

## Operation Safe Gate

Automatic security gates can be deadly or cause serious injuries. CPSC is aware of four fatalities between 2011 and 2015, including three children, ages 8, 11 and 12 due to entrapment and crushing by the massive metal gate structures and one adult. CPSC estimates that there were 1,500 emergency room injuries or about 300 annually during that same period 2011 to 2015.

In 2000, CPSC worked with Underwriters Laboratories (UL) to develop tougher safety standards requiring automatic gates to have at least two mechanisms to prevent entrapment. These provisions are similar to the standards in effect for automatic garage doors. The standard requires a sensing device that will reverse the gate if it encounters an obstruction when opening or closing; and a secondary sensing mechanism, such as an electric eye or an edge sensor that will reverse the gate if an obstruction is detected. As of January 2016, additional monitoring of these devices is now required.

The largest number of serious problems reported to CPSC generally occurs with public access gates around communities, condominiums, and apartment buildings which sometimes have older installations that do not meet current safety standards. You can also find these sliding and swinging gates at the entrances of private homes and commercial establishments.

Children should never play around an automatic gate or stand on one while it is moving.

### PSA Video:

- Compelling First person account from family member of gate victims, telling their story of what happened and what more needs to be done to keep others from suffering the same tragedy.
- Michelle and Julie are the Aunt and Mother of an 8-year old who died after being crushed by gate when he tried to slip through the bars of the gate as it began to open. We hear their firsthand account of what happened

If you live in a community where an automatic security gate is present, warn children of the dangers:

- NEVER play on or around automatic gates
- NEVER stick hands, legs or head through openings on gates. These are called entrapment zones or pinch points.
- Pedestrians should NEVER walk through an automated gate system that is intended for vehicle traffic only.
- A separate entrance for pedestrian traffic is a must and should be at least 10-feet from driveway.

View full release here: (need link for release to CPSC website)

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CPSC contact info: