

On July 9, 2001, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) announced a recall of approximately 30,000 furnaces sold in California. Seven firms are offering to repair or replace certain furnaces, which were sold under their own labels, but were manufactured by Consolidated Industries Inc. The units involved are gas-fired horizontal furnaces equipped with steel "NOX" rods installed above the burners and are commonly called NOX rod furnaces. These furnaces pose a substantial risk of fire.

CPSC has received 50 reports of fires associated with the 140,000 horizontal furnaces manufactured by Consolidated Industries Inc. No injuries have been reported. All the furnaces can be identified by the steel rods installed above the burners. The firms participating in this recall are Amana Company, L.P., of Amana, Iowa; Bard Manufacturing, of Bryan, Ohio; Carrier Corporation, of Syracuse, N.Y.; Goettl Air Conditioning Inc., of Phoenix, Ariz.; Goodman Manufacturing Company L.P., of Houston, Texas; Heat Controller Inc., of Jackson, Mich.; and The Trane Company, a division of American Standard Inc., of Tyler, Texas.

Many of the furnaces that are the subject of the recall are still in use. Normally, the furnaces are installed in attics, although some may be installed in crawl spaces. Consumers should have their gas-fired furnaces inspected by a licensed heating contractor to determine whether the furnaces are subject to the recall. Private labelers sold these furnaces in California under the following brand names and model numbers, which are written on a label on an outside panel of the furnace.

Company Name	Trade Name	Model
Amana Company	Amana	GSE50DN3X GSE75DN3X GSE100DN5X
Bard Manufacturing	Bard	ESG040D36B ESG050D36B ESG060D36B ESG060D48B ESG080D60B ESG100D60B ESG120D60B ESG140D60B ESG050D36D ESG060D48D ESG075D48D ESG080D60D ESG100D60D ISG060D36AX ISG080D48AX ISG100D60AX ISG120D60AX
Carrier Corporation	Sunburst by Carrier Southern California	HAC 040N(D,E, or F)3RXC HAC 050N(D,E, or F)5RXC HAC 060N(D,E, or F)4RXC HAC 075N(D,E, or F)4RXC HAC 080N(D,E, or F)5RXC

		HAC 100N(D,E, or F)5RXC
Goettl Air Conditioning Inc.	American Best, Goettl	HAC 040N(D,E, or F)3RCX HAC 050N(D,E, or F)3RCX HAC 040N(D,E, or F)3RXD HAC 050N(D,E, or F)3RXD HAC 040N(D,E, or F)3RXC HAC 050N(D,E, or F)3RXC HAC 060N(D,E, or F)4RXC HAC 075N(D,E, or F)4RXC HAC 080N(D,E, or F)5RXC HAC 100N(D,E, or F)5RXC HCC 040N(D,E, or F)3RX HCC 050N(D,E, or F)3RX HCC 060N(D,E, or F)4RX HCC 075N(D,E, or F)4RX HCC 100N(D,E, or F)5RX HBA 040N(D,E, or F)3RX HBA 060N(D,E, or F)3RX HBA 080N(D,E, or F)4RX HBA 100N(D,E, or F)5RX HBA 120N(D,E, or F)5RX
Goodman Manufacturing Co.	Franklin Electric Goodman GMC Hamilton Electric Janitrol Johnstone Liberty	HBA 040 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC) HBA 060 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC) HBA 080 ND 4(X, RX, XC or RXC) HBA 100 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HBA 120 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 040 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 060 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 080 ND 4(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 100 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 120 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCA 140 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCC 040 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCC 050 ND 3(X, RX, XC or RXC)

		HCC 060 ND 4(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCC 075 ND 4(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCC 080 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC) HCC 100 ND 5(X, RX, XC or RXC)
Heat Controller Inc.	Comfort-Aire	GSH40-T3N-X GSH50-T3N-X GSH60-T4N-X GSH75-T4N-X GSH80-T5N-X GSH100-T5N-X
The Trane Company	Trane American Standard	THN050A936A THN060A948A THN075A948A THN100A960A

CPSC issued a safety alert warning about these furnaces in September 2000. Consolidated Industries (formerly Premier Furnace Co.), which is being liquidated under Chapter 7 bankruptcy laws, manufactured approximately 140,000 of these furnaces for sale in California between 1983 and 1994 under many different brand names. About 110,000 of these furnaces were manufactured and distributed under the Premier/Consolidated labels. They are not covered by this recall program. However, there is on-going private litigation which could enable consumers to recover at least some of their out-of-pocket expenses for replacement or repair of the Premier/Consolidated brand furnaces. For more information about the private litigation, call (408) 808-1410 or visit the web site at www.white-macdonald.com.

In November 2000, CPSC issued an update letter stating they had no reason to believe that furnaces not equipped with NOX rods present a risk of fire. Moreover, the data on which they based the safety alert relates to NOX rod furnaces with a rating of 60,000 BTU's or greater. They did not evaluate smaller NOX rod furnaces with a rating of 50,000 BTU's or less, nor were they aware of any data that indicated that smaller units present a risk of fire similar to that associated with the larger units.

Suggestions for improving the fire safety of all horizontal forced-air furnaces in attics are:

Protect the wood deck or rafters on which the furnace is mounted by covering it with a non-combustible material such as cement board that extends a minimum of 12 inches past the side of the furnace.

Provide an air space beneath the furnace. A licensed contractor can perform this work and can offer the homeowner several ways to accomplish this.

Make sure the furnace is installed correctly and serviced at least annually. The inspection should include a safety inspection of the burner assembly and heat exchanger.

Install an ionization-type smoke detector inside the attic to provide an early warning of smoke or fire (we recommend this be directly linked to an active smoke detector in the habitable space of the dwelling).

The complete recall (Release # 01-189, issued July 9, 2001) can be obtained at the CPSC's web site at <http://www.cpsc.gov>.