

AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION HOUSE OF DELEGATES

Resolution: 514
(A-24)

Introduced by: Texas

Subject: Safety With Devices Producing Carbon Monoxide

Referred to: Reference Committee E

- 1 Whereas, unintentional carbon monoxide deaths in the United States (U.S.) rose from 393 in
2 2015 to 543 in 2021; and
3
4 Whereas, between 2017 and 2019, an average of 216 deaths per year in the U.S. were
5 attributed to unintentional non-fire, carbon monoxide-producing consumer products; and
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7 Whereas, between 2003 and 2013, roughly 1,400 people were hospitalized each year in the
8 U.S. because of non-fire-related carbon monoxide poisonings; and
9
10 Whereas, 19 of the 246 deaths during the February 2021 winter storm in Texas were attributed
11 to carbon monoxide poisoning; and
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13 Whereas, half of the carbon monoxide-related deaths following the Texas winter storm were
14 caused by unsafe usage of generators; and
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16 Whereas, mortality related to unsafe use of carbon monoxide-producing devices increases
17 following natural disasters; and
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19 Whereas, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission has the authority to develop uniform
20 safety standards for consumer products; and
21
22 Whereas, generator manufacturers have shown resistance to adopting voluntary standards to
23 reduce harm caused by carbon monoxide; therefore be it
24
25 RESOLVED, that our American Medical Association support the United States Consumer
26 Product Safety Commission in implementing higher safety standards for consumer products that
27 produce carbon monoxide (New HOD Policy); and be it further
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29 RESOLVED, that our AMA support public education efforts to minimize harm caused by carbon
30 monoxide poisoning produced in enclosed spaces or too close to exterior openings. (New HOD
31 Policy)

Fiscal Note: Minimal - less than \$1,000

Received: 5/10/2024

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8. Churchill L, Trevizo P, Larson R, Hixenbaugh M, Khimm S. Generators can cause deadly carbon monoxide poisoning. But the industry resists rules to make them safer. *The Texas Tribune, ProPublica*. www.texastribune.org/2021/12/17/texas-generators-winter-storm-carbon-monoxide29-deaths/. Dec 17, 2021.
9. U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission. New CPSC report finds industry voluntary standards can reduce risk of carbon monoxide death and injury from portable generators, yet compliance with standards is minimal; supports mandatory rulemaking process. 2022. www.cpsc.gov/Newsroom/News-Releases/2022/New-CPSC-Report-Finds-Industry-Voluntary-Standards-Can-Reduce-Risk-of34-Carbon-Monoxide-Death-and-Injury-fromPortable-Generators-Yet-Compliance-with-Standards-Is35-Minimal-Supports-Mandatory-Rulemaking-Process.

RELEVANT AMA POLICY

H-135.991 Clean Air

(1) The AMA supports setting the national primary and secondary ambient air quality standards at the level necessary to protect the public health. Establishing such standards at the level necessary to protect public health. Establishing such standards at a level "allowing an adequate margin of safety," as provided in current law, should be maintained, but more scientific research should be conducted on the health effects of the standards currently set by the EPA.(2) The AMA supports continued protection of certain geographic areas (i.e., those with air quality better than the national standards) from significant quality deterioration by requiring strict, but reasonable, emission limitations for new sources.(3) The AMA endorses a more effective hazardous pollutant program to allow for efficient control of serious health hazards posed by airborne toxic pollutants.(4) The AMA believes that more research is needed on the causes and effects of acid rain, and that the procedures to control pollution from another state need to be improved.(5) The AMA believes that attaining the national ambient air quality standards for nitrogen oxides and carbon monoxide is necessary for the long-term benefit of the public health. Emission limitations for motor vehicles should be supported as a long-term goal until appropriate peer-reviewed scientific data demonstrate that the limitations are not required to protect public health. [BOT Rep. R, A-82; Reaffirmed: CLRPD Rep. A, I-92; Amended: CSA Rep. 8, A-03; Reaffirmation I-06; Reaffirmed in lieu of Res. 509, A-09; Reaffirmation I-09; Reaffirmation A-14]

H-135.945 Encouraging Alternatives to PVC/Phthalate Products in Health

Our AMA: (1) encourages hospitals and physicians to reduce and phase out polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products, especially those containing phthalates such as Di(2-ethylhexyl)phthalate (DEHP), and urge adoption of safe, cost-effective, alternative products where available; (2) urges expanded manufacturer development of safe, cost-effective alternative products to PVC products, especially those containing phthalates such as DEHP; (3) encourages the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to conduct a risk assessment of adult personal sexual products as a source of phthalates; and (4) supports consumer education about the potential for exposure to toxic substances in adult personal sexual products. [BOT Action in response to referred for decision Res. 502, A-06; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 01, A-16; Modified: Res. 511, A-23]

H-470.974 Athletic Helmets

Our AMA urges the Consumer Product Safety Commission and other appropriate agencies and organizations to establish standards to ensure that athletic and recreational equipment produced or sold in the United States provide protection against head and facial injury. 2. Our AMA: (a) supports requiring

the use of head and facial protection by children and adolescents while engaged in potentially dangerous athletic and recreational activities; (b) encourages the use of head and facial protection for adults while engaged in potentially dangerous athletic and recreational activities; (c) encourages physicians to educate their patients about the importance of head and facial protection while engaged in potentially dangerous athletic and recreational activities; and (d) encourages the availability of rental helmets at all commercial settings where potentially dangerous athletic and recreational activities take place. [(Sub. Res. 16, I-88; Res. 419, A-93; Reaffirmed: CSA Rep. 8, A-03; Appended: Sub Res. 911, I-10; Modified: Res. 404, A-12; Reaffirmed: CSAPH Rep. 3, A-15]

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