



DPI Investigator

October 2012

New Policy Tekneflex and Mojak Supply Lines

If a claim is submitted for a positively identified Tekneflex or Mojak supply line, DPI will attempt to notify the adjuster that Tekneflex/Mojak Manufacturing, a California corporation, filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy and is no longer in business. DPI believes that at this point, there is no longer subrogation potential against the product manufacturer.

Adjuster's options can include:

- Complete the inspection, but cite the bankruptcy
- Complete the inspection to rule out installation failure (but keep in mind the line is possibly over 10 years old)
- Cancel the inspection

The most probable situation where subrogation is still possible is with professional installation-related damage involving recent installation of products that were acquired from old stock, such as from a warehouse clearance sale.

Meet The Inspector



Stacey Kolopus joined DPI in May of 2011. Her résumé is too extensive to cover in detail here, but the major highlights of the short version are: Journeyman Pipefitter, Licensed Master Plumber, Instrumentation Technician, General Foreman, Chairman of the City of Oak Ridge, TN board of Plumbing Examiners, and Certified Fire Fighter and EMS

First Responder. Her most recent industrial job was as a General Foreman at the Spallation Neutron Source Project.

Much of Stacey's career was in the nuclear industry. If you happen to need a nuclear facility assembled, she knows how. After leaving the industrial world, she worked as a County Detention Officer and 911 Dispatcher.

Her input has been invaluable. DPI is extremely fortunate to have her as a forensic inspector.

Detached Plumbing Fittings as Evidence

DPI often receives disengaged/detached/un-screwed/etc. plumbing fittings as evidence in water-related property loss cases. Unfortunately, we often only receive one half, or even less, of what is needed to tell the whole story. At least two components and an assembly method are always involved. For example, a valve and a pipe joined by compression fittings.



When only one component is received for inspection, the report will often conclude that no failure was observed since each of the components may be perfectly sound if considered in isolation. The property loss from an angle stop valve that disengages from a pipe is more than likely due to improper installation, but that conclusion is only speculative if there is insufficient evidence presented to prove the opinion.

When sending in the evidence for disengagement events, please include both components that disengaged (the repairing plumber may have to cut out a segment of pipe) as well as any related nuts, retaining rings, etc. Also, please include on-site photos and a detailed statement of the event. DO NOT re-assemble the components. DO NOT tamper with the components. As much as possible, remove the items without disturbing the condition of the point of detachment.

Example claim form statement: "Mr. Insured recently had the third floor bathroom remodeled. He heard water running and discovered that the toilet shutoff valve had detached from the copper pipe in the wall."

TECH TERMS

Beading — Beading found on the ends of severed electrical wires indicate they were powered at the time of failure.



NEWS from CPSC

U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

August 2, 2012

Release #12-240

**Sears Recalls Kenmore® Dehumidifiers
Due to Fire and Burn Hazards**

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, in cooperation with the firms named below, today announced a voluntary recall of the following consumer product. Consumers should stop using recalled products immediately unless otherwise instructed. It is illegal to resell or attempt to resell a recalled consumer product. **Name of Product:** Kenmore Dehumidifiers **Units:** About 795,000 **Retailer:** Sears, Roebuck and Co. and Kmart Corporation, of Hoffman Estates, Ill. **Manufacturer:** LG Electronics (Tianjin) Appliance Co., Ltd., of Tianjin, China **Hazard:** The dehumidifiers can overheat, smoke, melt and catch on fire, posing fire and burn hazards to consumers. **Incidents/Injuries:** The firm has received 107 reports of incidents, with more than \$7 million in property damage and three reports of smoke inhalation injuries. **Description:** This recall involves 35-, 50- and 70-pint dehumidifiers with a Kenmore logo on the front top of the unit, manufactured between 2003 and 2005. The dehumidifiers are made of white plastic and are between 21 and 24 inches tall, about 15 inches wide and about 13.5 inches in depth. They have fan and humidity controls on their top front panels and some models include remote controls. They come with front-loading water buckets. The model number can be found on the right side of the interior of the unit once the bucket has been removed. Recalled units have the following model numbers:

35-pint (2004) - 580.54351400	70-pint (2004) - 580.54701400
50-pint (2003) - 580.53509300	70-pint (2005) - 580.54701500
70-pint (2003) - 580.53701300	

Sold Exclusively at: Sears and Kmart stores nationwide and Sears.com and Kmart.com from 2003 to 2009 for between \$140 and \$220. **Manufactured in:** China **Remedy:** Consumers should immediately turn off and unplug the dehumidifiers and contact the firm to receive a Sears gift card for either \$75, \$80, \$90 or \$100, which may be used at any Sears or Kmart store or at Sears.com or Kmart.com. The gift card amount will depend on the capacity and year of the dehumidifier. In lieu of a gift card, consumers may request a check for the refund amount. All consumers with recalled units will also receive a \$25 coupon that may be used at Sears Department Stores or Sears.com toward the purchase of a new Kenmore dehumidifier. **Consumer Contact:** For additional information, contact the Recall Fulfillment Center toll-free at (855) 400-4641 between 8 a.m. and 7 p.m. CT Monday through Friday and between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. CT Saturday, or visit www.Kenmoredehumidifierrecall.com

