The injury topics which we are focusing on in this bulletin are:-

**Injuries in water parks**
**Injuries at Southbank**
**Scalds from domestic hot water supplies**

We have also provided an up-to-date account of the latest investigations and findings of the Queensland Department of Consumer Affairs. This entails product recall notices which are issued monthly. We have also included details of 4 products which have had prohibition orders placed on them under the Fair Trading Act of 1989.

### Injuries Occurring in Water Parks

With four major water parks in and around Brisbane and several swimming pools including water slides in their facilities, QISPP takes a look in this issue at whether water parks and slides contribute significantly to the injury problem.

QISPP recorded 379 people injured in water parks during the five year period 1/1/88 - 31/12/92. These injuries represented 0.2% of the database. The injuries tended to be minor, with only 8% requiring admission compared with the QISPP database average admission rate of 12%.

The majority of these injuries (60%) occurred in young people aged between 5 and 19 years. However, the overall age range for injuries occurring in water slides was wide, with two babies under the age of 12 months and one person in the 70 to 79 years age group being injured.

Almost half of the injuries occurred in December and January, as might be expected with hot weather and school holidays coinciding.

The most common specific injuries were cuts to the face or head. Three people were injured severely enough to warrant transfer to a larger hospital. In general, almost one fifth of those injured suffered fractures, with one third of all fractures involving fingers and toes and a further third involving arms and legs. One person in ten injured in water parks suffered injuries to the neck, back or spine.
Most people were injured in the following scenarios:

* slipped/fell
* caught hand while sliding
* lost control during slide or dive, and hit, jarred or strained body/part-

**Injuries at Southbank**

*Brisbane’s Southbank Parklands opened to the public in June last year. QISPP examined the injuries occurring at Southbank during the period since construction began early in 1991.*

One hundred and ninety people presented at our hospitals with an injury which had occurred at Southbank during the two and a half years from January 1991 to the present. Of these people, almost half were employed in the construction of Southbank at the time of their injury, between January 1991 and June 1992.

One quarter of the injured were children under 15 years of age. Playground equipment was reported to be involved in one in ten cases of injury and 5% of people were swimming when they sustained injury.

Over one third of injury presentations were the result of slips, trips or falls. Wet ground led to falls in 3 cases, while 6 cases of falls were the result of uneven ground or potholes. Eight per cent of people were injured on stairs or steps.

Almost one tenth of those injured were victims of violence-related injury. Many of these injuries were exacerbated by the unrestricted consumption of alcohol. This was one of the early problems encountered with the park and has since resulted in a new law which designates certain areas and time restrictions for the consumption of alcohol.

These new laws will now enable families to enjoy themselves at any time of the day, in a safe environment.

**Scalds from Domestic Hot Water Supplies**

A staggering 29% of people sustaining scalds from domestic hot water supplies required admission to hospital. QISPP recorded 128 domestic hot water burns during the five year period 1/1/88 - 31/12/92. Two thirds of those injured were children under the age of 10 years.

In 70% of the cases the scald occurred by simply using the hot water outlet in the kitchen sink, the bath or the shower. In 10% of cases the hot water was spilt from nappy or mop buckets. Six people were burned while repairing hot water systems or taps.

In five cases the injured person was reported as having a condition such as epilepsy or paraplegia, which may have increased their susceptibility to scald injuries in the home.

The Queensland Electricity Commission will be attending a meeting which will assess changes to the Australian Standard for hot water systems. At present, there is no standard for the maximum temperature of a hot water system, and the thermostat is usually fixed or is internal and can only be adjusted by an electrician. When a system is installed it is usually set at 70 degrees Celsius. Gas systems, however, are adjustable externally.
Department of Consumer Affairs...

Product Recall Notices

Medical

A.E. FAWTHROP PTY. LTD: Vicco Herbal Toothpaste - may contain contaminants - dispose of or return to place of purchase for a refund.
Telephone: 252 5493.

Food

MANDY MARTIN LOLLIPOPS: 500 gram 40 packs with a use by date of February 1994 and a 100 pack with a use by date of January 19... These lollipops may contain metal shavings.

NESTLE AUST LTD.: 120ML bottles of Liquid NAN I Infant Formula 4 pack and 2 pack bottles - because of the design of the label it may not be obvious if damage has occurred because of any rough handling.
Telephone: 008 025 361.

CONSOLIDATED BISCUITS PTY. LTD.: Handi Snacks and Cheese (6 units) 150g, HiFibre Ryvita and Cheese Spread 140g, Handi Snacks and Cheese Spread (4 units) 140g, with use by date before 1 June 1993 - may contain instances of mould in the cheese component.
Telephone: (008) 810 098.

SOY PRODUCTS PTY. LTD.: Roberts Cleansing Herbs 100g batch no 10, use by date 16 November 1993 - microbiologically unacceptable.
Telephone: (03) 729 173.

Products

SAKORE PTY. LTD.: Zojirushi Rice-Cooker Model: NMDH-G18; Zojirushi Frying-Pan Model: EHMH-12. These models are likely to become unsafe to use due to exposed metal parts not earthed and in the event of fault they could become live.
Telephone: (02) 789 3577

The following 4 products have had prohibition orders placed on them under the Fair Trading Act 1989, on the grounds that their supply may be hazardous to consumers.

Weed Wizard - a free swinging chain of metal links intended for use as a attachment on power equipment used to cut grass, weeds and plants. There was a complaint reviewed from a council worker who had seen this device in action and considered that it could become dangerous. Investigations confirmed that due to the construction material used and the force involved in the devices action, it could come apart over time through normal use and injure users/bystanders with pieces of flying steel.

Fuelkey - A hollow plastic block which is designed for consumers to use to hold open the trigger mechanism on self serve driveway fuel nozzles allowing hands free operation. It should only be used by petrol stations operating full driveway service with training staff and equipped with lock on petrol nozzles. It was considered that the use of Fuelkey by untrained operators could lead to fuel spillage which could result in a hazardous situation.

Swimming Pool Alarm - This product relies on water wave motion to detect an immersion in the body of water covered by the device. Investigations revealed that depending on the shape of the pool and where the alarm was relative to the body entering the pool, the alarm may not always operate. There was no assurance that the alarm would operate in all pools in all situations.

Dynamite Alarm Clock - This clock is in the shape of 3 sticks of dynamite bound together and has a battery operated analogue clock with conducting wires. This product was brought to the Department’s attention following a false alarm involving the Police Service Bomb Squad. Aside from that incident it was also considered that the realistic appearance of the product may cause distress if used improperly.