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Consumer News:

RECALL REPORT



Listeria Outbreak Due to Prepackaged Caramel Apples

The CDC has reported that 28 people across the United States have become infected with *Listeria monocytogenes*, also known as listeriosis, resulting in 26 hospitalizations and 5 deaths. The outbreak has spread through commercially produced, prepackaged caramel apples, however a specific brand has not been pinpointed. No official recall is announced.

SAFETY IN THE HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS



During this festive time of year, the risk of fire in the home greatly increases. The kitchen is at the heart of the home and while we all gather there to eat and drink with family during the holidays, safety should remain the top priority. The National Fire Protection Agency offers a number of tips to help us all stay safe during the holidays.

Whether you are in the kitchen cooking or sitting with family, keep in mind the following tips to keep your friends and family safe this holiday season;

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stove top so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay home when leaving something in the oven and check on it frequently.
- Keep children at least three feet away from a hot stove.

- Hot steam or splashes of hot water, coffee, or gravy can cause serious burns, so make sure children stay out of reach of hot foods and liquids.
- Make sure walking paths in the home are clear to prevent tripping with hot foods or liquids in your hands.
- Keep knives out of reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords are not dangling off the counter within reach of a child.
- Matches and utility lighters should be kept in a high cabinet, out of the reach of little ones.
- Never leave lit candles unattended.
- Always be sure that fire alarms are in working order by testing frequently.

Prepare activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time to prevent fire and burn injuries. **Cont'd, pg. 2**

REMEMBER, THIS DECEMBER, THAT LOVE WEIGHS MORE THAN GOLD!

JOSEPHINE DODGE DASKAM BACON

A NOTE FROM THE FOUNDER

As the end of 2014 draws near, I look back at the great strides that we have made as a mid-sized personal injury law firm in Philadelphia. While the citizens' rights to fair compensation face threats due to possible tort reform and dangerous legislative changes, Messa & Associates grows and continues to thrive. We have increased our staff, our areas of practice, our client base, our charitable giving, and our community reach. Messa & Associates is a leader among mid-sized law firms in Philadelphia.

We at Messa & Associates come to work every day to fight for our clients – those without a voice – those dealing with the life changing consequences of medical negligence, unscrupulous insurance companies, irresponsible manufacturers, etc. I am proud of the work that we do to help people and I am thankful every day that I chose to make it my career. I am certainly one of the lucky ones.

I am also thankful to the team of dedicated people that share this task with me. Without my committed and resourceful staff of attorneys, paralegals, and assistants, Messa & Associates would not be the successful firm it is today. From the bottom of my heart, I thank you.

I look forward with enthusiasm to a new year, filled with potential and new possibilities. Happy New Year!



Joseph L. Messa, Jr.
founder

SAFETY IN THE HOME DURING THE HOLIDAYS, CONT'D

Games, puzzles, or books can keep children busy and out of harms way. Have the kids get involved in holiday meal preparations with recipes that can be done outside the kitchen.

Each year, fire departments respond to an average of 210 structure fires caused by Christmas trees. The NFPA has a number of safety tips to help prevent your holidays from turning to tragedy.

- If you have an artificial tree, be sure it is labeled, certified, or identified by the manufacturer as fire retardant.
- If shopping for a real tree, choose a tree with fresh, green needles that do not fall off when touched.
- Before placing the tree in the stand, cut one to two inches from the base of the trunk.
- Make sure the tree is at least three feet away from any heat source like fireplaces, radiators, candles, heat vents, or lights.
- Make sure the tree is not blocking an exit.
- Be sure to add water to the tree stand daily.
- When lighting the tree, use lights that have the label of an independent testing laboratory. Some lights are only for indoor or outdoor use, but not both.
- Strings of lights with worn or broken cords or loose bulb connections must be replaced. Connect no more than three strands of mini string sets and a maximum of 50 bulbs for screw-in bulbs. Read manufacturer's instructions for number of LED strands to connect.

- Never use lit candles to decorate the tree.
- Always turn off Christmas tree lights before leaving home or going to bed.
- Get rid of the tree when it begins dropping needles. Dried-out trees are a fire danger and should not be left in the home or garage, or placed outside against the home. Check with your local community to find a recycling program.
- Bring outdoor electrical lights inside after the holidays to prevent hazards and make them last longer.

The attorneys and staff at Messa & Associates wish for you and yours to have a happy, safe, and healthy holiday season. Please remember these tips to prevent fire and burn injuries in your home during the holidays and every day. With any questions, please feel free to contact us at intake@messalaw.com.



HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

BREAKING IT DOWN

W.A.T.C.H. 2014 MOST DANGEROUS TOYS LIST

■ By Maggie Kovalcik

World Against Toys Causing Harm, Inc. (W.A.T.C.H.) has released its annual list of the Top 10 most dangerous toys. The theme for this year's list is toys that have been designed and marketed for sales instead of safety. The list has a number of toys that capitalize on popular movies and television shows, but don't consider the potential for injury to children.

AIR STORM FIRETEK BOW



Among the warnings on this toy is an instruction not to pull the arrows back "more than half strength", and that the illuminated bow and arrows "designed for night and day" are "not for play in complete darkness". Sold at Walmart and Amazon.com.

LIL' CUTESIES - BEST FRIENDS

These toys, marketed for children as young as 2, come with decorative bows that can detach and pose a choking hazard. Sold at Kmart, Toysrus.com, and Amazon.com.



RADIO FLYER ZIGGLE



With this toy, young children are encouraged to twist and spin and "try new tricks" and "race around the block". The low profile makes it particularly dangerous for young children. Furthermore, despite warnings to always wear safety gear, the young boy on the front is without any. Sold at Target, Toys R Us, and Amazon.com.

CATAPENCIL

While the Catapencil urges children to play safe, it also encourages them to use it as "target practice for your desk-top". This product has obvious risks for personal injury to children. Sharpened pencils should not be marketed as toys, much less a slingshot style launcher. This toy also has no warnings or age recommendations. Sold at Amazon.com, eBay.com, and Learning Express.



ALPHABET ZOO ROCK & STACK PULL TOY



While the industry does have standards about the length of strings and cords on playpens and crib toys, this toy does not meet them. Strings and cords must be less than 12 inches, and this one is 20 inches. The manufacturer does recognize the potential for strangulation and personal injury in a warning on the bottom of the package, but nowhere on the toy itself. Sold at Amazon.com, Toys R Us, Magic Beans.

SWAT ELECTRONIC MACHINE GUN



In today's world, there is no good reason to equip children with realistic replicas of harmful weapons. The regulations governing such toys are not adequate as of yet. Detailed replicas have resulted in a number of deaths and injuries over the years. Sold at Kmart.

WOODEN INSTRUMENTS

This toy is manufactured and distributed by Walmart. The instrument set is advertised for children as young as 12 months, and the manufacturer provides no warning regarding the slender and small drumstick. It has the potential to be mouthed and occlude a child's airway, causing injury. Sold at Walmart.



BOTTLE ROCKET PARTY



This toy is marketed to children as young as 8, and has a lot of obvious potential to cause personal injury. While it does come with caution tape, it does not come with the "required" safety goggles. Sold at Walmart.com, Amazon.com, and Village Toy Shop.

TRUE LEGENDS ORCS BATTLE HAMMER

The battle hammer has potential for blunt impact injuries. It encourages children as young as 3, to play the part of a "savage Orc" by wielding a nearly 2 foot hammer. Sold at Toys R Us.



COLORED HEDGEHOG



This colorful hedgehog is sold for infants but has long hair that is not sufficiently rooted and can be removed. If swallowed by a child, it could cause ingestion and aspiration injuries. Sold at Toys R Us.

Here at Messa & Associates, we wish you a happy and safe holiday season. Follow these recommendations to avoid any unnecessary personal injury at this joyful time of year.

Settlements and Verdicts

CONFIDENTIAL

Lee D. Rosenfeld garnered a \$300,000 settlement for his client who was permanently injured after falling from a dangerous landing in a hospital parking garage. The defendant had also been found liable for a previous injury that resulted from a similar fall at the same dangerous landing.

AROUND THE OFFICE



Attorneys and staff of Messa & Associates celebrated the holidays with friends and family at the Messa & Associates annual Red Carpet Holiday Party on Friday, December 19th at World Café Live! Live band The Business entertained and all had a wonderful time!



We at Messa & Associates would like to wish you and yours a very happy, safe, & peaceful holiday season!



Happies of Birthdays to our December babies; Laura Zaffiri, Lee D. Rosenfeld, Dana Gallo, Donna Feltman, and Arielle Tobin!

MAIN LOCATIONS

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123 S 22nd St
Philadelphia, PA 19103
P: 215-568-3500

CHERRY HILL

2091 Springdale Rd.
Suite 2
Cherry Hill, NJ 08003
P: 856-810-9918

SATELLITE LOCATIONS

COLLINGSWOOD

475 White Horse Pike
Collingswood, NJ 08107
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GERMANTOWN

6000-6002 Germantown Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144
P: 215-844-1614

CONSHOHOCKEN

923 Fayette St.
Conshohocken, PA 19246
P: 215-940-7700

LINWOOD

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Linwood, NJ 08221
P: 609-601-1644

ROSELLE

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Roselle, NJ 07203
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Messa & Associates

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