

ABA Letter to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC)

(CPSC web mail format)

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Inez Tenebaum □

Chairman □

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission □

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**Comments of the American Burn Association □ to the U.S. Consumer
Products Safety Commission □ on □ "Petition Requesting Safeguards for
Glass Fronts of Gas Vented Fireplaces" □ Docket No. CPSC-2011-
0028 □ □ □**

Dear Chairman Tenebaum: □ □ The American Burn Association adds its voice to those of concerned citizens, consumer safety organizations, and several leading burn surgeons who have already commented on the urgent need for the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) to promulgate safety standards relating to glass fronts of gas vented fireplaces. □ □ CPSC has also received comments from anguished parents whose children have received devastating burn injuries from fireplace glass fronts. Such fronts can reach 500 degrees and cause injuries in as little as one second.

The members of the American Burn Association - the over 3,500 burn surgeons, nurses, therapists, and leading academic hospitals across the nation see first-hand the severe damage caused primarily to children from these glass fronts. These disabling injuries cause severe pain, require weeks of treatment and many surgical procedures, and often lead to permanent disability.

The American Burn Association is dedicated to improving the lives of everyone affected by burn injury through patient care, education, research and

advocacy. □□The American Burn Association and its members dedicate their efforts and resources to promoting and supporting burn-related research, education, care, rehabilitation, and prevention. ABA members include physicians, nurses, occupational and physical therapists, researchers, social workers, firefighters, and hospitals with burn centers. Our multidisciplinary membership enhances our ability to work toward common goals with other organizations on educational/prevention programs. □

Glass-fronted fireplaces present extreme risk of injury, both during operation and cool down. □□The American Burn Association understands that several approaches to increase safety of such fireplace doors have been submitted to the CPSC. The American Burn Association does not endorse any particular approach - the expertise for effective action, we are confident, is in the CPSC. We do, however, share the concern raised by the Consumers Union in their comments to the CPSC regarding the potential inadequacy of safety devices that would project a high temperature alert onto the glass □front of the fireplace as young children may be attracted to a bright warning light and touch the hot surface.

Again, we believe the CPSC has the capacity to develop appropriate safety standards and urge that CPSC establish a mandatory standard, which may require a barrier/screen that would prevent contact with the glass, in order to prevent injuries to young children.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the American Burn Association Board of Trustees and the American Burn Association Membership, □

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