

# *icphso update*

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

First Issue 2004

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## **President's Message**

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Dear Colleagues:

It's hard to believe that my term as ICPHSO president is almost over. I have truly enjoyed my involvement, and had an opportunity to work with a wonderful, committed, strong board and a fantastic staff. The year has provided many opportunities to strengthen ICPHSO's position as a leader in the field of consumer product safety.

We held a very successful compliance workshop in conjunction with the CPSC in the spring of 2003. Many thanks to Marc Schoem and Ross Koeser for all of their efforts to ensure the programs success.

This past fall the board held a two day facilitated strategic planning session in Washington, DC. With a continually changing environment, the ICPHSO board felt it was necessary to take a critical look at the organization's strengths and weaknesses.

Out of the planning session, it was agreed to focus efforts on growing membership, improving the Annual Symposium and other training programs, improving our communications to members and outside publics, and expanding revenue sources.

There will be opportunities for members to participate in many of these initiatives - and you will be hearing more of this as we move forward.

The 2004 annual training and symposium committee have developed a fantastic program for our March 3-5, 2004 conference at the Omni Rosen Center Hotel in Orlando, Florida. If you have not already done so, be sure to register to attend. I am confident you will find your time of real value.

Thank you all for your support and I am confident that ICPHSO, with your participation, will continue to be viewed as one of the leading organizations supporting consumer product safety.

Bob Waller  
2003-04 ICPHSO President  
President,  
Juvenile Products Manufacturers Association (JPMA)

## **ICPHSO PLANS FOR THE FUTURE**

The ICPHSO Board of Directors met in Washington, DC, October 27-28, 2003 to develop a Strategic Plan to better serve its members and ensure a vibrant organization

The meeting facilitated by Joseph Truncale, CAE, allowed Board Members to freely discuss the pluses, minuses and opportunities of the organization.

First the Board developed an ICPHSO mission statement in ten (10) words as follows:

**"AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM FOR INDIVIDUALS DEDICATED TO CONSUMER PRODUCT SAFETY"**

*L to R: Joe Truncale, Strategic Planning moderator, Jeanne Bank, President Elect, ICPHSO, Bob Waller, President, ICPHSO.*

Next they looked at ICPHSO's strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats in order to gain perspective and set the stage for preparing strategic objectives.

Some key strengths include:

- Diverse membership
- Provide a forum that is unique
- We're international in scope
- Our Annual Conference

Some weaknesses include:

- No compelling reason to join/attend
- International in name, but not well represented
- Derive most of the revenue from one activity
- Diversity of membership makes it difficult to focus on everyone's interests

Some opportunities include:

- Provide more Regional Training
- Reach out to targeted groups for membership
- ICPHSO should be represented at allied events in Europe
- Define and promote our value proposition

Some Threats include:

- Threats of terrorism and economic conditions have a negative impact on travel
- Related organizations are encroaching on our "turf"
- Time is the new currency and there is never enough

Finally, the Board established objectives, prioritized them and developed strategies to address them.

In other words, "What does ICPHSO want to do and how is ICPHSO going to go about doing it?"

A number of objectives were identified and these objectives were reduced/prioritized to three:

1. Establish a comprehensive membership plan
2. Establish metrics and benchmarks for improving the Annual Conference
3. Expand regional training programs

Strategies were then developed to accomplish the three objectives.

You may get a copy of ICPHSO's Strategic Plan by emailing your request to [ICPHSO@aol.com](mailto:ICPHSO@aol.com).

## **INTERNATIONAL CONSUMER SAFETY CAUCUS**

"At the last ICPHSO annual meeting in February 2003, a proposal was brought forward during the International Consumer Safety Caucus panel meeting to create a network of consumer product safety government/regulatory representatives.

Building on this commitment, which would establish the means and appropriate forum for the sharing and exchange of information, an inaugural meeting to discuss the creation of this international network of government/regulatory agencies is proposed to take place during the International Caucus panel meeting scheduled on the afternoon of March 3, 2004 at the upcoming ICPHSO conference.

Further details relating to this proposed inaugural meeting will be announced at the actual ICPHSO conference. Participation of various government / regulatory agencies is encouraged."

Hélène Paradis,  
Senior Regulatory Affairs & Policy Advisor  
Product Safety Programme

HECS/SESC Health Canada/Santé  
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## **Member News**

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### **CPSC CHAIRMAN HAL STRATTON ANNOUNCES NEW GENERAL COUNSEL**

The Chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced the hiring of John Gibson Mullan as General Counsel for CPSC. Mr. Mullan began his tenure with CPSC on January 9, 2004.

"We are very fortunate that Mr. Mullan has joined the CPSC team. He brings vast experience on product safety issues and a keen understanding of the agency's mission," said CPSC Chairman Hal Stratton.

"Gib" Mullan joined Kirkland & Ellis LLP in 1983 and became a litigation partner in 1989. Mr. Mullan concentrated on administrative law, regulatory litigation and counseling, with an emphasis on scientific, technical, and complex policy issues. He has been involved in a wide variety of agency proceedings, including some of the longest and most complicated safety investigations ever conducted by the federal government, and has participated in many federal court actions across the nation. Prior to joining Kirkland & Ellis, Mr. Mullan was a Surface Warfare Officer with the United States Navy. He is a graduate of the University of Virginia School of Law and the University of Pennsylvania.

The Office of the General Counsel within the Commission performs several key functions, including providing advice and counsel to the Chairman and Commissioners, coordinating petitions and rulemaking, and enforcing federal safety standards.

### **PIER 1 IMPORTS JOINS THE U.S. FUND FOR UNICEF IN FIGHT TO ELIMINATE MATERNAL AND NEONATAL TETANUS**

*Pier 1 Mother's Day Gift Cards Make a Difference in  
Mother's Lives Worldwide*

What if just one person had the power to give a Mother's Day gift that saved another mother's life across the globe? That power is possible by purchasing a \$50 or more Pier 1 Gift Card beginning April 18, 2004. This Mother's Day, Pier 1 Imports and the U.S. Fund for UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund) have joined forces to help prevent the deaths of 30,000 mothers and 200,000 newborns from tetanus infection this year.

For each purchase of a \$50 or more Pier 1 Gift Card, Pier 1 will donate \$1.20 to the U.S. Fund for UNICEF. It only takes \$1.20 to buy the vaccine and immunize a woman of child-bearing age, providing long-lasting protection for a mother and her baby against tetanus, a preventable disease that claims the lives of thousands of women in developing countries every year. At least

36,000 women will benefit from this Pier 1 and U.S. Fund for UNICEF promotion.

"UNICEF is an organization we believe in and want to help in any way we can," said Marvin J. Girouard, Chairman and CEO of Pier 1 Imports. "Mother's Day is a day we celebrate with our families in the United States, while in less fortunate countries women and children are at risk from this preventable disease. We want to make a difference when it comes to their survival."

UNICEF is non-partisan and its cooperation is free of discrimination. In everything it does, the most disadvantaged children and the countries in greatest need have priority. For more information about the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, its partners or to donate to the program to eliminate maternal and neonatal tetanus, please call 1-800-4-UNICEF, or visit [www.unicefusa.org](http://www.unicefusa.org).

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## From The Editor's Desk

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In the cartoon "Red and Rover", Red, the child is decorating his Halloween trick or treat bag. The bag is bigger than he is. Red says to Rover, his dog, "Small goals - small accomplishments."

Remember one of Yogi Berra's infamous quotes, "If you don't know where you are going, you'll end up somewhere else."

This is why your ICPHSO Board of Directors held a one day Strategic Planning Meeting -- to figure out where we want to go and to set goals so we do get there. Through this planning exercise the Board is looking toward the future to ensure that the organization continues to grow, remain financially solvent and meet the needs of our current members.

The three objectives which the Board has decided for the organization are a critical part of ICPHSO Strategic Mission:

1. Membership development
2. Improving the Annual Conference
3. Expanding Regional training

Much work was put into the strategic planning process. Now the hard work begins -- the execution of the Plan. The ICPHSO Board is going to need your support.

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## News Of Interest

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### SUPERVISION OF CHILDREN AGED TWO THROUGH SIX YEARS\*

*Carol Pollack-Nelson, Ph.D.\*\* and Dorothy A. Drago*

Manufacturers of household products - including appliances, exercise equipment, and even some children's toys - expect consumers to supervise their children to prevent product-related injuries. This approach to hazard prevention places the burden of safety on parents and caretakers. This study examined actual supervision practices of parents of children between the ages of two and six years. Fifty-nine parents, aged 31 to 40 years, residing in Montgomery County, Maryland, completed a 24-item self-administered questionnaire, consisting of multiple choice and open-ended questions.

Nearly all respondents reported that there are times when their children are in a different room from them. When the children are out of sight, parents reported checking on their children periodically, with increasingly longer periods between observations as the child gets older. Nearly half of the children got out of bed in the morning *always* or *often* before a parent. Ninety-five percent of parents perceived that their child was at *no risk* or *slight risk* of injury when getting up in the morning before them.

In conclusion, it can be said that many parents supervise their children by being close-by and on-hand as needed, rather than being directly involved in the child's activities. Manufacturers are encouraged to employ passive measures and sound designs, rather than rely on close parental supervision for injury prevention.

\* This is an abstract of an article that was published *Injury Control and Safety Promotion* (2002), Vol. 9, No. 2, pp. 121-126.

\*\* For reprints or additional information, contact Carol Pollack-Nelson at: or 301-340-2912

**ICPHSO'S 12TH ANNUAL MEETING AND  
TRAINING SYMPOSIUM**

**RESERVE THESE DATES**

**FEBRUARY 23 – 25, 2005**

## **CLOTHING-RELATED BURN INJURIES TO CHILDREN ARE FOCUS OF NEW CPSC DATA COLLECTION TOOL**

*New CPSC System is Cooperative Effort with American Burn Association, Shriners Hospitals for Children and the National Association of State Fire Marshals*

Safety experts have a new tool to get a more accurate count of burns related to children's clothing thanks to a new data collection system launched in July by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC).

Developed in cooperation with the American Burn Association and Shriners Hospitals for Children, the new National Burn Center Reporting System collects comprehensive burn reports on children under age 15 from the approximately 108 burn centers nationwide that treat children. Under the new system, burn centers report incidents involving the ignition, melting or smoldering of clothing worn by children.

In a related, complementary effort, the National Association of State Fire Marshals (NASFM) is working cooperatively with the commission to retrieve and preserve children's clothing involved in burn injuries – an action that greatly enhances the investigative process. Garments collected by fire officials and "first responders" are being forwarded to the Commission's Bethesda, Md., headquarters for inspection. At the suggestion of the NASFM, a committee consisting of the National Volunteer Fire Council, National Fire Protection Association, the International Association of Fire Chiefs, the National Fire Information Council and NASFM was formed to develop a protocol for use by "first responders" across the country. Disseminating this protocol is currently a high priority with those working collaboratively with CPSC.

"One of our top priorities is to keep families safe from fires," said Hal Stratton, Chairman, CPSC. "We want sound science and solid data to be the basis for decisions we make on regulatory strategies. The National Burn Center Reporting System will give us a more complete picture of the most serious clothing-related burns to children and help us prevent or reduce burn incidents in the future."

"This new system should give researchers confidence that clothing-related burns to children will be captured," Stratton said.

For each of the incidents reported, the burn center is providing the commission preliminary information on the incident and patient identification. A commission investigator is assigned to the case to conduct an in-depth investigation, interviewing the victim where possible, as well as parents, fire officials and medical personnel as necessary. All reports are reviewed and logged into the commission's epidemiological databases.

The commission has relied on injury reports supplied by a probability sample of about 100 hospital emergency rooms nationwide to produce national estimates for specific product categories including children's clothing. The system, called the National Electronic Injury Surveillance System (NEISS), is the most comprehensive injury data collection system in the world. The burn center reports are augmenting the injury surveillance data by providing additional, more specific, detail.

The National Burn Center Reporting System collects data exclusively from burn centers that treat children, providing a more complete sample of serious burn injuries. "This additional reporting tool supplements data collected by our other systems and enhances our ability to measure the number of clothing-related burn injuries to children," Stratton said.

"The American Burn Association is pleased with the serious commitment of the Consumer Product Safety Commission to establish a new, permanent reporting system for burn incidents involving children," said David Herndon, MD, past association president and current chief of staff of Shriners Hospital for Children in Galveston, Texas.

"Shriners Hospitals for Children handles hundreds of pediatric burn injuries in the U.S. each year," said John D. VerMaas, chairman of the board of trustees for Shriners Hospitals. "We're very excited about working with the CPSC in its collection of data."

Donald Bliss, president of the National Association of State Fire Marshals, said, "Our primary focus is on preventing fires from occurring in the first place. The current data pertaining to injuries are a critical factor in determining how to effectively reduce the number of clothing related fires. Our hope is that information gathered, as a result of the National Burn Center Reporting System, will aid the commission in its efforts. We're proud to be part of this program."

The data being collected are available for all interested parties to analyze through the commission's National Injury Information Clearinghouse. If you have any questions or want more information about this new collection effort, please contact Cathy Downs, Program Manager, BCRS at 301-504-7419 or email at [cdowns@cpsc.gov](mailto:cdowns@cpsc.gov).

## HEALTH CANADA PROPOSES REGULATIONS TO LIMIT THE LEAD CONTENT IN CANDLES AND CHILDREN'S JEWELLERY

Health Canada has developed a comprehensive Lead Risk Reduction Strategy for Consumer Products which will serve as a regulatory framework to limit the lead content in a broad range of consumer products to which children are likely to be exposed. The development and implementation of regulations under this framework is a lengthy and complex process. The Department recognizes that the more serious lead exposure risks to children associated with consumer products may be addressed by implementing regulations in a phased approach.

On November 22, 2003, Health Canada pre-published the proposed *Children's Jewellery Regulations* and the proposed *Candles Regulations* in *Canada Gazette Part I*. Both regulations link to the objectives of the Lead Risk Reduction Strategy for Consumer Products.

### **Children's Jewellery Regulations**

The proposed *Children's Jewellery Regulations* prohibit the importation, advertisement or sale of jewellery intended for children under the age of 15 which contains more than 600 mg/kg total lead and more than 90 mg/kg migratable lead (lead that can be dissolved out of the product and enter the body).

### **Candles Regulations**

The proposed *Candles Regulations* prohibit the importation, advertisement or sale of candles whose wicks contain more than 600 mg/kg total lead. The *Candles Regulations* also include mandatory labelling outlining safe candle use.

It is expected that these Regulations will be published in *Canada Gazette*, Part II, therefore becoming law, during 2004. For a complete Regulatory Impact Analysis Statement and a copy of the proposed regulations, please see pages 3661 to 3672 (for the *Children's Jewellery Regulations*) and pages 3647 to 3660 (for the *Candles Regulations*) of the *Canada Gazette Part I* of November 22, 2003 (<http://canadagazette.gc.ca/part1/2003/20031122/pdf/g1-13747.pdf>).

For a copy of the Lead Risk Reduction Strategy for Consumer Products please go to <http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/hecs-sesc/cps/lrrs.htm>.

## COOKING REMAINS LEADING CAUSE OF HOME FIRES, NFPA DATA SHOW

Year after year, hundreds of people are killed and thousands are injured as a result of one of humankind's most essential and pleasurable activities: cooking. The pursuit of a home-cooked meal remains the leading cause of home fires and fire injuries, according to new data from the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

In 1999, the latest year for which statistics are available, there were 96,200 home structure fires attributed to cooking equipment, including 1,800 fires confined to a cooking vessel. These fires resulted in 331 civilian deaths, 4,183 civilian injuries, and \$511.3 million in direct property damage. Three out of four home cooking fires involve the range. And two-thirds of the time, according to one study, the fires start within the first 15 minutes of cooking.

"Cooking fires remain one of the toughest problems we face," said John R. Hall Jr., Ph.D., of NFPA's Fire Analysis and Research Division. "We have made less headway in preventing cooking fires than in preventing other kinds of home fires."

Home fires have been declining-but those associated with cooking have been declining at a much slower rate. For example, home cooking fires declined by 29 percent from 1980 to 1999, but home fires in general went down by 49 percent. Deaths from home cooking fires declined 21 percent during that period, but total civilian home fire deaths dropped 44 percent. And while injuries from home cooking fires went down 7 percent in those two decades, total civilian home fire injuries fell 19 percent.

A study of 45 unattended-cooking fires in New Zealand, done by the New Zealand Fire Service in 1998, showed that distraction and forgetfulness were the key reasons why devices intended to warm up food ended up starting a fire. About half the time, the study found, the cook was in another room, typically because he or she forgot that something was cooking or was distracted by children, phone calls, visitors, television or other interruptions. In eight fires, the cook was outside the house. In 14 fires, the cook was off the property (in eight cases having forgotten that something was cooking).

People often try to put out cooking fires on their own, and more than half of non-fatal cooking fire injuries occurred while fighting the fire. (That contrasts with total home fires, in which firefighting is involved in only one-third of non-fatal injuries.) With cooking fires, the safest response is not what may first come to mind. Using a fire extinguisher or applying water risk splattering and spreading the fire. A safer choice is to smother the fire by covering a pan with a lid or closing the oven door.

The NFPA advises these safety steps during cooking:

- Don't leave cooking food unattended.
- Roll up sleeves and don't wear loose clothing.
- Ban children and pets from a three-foot "safe zone" around the stove.
  - Keep pot handles turned in to avoid spills
  - Keep pot holders, dish towels, food packaging and other clutter off the stovetop.
  - Clean cooking equipment; built-up grease can catch fire.

For this and other NFPA Headlines, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/PressRoom/index.asp>.

## IMPROVING RECALL EFFECTIVENESS

Over the last year, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) has held a series of meetings with outside parties on ways to improve recall effectiveness. Summaries from two of the three meetings are now posted on the CPSC web site. I wanted to share this information with you since recall effectiveness is not an issue limited to the United States but to all governmental authorities who coordinate product safety recalls. Any questions or comments, please let me know. Thanks

[http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/rem\\_sum1.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/rem_sum1.pdf)

[http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/rem\\_sum2.pdf](http://www.cpsc.gov/businfo/rem_sum2.pdf)

*For questions or comments contact Marc J. Schoem  
Director, Recalls and Compliance Division,  
Office of Compliance, U.S. Consumer Product Safety  
Commission. Phone: 301-504-7520 or  
mschoem@cpsc.gov*

## RAM'S DESIGN CRITERIA PUBLISHED IN INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF PEDIATRIC OTORHINOLARYNGOLOGY

The analysis of variables associated with real-life injuries and fatalities allows RAM to understand the connections between product characteristics, child behavior, and injury. Data analysis contributes to our research process as well as to the development of scientific tools that can accurately assess risk. RAM's data sources include: U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, U.S. Centers for Disease Control, American Association of Poison Control Centers, 26 leading children's hospitals in North America, and the Department of Trade & Industry (United Kingdom).

RAM scientists' analysis titled "Application of Data for Prevention of Foreign Body Injury in Children" was recently published in the *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology Supplement: Advances in Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology. Selected extended abstracts from the 8th International Congress of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology*. Edited by J.M. Graham and R.J. Ruben, Volume 67 Suppl. December 2003, pp. S179-S182. The following abstract was presented by Scott Milkovich, PhD, Gene Rider, Diane Greaves, Daniel Stool, and Xiao Chen.

**BACKGROUND:** To develop design criteria for consumer products based on foreign body injury and fatality data, to prevent airway obstruction injuries to children.

**METHOD:** Beginning in 1988, RAM has created a worldwide database of foreign body injuries. This ongoing project now includes approximately 7000 data points from 51 children's hospitals in 15 countries

located on five continents. Statistical analysis of these data, especially in terms of size, shape and consistency of the object and obstruction location and severity of injury for the patient has allowed the creation of an injury prevention criterion.

**RESULTS:** Analysis of these data reveals that adoption of an injury prevention criteria based on the use of a 1.50in. (38.10mm) diameter gauge for non-spherical objects and a 1.75in. (44.50mm) diameter gauge for spherical objects would greatly reduce airway obstruction injuries to children. Furthermore, the data show that this criterion is independent of country and culture. However, the data suggest that a child's exposure to the "mix" of objects that may cause airway obstruction varies with the country and culture of the child. For example, coins are well represented in the database, however, some countries make more use of coins than other countries and the exposure level may have made the difference in the occurrence of incidents.

**CONCLUSIONS:** Airway obstruction injuries from consumer products could be greatly decreased by the adoption of the presented injury prevention criteria that is founded in a statistical analysis of known objects that have caused injury. This criteria is dependant on object characteristics and is independent of the country or culture of the child.

In addition to this article, RAM was recognized with two other articles published in the same journal, "The South African Experience with Ingestion Injury in Children." pp. S175-S178, authored by A. B. van As, N. du Toit, L. Wallis, D. Stool, X. Chen and H. Rode.

"Foreign Body Injury in Children in the Twentieth Century: A Modern Comparison to the Jackson Collection." pp. S171-S174, authored by B. K. Reilly, D. Stool, X. Chen, G. Rider, S. E. Stool and J. S. Reilly.

*If you would like more information, please contact Brenda Ridenour at (630) 623-6066 or email [brenda.ridenour@ram.com](mailto:brenda.ridenour@ram.com).*

## **NFPA REPORT: DEATHS FROM HOME HEATING FIRES REACH LOWEST LEVEL IN 20 YEARS** *But the U.K. and Canada are doing even better*

The number of people who died in home fires involving heating equipment fell to the lowest level in 20 years, according to a new report by the NFPA (National Fire Protection Association).

In 1999, the most recent year for which statistics are available, home heating fires killed 301 people in the United States, by far the lowest number since NFPA started collecting such data in 1980. In contrast, the highest number of home-heating deaths in that 20-year span was 979 in 1985.

"People are heeding our safety messages and the fire problem continues to decline," said John R. Hall, Jr., Ph.D., of NFPA's fire analysis and research division. "But data from the United Kingdom and Canada, where the death rates are lower, show that we can do better. If everyone followed NFPA's codes, standards, and safety recommendations, we could prevent most home-heating fire deaths."

In the United Kingdom and Canada, where the heating season is longer, the number of home-heating fire deaths, relative to population, is considerably lower than in the United States. This is particularly noteworthy for Canada, a country like the United States in many ways and with a similar overall fire death rate.

An estimated 48,800 home-heating fires occurred in the United States in 1999, resulting in 1,383 civilian injuries and \$606.5 million in direct property damage.

Nearly two out of three home-heating fires and five out of six associated deaths involve devices other than central furnaces or water heaters. That's because the hot surfaces of furnaces and water heaters tend to be farther away from people and things that can burn - and because space heaters create more opportunities for human error. The most common problems leading to fires are failing to clean devices, placing them too close to combustible items, flaws in construction or design, and improper fueling.

Room gas heaters, portable kerosene heaters and portable electric heaters have the greatest risk of death. Wood stoves or fireplaces with inserts have the greatest risk of property damage from fire. Although kerosene heaters are illegal in some states, the data do not show that they are clearly or consistently more dangerous than other kinds of space heaters.

All space heaters can be used safely if close attention is paid to the rules of safe installation, usage, and maintenance. NFPA makes these recommendations:

- When buying a new unit, make sure that a qualified technician installs the unit or checks that the unit has been installed properly.
- For wood or coal stoves or fireplaces, have a professional inspect the chimney, chimney connector and other related equipment every year, and have them cleaned as often as the inspections indicate.
- Keep space heaters at least three feet (or one meter) away from anything that can burn.
- Fuel portable kerosene heaters in a well-ventilated area away from flames or other heat sources, and only when the device has cooled completely. Use only the type of kerosene specified by the manufacturer, and never use gasoline. Use only if such heaters are legal in your community.

- When turning a heating device on or off, follow the manufacturer's instructions. When buying heaters, choose devices with automatic shut-off features.
- Make sure any gas-fueled heating device is adequately ventilated. Unventilated gas space heaters in bedrooms or bathrooms must be small and well-mounted. Never use liquefied-petroleum gas heaters with self-contained fuel supplies in the home.

*For this and other NFPA Headlines, please visit <http://www.nfpa.org/PressRoom/index.asp>.*

## **STR - NEWSLETTER**

Specialized Technology Resources (STR) has produced a newsletter, *The Monitor*, for clients and industry professionals invites you to subscribe to the new publication. Contents of the publication include industry updates as well as news on the company's family of businesses which includes STR, Shuster Laboratories, CSCC, and STR-R. To subscribe, please visit [www.strlab.com](http://www.strlab.com) and click on the *The Monitor* icon. STR, based in Enfield, Connecticut, is the world's largest independent quality assurance testing and compliance monitoring company specializing in consumer products.

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## **Coming Events**

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### **THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN MADISON**

The Role of Warnings & Instructions  
Course #E669  
March 24-26, 2004

*Additional information can be obtained from the web at [www.epd.engr.wisc.edu](http://www.epd.engr.wisc.edu) or you may also contact Dick Moll at 608-263-4712 or Diane Lange at 800-462-0876.*

### **INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON INJURY RESEARCH METHODS**

Vienna, Austria  
June 10, 2004

For additional information please visit: [www.ecosa.org](http://www.ecosa.org)