

# NEWS from CPSC

## U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

Office of Information and Public Affairs

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### Tappan To Repair Cooktops

### **Tappan, O'keefe & Merritt, Montgomery Ward – Gas Cooktops**

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- In cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, the **Tappan Company**, Mansfield, Ohio, today announced a repair program to correct **a possible fire hazard** on certain gas surface cooktops **produced between 1971 and 1982** under the **Tappan, O'Keefe & Merritt and Montgomery Ward "Signature"** brands.

The program will include a notification to more than 7,000 independent Tappan service organizations nationwide and will also include consumer advertisements in Southern California and Nevada, where approximately **65,000 of the 113,000 units produced** may be in use, **particularly in mobile home applications**.

The problem involves an assembly supplied to Tappan by Robertshaw Controls Company of Richmond, Virginia, in which **metal clamps used to secure the top burner valves to the gas manifold may experience excessive corrosion** and potential breakage. Should this occur, **the gas valve can break away from the manifold, permitting, gas to escape** and leading to the possibility of fire.

Approximately **50 incidents of breakage**, some of which involved gas leaks and fire, have been attributed to this situation. The ranges involved are all four-burner gas surface units. The **Tappan/O'Keefe & Merritt model numbers are: Z-14-3622; 14-3621; Z-14-6311; 14-6311 and 14-3671**. The **Mongtomery Ward "Signature" models are: KTM-3966; KTM-3963 and KTM-3960**. **Only approximately 3,500 of the units involved were produced under the Mongtomery Ward "Signature" brand**.

Consumers who have one of these units should call Tappan at 1-800-624-2209. In California call 1-800-841-6243. To find the model number, lift the cooktop; **the model number will be on a label at the left rear corner of the burner box**.

Free inspection and repair will be made. Only built-in, four burner gas cooktops are involved. Other Tappan/O'Keefe & Merritt and Mongtomery Ward "Signature" ranges are not involved.

Consumers may call the CPSC toll-free Hotline for information at 800-638-CPSC. The teletypewriter number for the hearing-impaired is 800-638-8270.