



PUBLIC SAFETY BULLETIN

Aug. 21, 2007

Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General
BC Coroners Service

INFANT DIES AFTER RECALLED PLAYPEN COLLAPSES

RICHMOND – The BC Coroners Service is warning parents and caregivers to check playpens following the death of an 11 month-old Richmond boy on Aug. 7, 2007.

The infant boy died in the emergency department of BC Children's Hospital. His mother had found him unresponsive in the portable playpen she had borrowed, following a recent move. The collapse of the playpen is considered to have led to his death.

The playpen is a "Century Fold-N-Go Playard". In Nov. 1996, this product was recalled by both Health Canada and the U.S. Consumer Protection Safety Commission, after its top horizontal rails were found to collapse unexpectedly. When the horizontal rails collapse, a child can be trapped at the neck in the "V" shape formed by the folding rails.

This scenario led to the death of a child in the United States prior to the 1996 recall. There were also similar non-fatal accidents in the United States and Canada prior to the recall.

This tragic scenario might easily strike another family. The BC Coroners Service is asking adults to investigate whether their playpens meet guidelines set forth by Health Canada. Health Canada's website can be found at http://www.hc-sc.gc.ca/index_e.html.

The "Century Fold-N-Go Playard" is green and blue with white tubular railing. The words "Century" and "Fold-N-Go" are clearly visible in large white letters. A picture of the playpen is attached. Anyone who is currently in possession this model playpen is urged to disassemble and discard it.

The mandate of the Coroners Service is to ensure that a thorough and independent inquiry is made into all sudden and unexplained deaths in the community.

The BC Coroners Service is part of Emergency Management BC (EMBC), an overarching body mandated to ensure co-ordinated emergency response in crisis and disaster situations. EMBC also leads prevention initiatives aimed at improving the quality of life for all British Columbians through enhanced public safety.

See next page for pictures of the Century Fold-N-Go Playard.



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