

Children swallowing tiny batteries more than doubles (Video) (Video)

BUTTON BATTERIES | AUGUST 31, 2012 | BY: DEBBIE NICHOLSON

1 0

Like Tweet

2

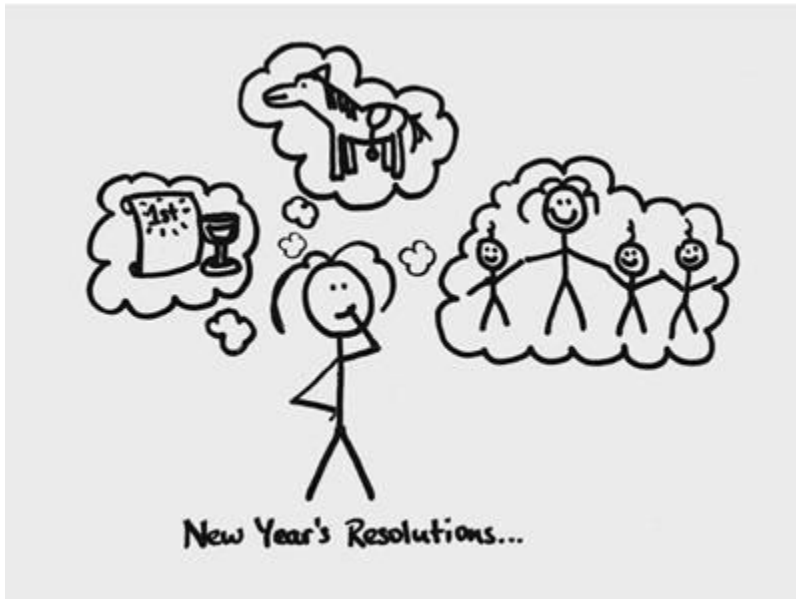
0

0

Get Children's Health alerts!

Email

Sign up



RELATED TOPICS

- [accident](http://www.examiner.com/topic/accident) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/accident>)
- [illness](http://www.examiner.com/topic/illness) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/illness>)
- [size](http://www.examiner.com/topic/size/articles) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/size/articles>)
- [objects](http://www.examiner.com/topic/objects/articles) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/objects/articles>)
- [Swallow](http://www.examiner.com/topic/swallow/articles) (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/swallow/articles>)

CDC alerts parents of battery ingestion especially *button size* (<http://www.examiner.com/topic/size/articles>) batteries

There is a growing problem of children swallowing batteries especially those [button size](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Button_cell) (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Button_cell) batteries found in items such as hearing aids, watches, musical greeting cards and remote controls warns the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) according to a new report released by the agency.

View slideshow: [Top things children swallow](http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/top-things-children-swallow) (<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/top-things-children-swallow>)

swallow)

The report released today jointly by the [CDC \(http://www.cdc.gov\)](http://www.cdc.gov) and [Consumer Product Safety Commission \(http://www.cpsc.gov/\)](http://www.cpsc.gov) (CPSC) had found 14 children under the age of 13 had died and over 40,000 had non-fatal battery injuries under the age of thirteen.

In order to estimate the number of non-fatal battery injuries in children under the age of 13, the CPSC staff evaluated data from the [National Electronic Injury Surveillance System, \(http://www.cpsc.gov/library/neiss.html\)](http://www.cpsc.gov/library/neiss.html) 1997 to 2010. To determine fatal battery exposures other CPSC data bases from 1995 to 2010 were analyzed. The data bases included; Injury and Potential Injury Incident File, Death Certificate Database and In-Depth Investigation File.



<http://www.examiner.com/slideshow>

6 PHOTOS [children-swallow](#)

Slideshow: [Top things children swallow \(http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/top-things-children-swallow\)](http://www.examiner.com/slideshow/top-things-children-swallow)

The report had found for the years 1997 to 2010 an estimate of 40,400 under the age of 13 were treated in hospital emergency departments for battery related injuries that included confirmed or possible battery ingestion. Nearly three-quarters of children in battery related injuries were under the age of four with 10% requiring hospitalization. The most common battery type reported in incidences had been button-type batteries.

The CPSC is urging the electronic industry and battery manufacturers to develop warnings and industry standards to prevent serious injuries and deaths from button batteries. Also, stated in the report "parents and caregivers should be aware of the potential hazards associated with battery exposure (particularly [ingestion of button batteries \(http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002764.htm\)](http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/ency/article/002764.htm)) and ensure that products containing them are either kept away from children or that the batteries are secured safely in the product."

[Scott Wolfson, \(http://www.cpsc.gov/about/offices.html\)](http://www.cpsc.gov/about/offices.html) director of communications for the Consumer Product Safety Commission stated "We want these products that use button cells to be designed in a way that children can never get access to them. We believe that there can be innovations in both the way the battery is made and how it is used in various products," as reported by *ABC News*.

Stated in an editorial note along with the report is the following; "Typical symptoms associated with battery ingestion are relatively nonspecific, making the diagnosis difficult, particularly when ingestions go unwitnessed. These include vomiting, abdominal pain, fever, diarrhea, respiratory distress, and dysphagia."

The report in its entirety can be viewed online at the [CDC Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report. \(http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6134a1.htm?s_cid=mm6134a1_w\)](http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm6134a1.htm?s_cid=mm6134a1_w)

A study from researchers at the Center for Injury and Research Policy of The Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital and appeared online May 14th in *Pediatrics*, had found the number of battery-related visits to the emergency rooms involving

children under 18 has more than doubled over the 20 year study period.

The study revealed over three-fourths of the emergency room visits for batteries were among children age five and younger with one year olds having the most visits.

Among the cases in the report 84% had involved button batteries.

Dr. Gary Smith, MD, DrPH, director of the Center for Injury Research and Policy at Nationwide Children's Hospital, professor of pediatrics at The Ohio State University College of Medicine had stated "The increased prevalence of the higher voltage 20mm lithium batteries is concerning because it coincides with an alarming 113 percent increase in battery ingestions and insertions by young children." When a button battery is swallowed and gets caught in a child's esophagus, serious, even fatal injuries can occur in less than two hours."

The researchers recommend:

- Taping the battery compartments of all household devices shut
- Storing batteries and products with batteries out of the reach of young children
- Being aware of this potential danger when your child is visiting other homes

Researchers also had recommended that manufacturers ensure that packaging for batteries and products containing button batteries is child resistant and that they design all battery compartments to either require a screwdriver to be opened or that they be secured with a child-resistant locking mechanism, regardless of whether the product is intended for use by children or adult according to the public release.

Parents who think that their child may have swallowed a button battery should seek medical attention immediately so that an x-ray can be taken to be sure that the battery is not stuck in the esophagus.

Searching for **children swallowing tiny batteries more than doubles?**

[Batteries at Firestone](#)

Get Car, Truck & SUV **Batteries** at Firestone. Get a [FirestoneCompleteAutoCare.com](#)

[Tires Plus Batteries](#)

Get a New **Battery** for Your Vehicle at Tires Plus. Free [tiresplus.com/Battery](#)

Ads by Chitika 

1 0 2 0 0

Like Tweet

Print Report



Debbie Nicholson, Children's Health Examiner

Author Debbie Nicholson resides in Michigan. Ms. Nicholson is the author of the "Love and Laughter" series ...