they keep their child in arms' reach at all times.

*CFA is a non-profit association of over 260 pro consumer groups, with a combined membership of 50 million, that was founded in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through advocacy and education. Visit their web address at [www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org)*

## WHITE HOUSE PROPOSES LEGISLATION TO EXPAND CPSC'S AUTHORITY

First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton joined U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) Chairman Ann Brown to announce legislation to help expand CPSC's authority to crack down on firms that are not reporting defective products to the agency. CPSC conducts 200 to 300 product recalls each year, yet half of the most serious product hazards are discovered by CPSC investigators - not reported by the companies as required by law.

The proposed legislation will:

- Eliminate the \$1.65 million cap on the maximum fine that CPSC can impose on a company that fails to report a serious product hazard.
- Increase the penalty for serious criminal violations of product safety laws from misdemeanors to felonies, and eliminate the requirement that the agency give prior notice to the company that is criminally violating the law.
- Give CPSC more authority over company remedies for product recalls.

"The combination of this increased enforcement capability and higher civil and criminal penalties for not reporting would provide a strong deterrent against companies failing to notify CPSC about dangerous products," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown.

When companies ignore the law, dangerous products can stay on store shelves, putting consumers at risk. CPSC has to do its own detective work to find out about the problem products and seek recalls. Increasing CPSC's authority and expanding its product injury reporting network will mean that dangerous products are recalled faster. This will prevent injuries and save lives.

## **PUBLIC PLAYGROUNDS PLACE CHILDREN AT RISK**

Hard surfacing, equipment that is too high, openings in equipment that can entrap children, and swings that are too close together pose serious threats to children at a majority of public playgrounds surveyed across the country, according to a survey report, *Playing It Safe*, released today by U.S. Public Interest Research Group (U.S. PIRG) and Consumer Federation of America (CFA).

According to the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), 170,100 children require hospital emergency room treatment and 17 children die each year as a result of injuries sustained on playground equipment. "Playgrounds can be wonderful places for children to have fun and face new challenges, but far too many playgrounds contain dangers that can injure and even kill," said Rachel Weintraub, Staff Attorney at U.S. PIRG and co-author of the report.

"Parents should be cautious about their local playgrounds," added Mary Ellen Fise, Product Safety Director at CFA and co-author of the report. "Unfortunately, we easily located many unsafe playground surfaces and equipment that can lead to injuries and deaths."

In their fifth national survey of public playgrounds, the PIRGs and CFA surveyed 1,024 playgrounds in 27 states and Washington, DC. The researchers focused on the hazards that cause the most serious playground injuries, -- falls, impact with moving swings, entanglement and head entrapment.

At eight out of ten playgrounds across the country, researchers found surfacing that is too hard. "Children are injured on playgrounds when they fall down from equipment that is too high onto surfacing that is too hard." Rachel Weintraub said. Because 75% of all injuries are caused by falls, protective surfacing under and around play equipment is a critical factor on playgrounds. The report also found that nearly half of all climbing equipment is too high- at over six feet.

PIRG and CFA also found that 27% of swings nationally had swing spacing hazards. Swings that are too close to each other or to other equipment increase the chance that a child will be hit by a moving swing. The report also found that children can face strangulation hazards at more than a third of all playgrounds nationally, because of head entrapment and clothing entanglement dangers caused by gaps, protrusions and other similar hazards.

The groups noted that six states --California, Connecticut, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, and Texas-- have taken legislative action to protect their children from playground hazards.

"We urge other states to follow this example and pass strong playground safety legislation. We also urge CPSC to strengthen its guidelines and work with local jurisdictions to identify and remove unsafe equipment." Fise said.

CFA has produced a Model Law on Public Play Equipment and Areas that contains detailed provisions addressing safety and design for all play equipment and areas, as well as separate requirements specifically intended for equipment for pre-school age children and for school age children. First published in 1992, the third edition contains a detailed cross-comparison with the CPSC voluntary guidelines for public play equipment.

The groups encouraged state and local jurisdictions to adopt these requirements and use them when purchasing new equipment or when refurbishing, remodeling or maintaining existing playgrounds. CFA has prepared its Model Law as a blueprint for safe playgrounds. It goes beyond the voluntary guidelines, in its requirements and gives legislators the child development rationale for critical safety measures.

The U.S. Public Interest Research Group is a national non-profit, non-partisan consumer and environmental advocacy group with half a million members across the country. For more information, send e-mail to [pirg@pirg.org](mailto:pirg@pirg.org) or visit the PIRG web site <http://www.pirg.org/consumer/playground/00/>.

For parents who would like to check on their neighborhood playgrounds, CFA offers a free Parent Checklist: How Safe Is Your Local Playground? The checklist sets out 12 important factors to examine and includes an explanation of what is recommended for safer playgrounds.

CFA also offers another fact sheet, Home Play Equipment: Tips for Buying and Using, on home play equipment, addressing the safety of backyard play sets and offering tips for selecting and using home play sets. Both fact sheets are available free to individuals by sending a self-addressed stamped envelope to: Playground Checklist, PO Box 12099, Washington, DC

20005-0999 or on the web at [www.consumerfed.org](http://www.consumerfed.org). The full *Playing It Safe* report is available on the web at [www.pirg.org](http://www.pirg.org).

*For more information CONTACT: Rachel Weintraub or Liz Hitchcock (U.S. PIRG) at (202) 546-9707 or Mary Ellen Fise (CFA) at (202) 387-6121*

## **CHANGES TO THE CANADIAN CONSUMER PRODUCTS REGULATIONS JULY 14, 2000**

Health Canada has undertaken a wide ranging review of its existing health protection legislation, including statutes such as the *Hazardous Products Act (HPA)* and the *Radiation Emitting Devices Act (REDA)*. The current legislation would be reformed to be more responsive to the global marketplace and to contemporary public health and safety considerations, as well as modernizing obsolete statutes which can no longer provide adequate protection to the public.

Under the broad scope of the legislative renewal, the Commercial Products Office of the Healthy Environments and Consumer Safety Branch (HECSB) is responsible for the transfer of existing regulations to the new health protection legislation, including reviewing all regulations for which HECSB is responsible to ensure they are up to date. This revision has begun, and has identified that several regulations and requirements under the HPA and REDA refer to outdated standards and must be updated. Several regulations and requirements are of concern such as the *Children's Sleepwear Regulations*, the *Safely Glass Regulations*, requirements for smoke detectors under the HPA and the *Sun Lamps Regulations* under the REDA. Some changes affecting regulations under the HPA and the REDA will be minor, others will be substantial; in all cases, consultations with affected stakeholders will be an integral part of the process.

*For more information contact: Helene Paradis Policy Officer, Commercial Products Office  
Phone: (613) 952-7901 Fax: (613) 957-6354  
E-mail: [helene\\_paradis@hc-sc.gc.ca](mailto:helene_paradis@hc-sc.gc.ca)*

## **UNDERWRITERS LABORATORIES INC. TO LAUNCH ENHANCED STANDARDS DEVELOPMENT PROCESS**

Underwriters Laboratories Inc. (UL), America's premier product safety testing and standards developing organization, is introducing a significant enhancement to the way it develops and maintains UL Standards for Safety. This enhancement will provide consumers, government, industry and other interested parties with a greater opportunity for "hands on" participation at the earliest stage of the process.

"As part of our commitment to UL Standards for Safety, we continually search for ways to improve the standards themselves, and the process through which they are developed and revised," says Tom Castino, president and CEO of UL. "Because consumers play a crucial role in product safety, an important element of the enhanced program is increased consumer participation."

Greater consumer involvement will be achieved through more direct input from the consumer advocates being actively sought by UL. These advocates can provide unique and practical perspectives on safety issues that will work in balance with the perspectives of the other constituents of the U.S. product safety system.

Commenced on July 1, 2000, the enhanced process has four main features:

- Standards Technical Panels (STPs) -- comprised of consumers, manufacturers, government agencies (such as the Consumer Product Safety Commission), regulatory authorities and other knowledgeable, interested parties -- will serve as the main standards development forum.
- Early Participation -- Although input from these various interests have always played an important role in UL's standards development and revision process, all of the various interests will now have the opportunity to meet and provide input from the start of the process.
- Open Meetings -- STP meetings will be open to all interested parties, including the public and the media.
- Continuous Maintenance -- For UL Standards for Safety that have been recognized as American National Standards by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the process now provides for concurrent development of requirements and ANSI recognition using the "continuous maintenance" canvass method. The continuous maintenance process permits UL to submit revisions of its ANSI-recognized standards through an accredited consensus process as the revisions are developed, as opposed to every five years under the "periodic maintenance" method. This means that ANSI/UL Standards for Safety will be constantly updated to reflect new technologies and field experience.

UL is now identifying potential participants and, starting July 1, will begin actively forming the STPs by recruiting users, consumers, manufacturers, regulators, government and general interest participants as well as current standards development participants.

For more information on this enhanced standards development process, please contact Don Snyder, senior associate managing engineer, in Research Triangle Park, N.C., at 919-549-1850, by fax at 919-547-6051 or by e-mail at [Donald.E.Snyder@us.ul.com](mailto:Donald.E.Snyder@us.ul.com).

## NFPA ANNOUNCES U.S. FIRE DEATHS DECLINED IN 1999

The nonprofit National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) has released its latest findings on fire losses in the nation, which show fire deaths (3,570) decreased again, this time by 11% from 1998. The results confirm a positive trend of declining fire deaths.

About 80% of all fire deaths continue to occur in the home; 70% of all structure fires continue to occur in homes.

While much of the data released was encouraging, the overall number of reported fires in the country rose slightly, 4%, to 1,823,000.

"We are generally pleased with the findings," said John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D., NFPA's assistant vice president for fire analysis and research, but he cautions that "the work of the fire protection community is far from complete. It certainly appears, though, that the long downward trend in U.S. fire deaths has been extended."

Still, every 17 seconds, a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in the country, and every 85 seconds, there's a home fire. There is a civilian fire injury every 24 minutes.

*Other findings:* Vehicle fires dropped by 3% last year, to 368,500. The Northeast had the highest regional rate of fire injuries per million population, while the West had the lowest. There was a significant increase in property damage as a result of fire—up 16% from the previous year, to an estimated direct cost of \$10,024,000,000. The report also indicates a decrease of 5% in fires known to have been deliberately set or suspected of being set.

The full findings of the report will be published later this year in *NFPA Journal*, and will address several major strategies that have already helped reduce the overall US fire death toll and offer the potential for further future declines.

The National Fire Protection Association's mission is to reduce the worldwide burden of fire and other hazards on the quality of life by developing and advocating scientifically based consensus codes and standards, research, training and education. Publisher of the *National Electrical Code®*, the *Life Safety Code®*, and 300 other codes and standards through a full, open-consensus process, NFPA is currently developing NFPA 5000, *Building Code™*, the first consensus-based building code. NFPA also produced educational curricula, including the *Risk Watch®* community-based injury prevention curriculum and the *Learn Not to Burn®* fire safety curriculum. NFPA headquarters is in Quincy, MA, USA. Visit NFPA's Web site at [www.nfpa.org](http://www.nfpa.org).

## NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR PLAYGROUND SAFETY

We have had a very exciting year at the National Program for Playground Safety. It began with the completion of our national survey of all 50 states. We surveyed over 3000 playgrounds in childcare centers, schools, and parks. We are still compiling all the data from the survey. However, in our analysis we have determined the overall grade for the United States is a C. Therefore, we still have a lot of work to do to raise the grade to an A and make playgrounds SAFE for all children.

The week of April 24 – 28, 2000, we held Playground Safety Week. We had 42 Governors proclaiming Playground Safety Week in their respective states. During that time period we had over 40,000 web visits on our site ([www.uni.edu/playground](http://www.uni.edu/playground)). People are concerned about playground safety.

The director of the program, Dr. Donna Thompson, appeared on *Later Today* and was featured in a CNN chat room. We were also mentioned in a segment on playground safety on the *Today Show* featuring Dr. Mark Widome. Web MD™ Health also quoted Dr. Thompson on their web site.

During this year, Dr. Thompson and her assistant, Dr. Susan Hudson, have given numerous presentations including the National Association of School Nurses, National School Board, National Association for the Education of Young Children and Cambridge College. They have also written many articles about playground safety for magazines and journals including *Injury Prevention*, *Child Care Information Exchange*, *Athletic Business*, *Early Childhood News*, *JOPERD* and *Parks and Recreation*.

*For more information about playground safety, please call 800-554-PLAY (7529). Staff will answer questions about Supervision, Age-appropriate design, Fall surfacing and Equipment maintenance*

## CPSC LAUNCHING NEW PARTNERSHIPS

CPSC is launching partnerships with the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Physicians, the American Medical Women's Association, the American Nurses Association, the Emergency Nurses Association and other health care organizations to help find products that have the potential to cause death or serious injury, especially to children. This new product injury reporting network will provide even more sources of product injury data. CPSC currently collects information from a wide variety of sources, including hospital emergency rooms, fire investigators, news reports and coroners. The new network will expand its reach even further.

## **ITS RAM CHANGES NAME TO RAM CONSULTING**

ITS RAM has changed its name and overall identity to RAM Consulting™. The new identity allows RAM to better align itself with the needs of its customers and business partners, and addresses its services with a more clearly defined image.

RAM enables companies to be safety leaders by developing processes that ensure their products are designed for safety. While its technology and research are the foundation of these processes, it is in partnership with its customer's that RAM succeed in preventing injuries and saving lives.

RAM (Risk Analysis & Management®), which has eight locations around the world and more than 130 employees, was founded in 1988. It is a wholly owned subsidiary and division of Intertek Testing Services. For more information about RAM Consulting, visit their web site at [www.itsram.com](http://www.itsram.com).

## **NEW ON- LINE SAFETY ANALYSIS TOOL**

A powerful new online tool called **SoftCopy** has been developed by an affiliate of Verhalen & Associates. SoftCopy is for use by attorneys, safety consultants, manufacturers, distributors, retailers and importers to provide a complete records management system. SoftCopy allows complete analysis of all safety information related to a product or product line. This system has the ability to store and manage all types of records; hand written, hard text, email, voice, video, pictures, spreadsheets, slideshows, recall information collected through web sites and much more. ***SoftCopy is a unique tool that is vital in making timely safety decisions.***

SoftCopy was first developed for America Online's corporate legal department to centralize its casework. Operating as a fully secure online collaborative workplace, SoftCopy is capable of storing and managing millions of records at a time in one central location. Unlike many other types of extranet systems, SoftCopy updates within seconds of a change, and it doesn't require any specialized software to use. If you have a PC with Internet access and a Windows 95 or higher platform, everything needed to run SoftCopy is already on your computer. Each individual user connection is password protected and multiple levels of user access allow individuals or groups of individual users to see only what they are allowed to see and change only what they have authority to change.

With SoftCopy you can successfully connect you or your organization as well as any external associates right where the work product can be found and from wherever any of them may be. Acting as a third party

host, SoftCopy safely stores records on secure servers outside of any internal network, making it possible to share documents around the clock, internally and externally with anybody anywhere, and without having to worry about network firewall security. SoftCopy has been used successfully to connect Corporate General Counsels to their Co-Counsels, Law Firms to Expert Witnesses, Federal Agencies to Field Offices and Contractors, and Financial Institutions to their Partners and Advisors. This system is currently used in a wide range of legal matters from litigation, to large-scale mergers and acquisitions. It is also being used to store, manage and disseminate records to literally hundreds of field offices. SoftCopy allows you to share information in real time with anyone you want. Key people, that need to make decisions, can now have access to critical data right when it's needed, regardless of where they are.

SoftCopy also saves monthly costs by replacing photocopy services for document reproduction. Electronic reproduction automatically opens any electronic document stored on any kind of media (CD's, Tapes, Disks, Hard Drives, etc.) regardless of record formats and generates assembled (stapled) copies. You can even print copies remotely over the Internet to any desired location eliminating the time and cost of shipping hard copy records back and forth. You always receive a first generation copy of the original file each time, avoiding copy degradation that normally occurs with multiple copy productions. *For more information: Contact David Verhalen at 703-448-8323*

## **ICPHSO's Web site has been re-launched!**

Please visit the web site at  
[www.icphso.org](http://www.icphso.org)  
and bookmark the location.

We are awaiting feedback,  
please let us hear from you.

## COMMERCE CLEARING HOUSE (CCH)

The Consumer Product Safety Guide, published by CCH, is pleased to announce the addition of a guest authored column which will be incorporated into its bi-weekly newsletter on a regular basis. The author, Bill Kitzes, is a leading industry expert and a Board Certified Product Safety and Hazard Control Manager. Bill's column is entitled "Product Safety: An In-depth Analysis." His first column, Ten Core Principles of Product Safety Management, is a must read for Product Safety Managers and Corporate Safety Directors in manufacturing companies of all sizes. His next two columns will deal with the Consumer Product Safety Commission's reporting rules and will identify ways to implement notice and recall campaigns quickly and effectively. His column will provide valuable advice that could ultimately save manufacturing companies hundreds of thousands of dollars in fines levied by the Consumer Product Safety Commission for requirement violations.

Subscribers to the Consumer Product Safety Guide receive automatic notification of product recalls via e mail as soon as they are released from CPSC. The service also allows access to an in-depth archived database of recalls issued by CPSC.

*Please contact Patrick Osborne at 847-267-7193, or [Posborne@cch.com](mailto:Posborne@cch.com), for further details. Thanks.*

## SPECIALIZED TECHNOLOGY RECOURCES

### STR EXPANDS TURKEY LABORATORY

STR (Specialized Technology Resources, Inc.) will be opening its newly expanded Turkey laboratory after relocation and an extensive renovation. The Istanbul facility, scheduled to open later this year, will offer complete physical and analytical testing of textiles and garments in accordance with both US and European standards using state-of-the-art equipment.

### STR ITALY RECEIVED GOLDEN MERCURY AWARD

STR's Italy laboratory proudly accepted the "Civiltà del Lavoro" Golden Mercury Award 2000 for the best service and consulting company. The Italian Ministry presents this prestigious award to one company in each industry sector in recognition of economical correctness, economic growth, and business innovation.

### STR TO LAUNCH NEW WEBSITE

STR (Specialized Technology Resources, Inc.) will be launching a new website later next month. The site has been redesigned to provide current information and ongoing support. It will include features such as Hot Topics, which will highlight current topics in each industry, and Industry News and Publications, where you will find accurate and updated information on industry-related topics. Visit the new STR website at [www.strlab.com](http://www.strlab.com)

## NEW PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL 4-H COUNCIL

"Partnering with youth and youth workers to build a brighter future goes to the heart of our mission and I am honored to take on this role," said Donald T. Floyd, Jr., on his new responsibilities as president and CEO of National 4H Council. Floyd assumed his new duties last month.

Floyd replaces former President and CEO Richard J. Sauer, who retired from National 4H Council the end of June. Floyd was vice president and chief operating officer of the national nonprofit, and has been preparing to take the president's helm since joining the organization in 1991. His leadership and history at National 4H Council allows the organization to remain focused on its mission. "We did an exhaustive nationwide search for a new vice-president several years ago, and have striven to share leadership between our two executive officers since then," said retiring President, Richard J. Sauer.

National 4H Council will remain focused on supporting 4-H and innovative youth development. Floyd plans to concentrate on strengthening the 4-H brand and promoting the "Power of YOUth." "Our pledge to strengthen our partnership with youth, 4-H and the Cooperative Extension System, is a driving force behind our efforts," said Floyd.

National 4-H Council is the national, private nonprofit partner of the U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Cooperative Extension System (CES) of state land-grant universities. National 4-H Council is an uncommon youth development organization fostering innovation and shared learning for youth workers and young leaders.

National 4-H Council *works* to help communities identify and gather resources through CES to support their role as community change agents. National 4H Council provides technical support and training, develops curriculum, creates model programs and identifies and promotes innovative 4-H programs to fulfill its mission. National 4H Council also manages the National 4-H Conference Center, a full-service conference facility, and the National Supply Service, the authorized agent for items bearing the 4H name and emblem. The 4H program involves more than 6.6 million youth ages 5-19 in educational programs in rural and urban areas across America

National 4-H Council has integrated youth throughout its programs and governance structure. Youth serve on design teams for national program initiatives like sustainable communities, environmental stewardship,

youth in governance, and community youth development. Their input is valued equally with adults. Ten youth serve on National 4-H Council's governing Board of Trustees.

"Don's strong commitment to partnering with youth makes his leadership unique. At National 4H Council, he will literally change the definition of CEO from Chief Executive Officer to Chief Executive Partner. His leadership has set an example for how youth ought to be included as - decision makers in national youth-serving organizations," said Ben Smilowitz, youth representative, National 4-H Council Board of Trustees.

Innovative leadership with youth-serving nonprofits has been a hallmark of Floyd's career. Prior to joining National 4-H Council in 1991, he held local and national level jobs with Junior Achievement. During his tenure, he revived struggling Junior Achievement programs in New York City and Pennsylvania, spearheaded the development of middle school programs, and served as national executive vice president in Colorado Springs, Co. Floyd is a graduate of Albright College in Reading, Pa. He lives in Highland, MD with his wife and five children. *For more information about National 4H Council visit our web site at [www.fourhcouncil.edu](http://www.fourhcouncil.edu).*

## **E-BUSINESS OFFERS COMPANIES NEW ADVANTAGES**

*By: Gary Smolarek, Vice President and Chief Information Officer (CIO), ACTS Testing Labs, Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas*

As the internet revolutionizes electronic communications and global interactions, e-business is quickly becoming an industry standard. The advantages of e-business continue to grow, offering companies new ways to lower costs, improve information access, streamline supply chain distribution, and enhance quality.

Working with consumer products companies on a global basis has enabled ACTS to develop an advanced, user-friendly, e-business service called ACTSnet™ to help clients integrate cutting-edge technology into their business. These clients use a wide range of comprehensive services including testing, inspection, and consulting offered by ACTS. As the Consumer Products Division of Bureau Veritas, ACTS is committed to providing clients e-business services and has a truly global presence with laboratories in the Americas, Europe, and Asia and a network of 550 offices in 150 countries.

ACTS' information technology specialists, laboratory engineers, and client services representatives developed ACTSnet™ as a unique internet based system that is flexible and client-driven. Clients identify

the features that will provide the greatest return to their organization including:

- *Online Access to Information from Anywhere at Anytime*

ACTSnet™ provides clients with global access to testing and program information in a secure and consistent manner worldwide. Clients can monitor the progress of their test samples from their desktop anywhere in the world in real-time. No need to wait for mail, fax, email, telephone calls, or the next business day to see results. Using the *Sample Find* feature of ACTSnet™, clients can answer questions such as:

*Has my test sample been received?*

*What is the result of my test?*

*Which of the samples sent this month have passed or failed?*

- *A Virtual Electronic Filing Cabinet for Global Operations*

ACTSnet™ stores current and historical information for clients on their quality assurance programs, eliminating the need for paper files. Clients have immediate access to technical reports following the completion of testing and inspections, as well as historical reports to indicate trends. Using the *Report Section* of ACTSnet™, clients can answer questions such as:

*Why did my testing sample pass or fail?*

*Were my requirements for the inspected item met?*

*Did the same product pass or fail in previous months?*

- *A Global Communication Tool*

ACTSnet™ allows clients to access a customized *Specification Manual*, an important tool enabling clients to communicate their quality assurance requirements to all authorized employees, vendors, or manufacturers simultaneously on a global basis. *Specification Manuals* are a comprehensive quality resource including regulatory requirements for all countries where a company is doing business (sourcing, distributing, and/or manufacturing), and company-specific guidelines for testing and inspections. As industry needs or regulations change, a client's manual is updated and its authorized users notified, providing access to the most current information worldwide in a consistent manner.

E-business strategies can provide companies a competitive edge in today's fast-paced environment. Integrating an e-business system such as ACTSnet™ into a company's day-to-day activities can result in immediate benefits, including lower costs and improved information access, while preparing the company for the future growth of the Internet.

*For more information on ACTSnet™, please contact Bill Maggio, Director Business Development, at (800) 277-3300 ext. 3631 or (716) 505-3631. Visit [www.actstesting.com](http://www.actstesting.com) for highlights on locations, services, ACTS news, and technical updates.*