

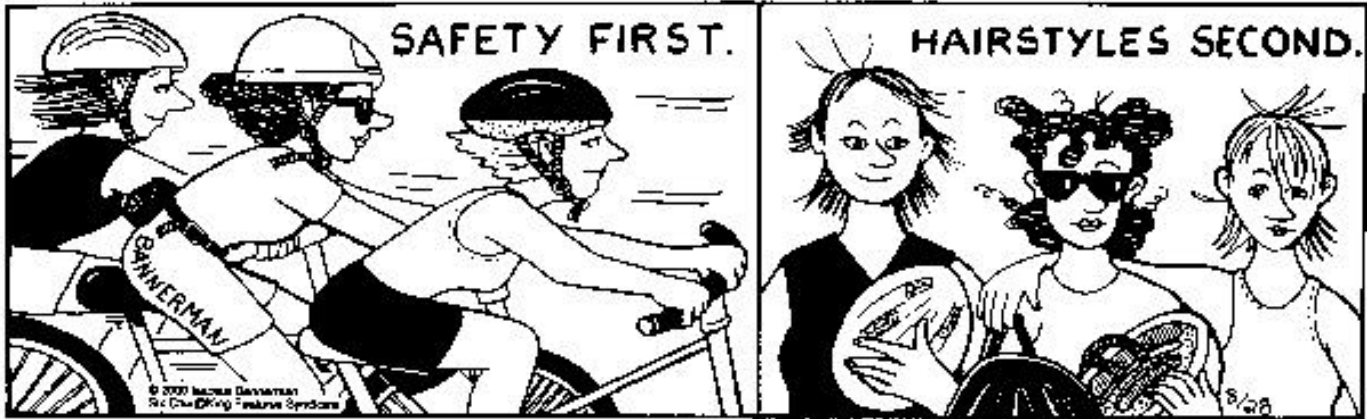
icphso update

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

Newsletter Editor, Ross Koeser

Summer 2001

President's Message



**"For those of you who don't recognize me, I'm the one in the shades."
Kitty Pilarz, President of ICPHSO (Reprinted by permission)**

ANNUAL ICPHSO MEETING AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM: EXCITING PLANS FOR 2002!

Thanks to an outstanding global array of professionals in the field of consumer health and safety, the Symposium program for February 2002 promises to be a stimulating and exciting one. We are very fortunate to have the help and support of dedicated ICPHSO members who represent most if not all of the diverse professions ICPHSO strives to serve. This year's Symposium Planning Committee has met, via conference call, almost every month since the last annual meeting to discuss what works, what doesn't, and what new material and features should be included in the 2002 program. The creative ideas and synergy emanating from this group has been phenomenal. The biggest change to the 2002 Symposium program is the alliance ICPHSO formed with a sister organization, the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA). Here is a preview of the type of program you can expect to enjoy next year.

The ECOSA program is scheduled for February 26. It will feature invited papers for plenary sessions and panel debates on consumer health and safety topics of global interest. There will be exhibits and poster presentations from the membership of both ICPHSO and ECOSA as

well as standing committee meetings sponsored by each organization.

The ICPHSO program will continue to include provocative sessions developed by the American Bar Association and the Office of Compliance at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in addition sessions for the State and Local Caucus and International Consumer Safety Caucus. The 2002 ICPHSO program will include eight workshops instead of the usual nine workshops. One of the workshops has been reformatted to roundtable sessions. This will give you a chance to meet and network with one or more roundtable leader or expert. Each of these leaders will be well versed in his/her area of expertise that ranges from incident data systems to product safety issues of concern to manufacturers and retailers. ICPHSO workshops you can expect to enjoy at the 2002 program include such topic areas as global enforcement issues (comparisons of enforcement practices in the U.S. and other countries), innovative safety awareness programs (new ways organizations are educating the public about safety), anatomy of a voluntary standard (How are provisions incorporated in voluntary standards? How are groups represented in the voluntary standard process?), chemical risks (how to deal with a chemical scare), and product safety from a human factors perspective. Stay tuned for more

workshop/roundtable details, they will be coming to your ICPHSO Web site as soon as they are available.

The ICPHSO plenary sessions will include keynote speakers. One of these keynoters has already been confirmed - Robert Eckert, CEO, Mattel, Inc.

In the months ahead, look for more details about the entire ICPHSO/ECOSA program being planned for you. We will try to keep you informed as the various components of the Symposium are finalized. In the meantime, mark the date on your calendar now for the 2002 Symposium - February 26 through March 1, 2001. I look forward to seeing you there.

Elaine A. Tyrrell
Chairman, ICPHSO Symposium Planning and Program Committee

From The Editor's Desk

I'm 39,000 feet above the Pacific Ocean on my way to Maui and guess what? I'm thinking of what to write in my Editor's Note. Nothing major strikes me – only some random thoughts. Here goes:

ê How lucky I am to be working with so many talented and dedicated leaders within ICPHSO. I see it every day.

ê Contributors to this newsletter make up about 5% of our members. Let's hear from the other 95%. Remember, this is a newsletter written by the members for the members.

ê We can all be proud of the tremendous success of ICPHSO not only in membership, but also in worldwide recognition. How do we keep it going? Where do we want to go in the future? What is our vision?

ê CDC needs to be more active in ICPHSO – need to work on that when I get back.

ê There's talk of a special group outing this year in-between the ECOSA and ICPHSO meetings (Tuesday evening). Sea World is only two miles away. Just another way for members to meet, eat and bond.

ê 2002 will bring us a new and beautiful hotel, in a prestigious location (International Drive) and an increase in registration fees. Hey folks, we are only covering costs.

ê Thanks again to CPSC for their continuous support of ICPHSO and our mission.

ê And thanks to Virginia Spitler, ICPHSO's Executive Assistant for her many and unwavering efforts in support of ICPHSO's success.

Ross Koester, Editor



Iris Liskey, Program Analyst with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission promotes ICPHSO at the Nebraska State Workshop.

CPSC and the state of Nebraska met in July 2001 to brainstorm about CPSC programs that the State can participate in for next fiscal year. Approximately 20 state officials were in attendance at the all day meeting. State representatives were reminded that not only does ICPHSO cover all product safety issues, but also, is used as a forum to bring together State representatives from all states to discuss product safety.

Member News

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF AMERICA COUNSEL MARY ELLEN R. FISE RECEIVES ASTM AWARD OF MERIT

Mary Ellen R. Fise, general counsel for the Consumer Federation of America (CFA), and an ASTM member since 1984, has received a 2001 ASTM Award of Merit and the accompanying title of Fellow. The award is the highest Society honor given to an individual for distinguished service and outstanding participation in standards activities. She has been cited "For meritorious service to ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and contributions to the development of performance standards that enhance the quality and safe use of products for consumers."

As second vice chairman of F15, Fise, a resident of Towson, Md., serves the committee in an administrative and policy level role; she has helped to promote consumer participation in F15 and to coordinate a committee awards program as well as assisting in restructuring the committee, revising the bylaws, and long-term planning. She also actively works in standards development, representing the consumer interest that is critical to the work of F15. Attending up to 20 subcommittee meetings a year, she focuses on juvenile products subcommittees, and has made important contributions to specifications for such products as cribs, high chairs, and play yards.

In addition to ASTM, Fise serves as a director of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) and of Underwriters Laboratories; she is also vice chairman of the ANSI Consumer Interest Council. Fise is a past president of the International Consumer Product Health and Safety Organization and a former vice chairman of the National Institute of Building Sciences; an appointment made by President Clinton.

In her position as general counsel for the Consumer Federation of America, Fise is responsible for representing consumers on a variety of issues before Congress and regulatory agencies. She is also general counsel of the Consumer Federation of America Foundation (CFAF). In addition to helping coordinate consumer policy development, she is responsible for the CFA and CFAF product safety and indoor air quality programs.

Fise is co-author of *The Childwise Catalog: A Consumer Guide to Buying the Safest and Best Products for Your Children*. She has taught consumer product safety and consumer protection courses as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Maryland and Boston University. A member of the District of Columbia Bar and the American Bar Association, Fise holds a B.S. in consumer economics from the University of Maryland and a J.D. from the University of Baltimore.

WELCOME CPSC'S NEW DIRECTOR OF STATE AND LOCAL PROGRAMS

On July 30th, Mark Kumagai became the new Director for State and Local Programs for CPSC. Mark joined the Consumer Product Safety Commission, Division of Mechanical Engineering in 1995. He was active in the development of over 20 children's product voluntary standards such as Baby Walkers, Infant Carriers, Soft Contained Play Equipment and Toys. He also managed the bicycle reflector project to evaluate the current reflector requirements and identify potential improvements to bicycle nighttime visibility. Mark has supported the office of Compliance in recalls such as infant car seat carriers and various fire sprinklers.

Prior to coming to the CPSC, Mark was with the Naval Surface Warfare Center where he designed and tested underwater weapons such as mines, torpedoes and swimmer weapons. Mark has a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Maryland and is a licensed Professional Engineer. He is married to Alta, and has a son, Calvin (8) and a daughter, Brooke (6). Mark and Alta enjoy participating in their children's activities.

Mark looks forward to working with ICPHSO, especially the State representatives.

CPSC CHAIRMAN AWARDS SAFETY COMMENDATION TO MCDONALD'S

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced that Chairman Ann Brown has awarded the Chairman's Commendation to McDonald's Corp., of Oak Brook, Ill. This award commends McDonald's for providing CPSC with state-of-the-art technology that aims to keep children safe.

This technology, developed by RAM Consulting for McDonald's toy safety program, gives CPSC technical staff additional tools to evaluate safety problems such as choking or suffocation hazards - the leading causes of deaths and injuries associated with children's products.

"This generous loan by McDonald's adds to our arsenal in combating injuries and deaths to children from consumer products," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "It takes product safety into the 21st Century."

"Our safety leadership record is part of McDonald's overall goal to be a socially responsible neighbor in every aspect of our business," said McDonald's Chairman and CEO, Jack Greenberg. "We have an obligation to give something back to the communities that give us so much, and this is just one of the many ways we can make a positive difference in people's lives."

NANCY HARVEY STEORTS, WINS ASTM MARGARET DANA AWARD

Nancy Harvey Steorts, a former chairman of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission and an international consultant on issues related to consumer safety, has received the Margaret Dana Award from the American Society for Testing and Materials. Steorts, a lecturer, television commentator, syndicated columnist, and author, who resides in McLean, VA, received the award for her outstanding contributions to the advancement of voluntary standards for consumer products.

A recent former chairman of the Consumer Interest Council for the American National Standards Institute (ANSI), Steorts has also served ANSI as a member of its executive committee and Board of Directors.

Before her appointment as CPSC chairman by President Ronald Reagan in 1981, Steorts was a consultant to the director of the U.S. Office on Consumer Affairs at the White House. She also served under the Nixon and Ford administrations as Special Assistant for Consumer Affairs to the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Margaret Dana Award, established in 1979, is administered by ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products.

NFPA – INTERESTED IN UNINTENTIONAL INJURIES

NFPA -- the National Fire Protection Association -- has been moving into the larger world of hazards of the built environment and unintentional injury, starting with Risk Watch, the school curriculum for all types of unintentional injury, and continuing with the NFPA True Consensus Building Code set of codes, due to be approved in 2002. Part of that move has been in the areas of statistical analysis and research, i.e., the kind of surveillance and program effectiveness studies that ICPHSO members have long pursued. NFPA has a particular interest in cutting-edge research on fatal and non-fatal injuries due to falls, specifically falls in or from a building, particularly falls where the performance of one or more design elements of the building, such as flooring or handrails, is at issue. If you have references to recommend or are engaged in or contemplating a project in this area, please contact Dr. John R. Hall, Jr., Assistant Vice President -- Fire Analysis & Research, NFPA, 1 Batterymarch Park, Quincy, MA 02269-9101 USA or e-mail jhall@nfpa.org. Research on other issues involving the role of building performance in health outcomes is also of interest.

TRADE GROUP CHANGES NAME TO TOY INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION™

Toy Manufacturers of America and the American Toy Institute Take on New Names

What's in a name? For the trade association, Toy Manufacturers of America, Inc., the answer is a lot! After 35 years the trade group changed its name to the Toy Industry Association (TIA™).

TIA president David Miller explained, "Over the past 25 years, the association's activities have changed in response to the impact of a global marketplace. Our new name more accurately reflects how the association represents the worldwide toy industry in our day-to-day activities."

In addition to the TIA name change, the organization's educational and charitable arm, the American Toy Institute, changes its name to the Toy Industry Foundation (TIF™).

For more information, please go to the association's homepage at www.toy-tia.org.

HELP!

ICPHSO is in need of a laptop. If your company is upgrading their computers and would like to make a donation, please contact Virginia Spittler, ICPHSO's Executive Assistant at 301-601-3240.

Coming Events

ICPHSO'S 9th ANNUAL MEETING AND TRAINING SYMPOSIUM

Our 2002 meeting will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel in Orlando, Florida. The dates are February 26th - March 1st, 2002. The meeting will be held in conjunction with the European Consumer Safety Association (ECOSA).

WORLD CONGRESS ON DROWNING PREVENTION, RESCUE, TREATMENT

RAI International Congress Centre
Amsterdam, The Netherlands
June 26 – 28, 2002

For more information go to: www.drowning.nl

PROFESSOR DICK MOLL OFFERS ICPHSO MEMBERS 10% DISCOUNT ON 2001 TRAINING PROGRAMS.

Many ICPHSO members have attended past training programs sponsored by the University of Wisconsin and coordinated by Professor Moll.

The University of Wisconsin is a leader in product safety and liability prevention programming.

Professor Moll has attended past ICPHSO conferences and is offering ICPHSO members a 10% discount on 2001 and 2002 programs.

Dick Moll's Program Schedule

September 19-21, 2001
The Role of Warnings and Instructions
Pyle Center – Madison, Wisconsin

November 15-16, 2001
Thirteenth Annual Product Liability Conference
Pyle Center – Madison, Wisconsin

January 24-25, 2002
Fire Related Product Liability Issues
Marriott Raleigh Crabtree Valley Hotel
Raleigh, North Carolina

March 20-22, 2002
The Role of Warnings and Instructions
Pyle Center – Madison, Wisconsin

Additional information can be obtained from the web at www.epd.engr.wisc.edu or you may also contact Dick Moll at 608-263-4712 or Diane Lange at 800-462-0876.

News of Interest

ICPHSO WEB.....IMPROVEMENTS ON THE WAY

Have you visited your ICPHSO Web site lately? Find what you were looking for? Have comments you wish you could make to someone? We are in the process of making some changes and updates to the site. Here are a few of the changes you may see in the coming months:

Re-vitalized Membership/Resource Directory. The presentation of this page will be reorganized to give you the ability to sort data by name, organization, and state. A search engine will be available for key word searches. Once created (perhaps by late August), ICPHSO members will have one week to test the new directory features and request modifications. Keep using the directory and give us your feedback.

"Contact Us". And here is how you can give us your feedback. A "Contact Us" will be created in the Web site and you will be able to immediately give us your comments or suggestions. You, the sender will receive an automatic acknowledgment response e-mail. Our hope is that you will get a direct response to your specific questions or issues soon afterwards.

Online Registration. ICPHSO members currently have the capability to register online (and pay registration fees separately). Soon, members who have registered online, but not forwarded registration/membership fees within 30 days, will automatically receive an e-mail reminder.

These are a few of the updates planned for the Web site right now. Others are in the works. Use of the site and feedback from ICPHSO members will give us a useful information for additional improvements.

One way to make your voice heard in how the ICPHSO Web is maintained is to become involved in one of the ICPHSO committees. Current activities of ICPHSO's Outreach Committee include work for improving the Web. Jytte Olgaard, new Chair of the Outreach Committee, would welcome your involvement in the committee's work. (Consult the ICPHSO Web for how to contact Jytte!)

Elaine A. Tyrrell, President-Elect, ICPHSO - 2001-2002

ICPHSO'S CONFERENCE SYLLABUS' NOW AVAILABLE ONLINE

Courtesy of Verhalen & Associates, you can access the Conference Syllabus' for 1998 thru 2001 by going to www.VerhalenandAssociates.com. Go to Links then go to ICPHSO Conference Syllabus' online.

A RESALE AND THRIFT STORE OWNERS ADVISORY COUNSEL HAS BEEN FORMED IN WISCONSIN

A Resale & Thrift Store Owners Advisory Counsel has been formed by the Wisconsin Product Safety Section of the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection and the Madison Area SAFE KIDS Coalition's Nursery Action Group.

The stores have cooperated with the Nursery Action Group in the past but haven't been able to keep up with the flood of recent recalls. After a number of inspections, the Product Safety Section determined that additional efforts were needed to spot dangerous products.

As a result, the Advisory Counsel will help storeowners identify hazardous products. In turn, storeowners will help the Nursery Action Group identify areas where community education is still needed. The storeowners are in regular contact with an audience that is often overlooked or missed completely and can help provide safety messages to them.

Some products received by these stores may have been recalled or are old, broken and dangerous. In some cases, product identification information is missing, making it difficult to determine if the product has been recalled. The product may be so old it does not meet current safety standards, such as cribs with wide slats. Or the item may have cracks or broken corners that can cause lacerations.

The group looks forward to having a positive impact on the community and will meet again in November to discuss holiday and toy safety issues.

For more information you may contact Michelle Reinen, Bureau of Consumer Protection, State of Wisconsin (608) 224-4988 / fax (608) 224-4939
michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us

REPORT FINDS SOFT BEDDING A FACTOR IN PLAYPEN DEATHS. CPSC, MATTTEL LAUNCH CAMPAIGN TO ALERT CAREGIVERS

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) released a [report \(pdf\)](#) on deaths in playpens. Since 1988, CPSC has reports of more than 200 babies who died while in playpens. In almost 100 of these deaths, soft bedding or improper or extra mattresses were present in the playpen and the babies died of suffocation or Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS). More than 70 percent of these deaths were to babies less than 12 months old. Twenty-six of the playpen deaths occurred in a daycare setting.

Over the years, playpens, portable cribs and play yards have evolved into virtually identical products. Parents use playpens today as places for babies to both sleep and

play. To educate caregivers, CPSC and Mattel, Inc. are launching a "Sleep Safe, Play Safe " campaign to address the two greatest hazards revealed by the study: 1) adding soft bedding and 2) adding extra mattresses or cushions.

For years, CPSC has warned about the dangers of soft bedding such as quilts, comforters and pillows in cribs. Soft bedding can become molded around an infant's face and cause suffocation. As many as one-third of baby deaths attributed to SIDS, in fact, may be suffocation in soft bedding.

"Many parents and caregivers know the dangers of soft bedding in cribs," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "This study shows, for the first time, that the same dangers exist when using pillows, quilts, and comforters in playpens."

The findings emphasize the need for caregivers to be aware that the same safe sleeping guidelines that they follow for their babies' cribs should be followed in these playpens. That means placing baby on his back on a firm, flat mattress and not adding extra mattresses or any soft bedding, such as pillows, quilts, or comforters.

"At Mattel, the well being of children is an inherent part of the reason for our organization to exist and we reflect this in all that we do," said Jim Walter, vice president of corporate product integrity for Mattel. "We are happy to be working with the CPSC on the 'Sleep Safe, Play Safe' campaign."

CPSC, in partnership with Mattel, is kicking off a "Sleep Safe, Play Safe" campaign to educate parents and caregivers about the dangers associated with soft bedding and extra mattresses or cushions in playpens.

BUSINESS LEADERS PROMOTE SAFETY INITIATIVES AT CPSC'S NATIONAL PRODUCT SAFETY CIRCLE CONFERENCE

More than half a dozen companies unveiled new product safety innovations at the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission "Product Safety Circle Conference and Expo", held June 21, 2001, in Oak Brook, Ill. The conference, highlighted CPSC's Product Safety Circle initiative encouraging companies to adopt proven product safety practices, attracted over 250 individuals and 100 companies. More than 20 companies presented exhibits relating to product safety.

The conference program provided a range of perspectives on safety -- including business figures such as Alan Feldman, President of McDonald's, and Mark Schwab, President of Binney and Smith; a panel of renowned Washington experts chaired by Robert Barnett, a senior partner at Williams & Connelly; a panel of media personalities, including newspaper and television reporters who cover CPSC; one of the leading voices for consumers, former U.S. Senator Howard Metzenbaum,

Chairman of Consumer Federation of America; and CPSC Chairman Ann Brown, who gave the keynote address.

"I commend the 44 companies and eight supporting members that have joined the Product Safety Circle and publicly committed to its principles," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "Safety is good business. It can help improve a company's corporate image and their bottom line by cutting recall costs."

Here are the innovations announced at the conference: SawStop is a new system for woodworking that uses sensor technology to help prevent injuries. Saws with the SawStop system are designed to stop the blade if contact with a human hand or finger is detected. Each year there are about 30,000 hand and finger injuries from table and bench saws.

Returns Online announced a new service called Comprehensive Recall Management intended to help simplify the recall process for both manufacturers and consumers. Web-based services have the potential to greatly increase the efficiency of recalls.

Marketing Innovation Enterprises has developed an alternative to latex balloons. These new balloons are designed to help prevent choking deaths to children. Balloons are involved in more choking deaths to children than any other toy.

XTel Communications provided a toll-free telephone capability to companies who need to conduct a recall. It plans to make 800 toll-free numbers available to companies immediately so recalls can be announced quickly and calls handled efficiently.

Savior One has developed a new swimming pool alarm to sense when a child approaches the pool and set off a warning alarm. The alarm is designed to sound and automatically dial for help to neighbors and to the fire department if a child actually falls into the pool.

Bell Sports offered two bicycle helmet safety videos free to police departments, schools, and other organizations in the U.S. and Canada. More than 2,000 videos have been distributed already.

BrandStamp Inc. provided online registration of consumer products intended to increase the effectiveness of product recall notifications. Consumers who register their purchases with BrandStamp will receive recall notifications immediately via email.

KaBoom provided a free online guide (the "Getting Started Kit") intended to create safe and fun community playgrounds. Martin Door Manufacturing produces a garage door system to prevent finger entrapment at the section joints and other parts of the garage door.

Demonstrations were made at Hamburger University, McDonald's Conference Center outside of Chicago.

TWO PEOPLE SENTENCED FOR SELLING ILLEGAL FIREWORKS IN WASHINGTON STATE

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), in cooperation with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF), conducted an investigation that resulted in two people being sentenced on federal felony and misdemeanor charges. These charges involve the manufacture and sale of illegal fireworks in Washington State. Certain kinds of explosives are often sold as "fireworks," but are in fact banned under federal law.

U.S. District Court Judge John C. Coughenour sentenced 35-year-old Dean Fryberg, of Marysville, Wash., to one year in federal prison for illegally manufacturing and storing explosive materials without a license. Rodney Glenn Simpson, 36-years-old, of Marysville, Wash., was sentenced to 14 months in federal prison for dealing and distributing illegal explosives. Fryberg was involved in the manufacture of illegal fireworks known as M-80s, silver salutes and red bombs, and Simpson was involved in the sale of illegal M-80s, M-1000s, and other devices.

"These illegal explosives are small bombs," said CPSC Chairman Ann Brown. "They can maim and even kill. We are gratified that by imposing these sentences, the court has endorsed our strong stand against the manufacturing and sale of these deadly products."

PROJECT SAFE CRIB

Project Safe Crib was launched on June 1st, with the distribution of 25 cribs to agencies in San Francisco who serve homeless and low-income families. *Project Safe Crib* is The Danny Foundation's new program that provides safe cribs to parents who are not able to obtain a safe crib. In addition to receiving a new crib each parent receives training in the safe use of the crib as well as the safe use of other child products.

The Danny Foundation board member Dr. Tracey Hessel and Program Director John Jeffery provided the first training seminar for the home visitation staff of the Homeless Prenatal Program. This team of home visitors will then assess the need for a crib in the homes of their clients and if a crib is needed, one will be provided through *Project Safe Crib*. A condition of participation in this program is that clients agree to have any existing crib removed from their home and destroyed. Recipients also agree not to loan, sell or give the crib away to another person.

Nancy Frappier, Program Director for the San Francisco Homeless Prenatal Program, doesn't think too many cribs will need to be removed. "Almost all of our clients have no crib and are currently either co-sleeping with their child or creating makeshift sleeping environments on the floor. Just two weeks ago one of the babies died while sleeping on top of the mother. Having a crib would have been safer."

Project Safe Crib is modeled after a similar program in Rochester, New York where hundreds of cribs have been distributed. What makes The Danny Foundation's *Project Safe Crib* different is that it incorporates an educational component where agency staff and parents receive training in safe crib set-up and use. This aspect of the program not only informs parents about safety concerns, but it also strengthens the relationship between the service agency and the client so that parents have a familiar resource for support and advice regarding parenting issues.

The first phase of *Project Safe Crib* is funded through a grant from the San Francisco Junior League. The Danny Foundation is currently seeking additional funding to maintain this program in San Francisco and expand into other regions of the country.

1,000 FREE CRIBS FOR LOCAL FAMILIES HELP EMPHASIZE IMPORTANCE OF CRIB SAFETY

The Freddie Mac Foundation and the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) have teamed up to help parents make their child's first home a safe one through the Safe Cribs for Kids Campaign. According to CPSC's statistics, almost 35 babies die each year from injuries associated with cribs, many of which are older, used cribs that are in disrepair or that predate current safety standards. In response, the Foundation has committed to donate more than 1,000 new, safe cribs to parents in the Washington, DC area who need them, along with parenting information. The CPSC is ensuring that families receive important crib safety information with their new cribs.

ACTS TESTING LABS AWARDED 2000 "VENDOR OF THE YEAR" BY TOYS "R" US

ACTS Testing Labs, Inc., a leader in consumer product testing, inspection, and consulting services, was chosen as the 2000 "Vendor of the Year" by Toys "R" Us. Having received this honor for seven out of the past eight years, the award recognizes the efforts of the global ACTS team that manages laboratory testing and other quality assurance programs for hundreds of Toy "R" Us suppliers worldwide.

Upon receiving this award, ACTS President, Kevin O'Brien, recognized the contributions of the global team, which includes participants from the US, Hong Kong, Singapore, and France. "We are proud that Toys "R" Us has again recognized ACTS for our role in improving toy quality and assuring consumer confidence through our risk assessment and management processes. Our strong partnership with Toys "R" Us and its vendors is a global team effort that continues to build value and business success."

For more information, please visit www.actstesting.com and www.bureauveritas.com.