



# CPSC Safety Alert



## Beware! Airborne Beach Umbrellas Can Kill

Airborne beach umbrella incidents have become all too common in recent years. Beach umbrellas sent flying on crowded beaches by wind gusts have killed people and caused many serious injuries.

A voluntary safety standard is now in place to help manufacturers minimize the hazard from airborne beach umbrellas that has resulted in lacerations, impalements and even death.

### Beach Umbrella Safety Tips

- Under the new voluntary safety standard – ASTM F3681-24 – compliant beach umbrella/anchor systems and beach umbrellas used with compliant anchors must provide a resisting force of at least 75 pounds, or must remain secure in wind speeds of up to 30 mph, when a compliant anchor is installed in the sand.
- Compliant products will be available in the near future. When buying or renting a beach umbrella/anchor system or a beach umbrella anchor, look for a label on the anchor that shows it meets the new safety standard.
- Look for anchors with a label indicating “MEETS ASTM F3681 FOR WIND SPEEDS UP TO 30 MPH” which states the maximum size of an umbrella canopy area that is appropriate to use with the anchor. The compliant anchor must be installed in the sand with the umbrella for the safety level to be met.
- Always be sure to secure your umbrella and anchor by carefully following the manufacturer’s setup instructions.
- Always make sure the anchor is not damaged and is working as described in the manufacturer’s instructions.
- Be aware of sudden wind gusts. Immediately close the canopy if the umbrella becomes unstable in windy conditions.
- This safety alert supersedes previous CPSC guidance on beach umbrellas that did not reflect the new standard.

