



July 28, 2005

Statement Regarding Media Reports on Inhalant Abuse

Falcon Safety Products, Inc., manufacturer of the Dust-Off® brand of computer and personal electronics cleaning products, is a company with a long-standing commitment to consumer safety. We have taken great strides over the years to spread the word about the dangers of aerosol inhalation, whether on our packaging, our web site or through pro-active public communication.

In recent weeks, there have been numerous media reports focused on the dangers of inhalation abuse and the importance of increasing awareness of this issue among parents, children, educators and other consumers. We at Falcon are extremely encouraged by the fact that this issue is receiving the attention it deserves; however, we are deeply saddened that it took a tragic event to bring the issue to light in the media. Though our feelings cannot compare to those of parents of family members who have experienced a tragic loss, we are inspired by the efforts of those individuals who actively seek to help others avoid similar experiences in the future.

We are particularly heartened that CNN's *Paula Zahn Now* and NBC's *Today Show* have devoted their considerable influence and resources to the task of promoting greater awareness of inhalation abuse. We would like to commend them on:

- Bringing the issue of inhalant abuse to light.
- Correctly reporting that that thousands of common household products are frequently misused and/or abused as inhalants.
- Including insight and commentary from reputable expert resources including Harvey Weiss, director of the [National Inhalant Prevention Coalition](#).

We hope that NBC, CNN and other media outlets continue their efforts in the battle against inhalant abuse, through the broadcast of PSAs, educational information and additional commentary from expert resources. We would, however, like to take the opportunity to address a number of issues that we believe to have been inaccurate and/or misleading in these and other recent media reports in an effort to ensure that the general public is presented with the most thorough and accurate representation possible. They are as follows:

- **Dusters are not “canned-air”** – in fact, Falcon’s dusters contain compressed-gas, utilizing either difluoroethane or tetrafluoroethane as propellants. It is these gases that produce the cleaning blast when the nozzle trigger is pulled. Falcon has never referred to its products as “canned air” and has actively discouraged others from doing so throughout its history.
- **When used correctly and as directed, dusters are inherently safe and pose no threat to the well-being of the consumer.** Recent broadcast reports have included visual representation of dusters being held upside down or at an angle and spraying a visible stream. These images provide dramatic visuals for the audience, but actually demonstrate intentional misuse of the product. As it unmistakably states on our dusters, Falcon urges consumers to never tilt, shake, or turn the duster upside down before or during use and to use the duster in a well ventilated area.

- **Falcon has proactively been combating inhalant abuse since its dusters were introduced in their current form in the 1980's.** All aerosol manufacturers in the United States are required to include labeling that informs the user to keep the product out of the reach of children. Taking its labeling to the next level and going above and beyond what is required by law, it has been Falcon's policy for over 20 years that each and every aerosol product bearing the Dust-Off name contain an additional warning regarding inhalant abuse that clearly cites the dangers and illegalities associated with the practice. Our can warnings also feature an anti-inhalant icon on the bottom of each can.
- **Inhalant abuse is not a new problem.** Despite recent media reports to the contrary, the abuse of aerosols and other common household products (i.e. air fresheners, spray-paint, gasoline, glue) has been a problem for many years. While these products are completely harmless when used properly, they can pose significant health risks when intentionally misused. There is a wealth of data, readily available through organizations including the [Alliance for Consumer Education](#), [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#), [Office of National Drug Control Policy](#) and others, that underscores the important facts regarding inhalant abuse that consumers need to be aware of so that they can be in the know and properly educate themselves. Data shows that inhalant abuse actually reached its peak in approximately 1995, and subsequently declined dramatically as a result of proactive public education efforts. The same data indicates that the problem is once again on the rise, and Falcon Safety Products is committed to reversing this trend through its ongoing public education efforts.

In addition, throughout our history we have partnered with several agencies and non-profit public service organizations, including the [National Inhalant Prevention Coalition](#) of Chattanooga, TN, to help bring attention to this growing problem. In 1998, Falcon launched its Dr. Dust-Off website to further enhance public awareness of inhalant abuse, and to combat the false perception that products such as Dust-Off are simply "canned-air," as opposed to products containing compressed-gas propellants. In 2001, we enhanced our website even further and created a clearinghouse for information on inhalation abuse for consumers to access as well as various educational resources and a [public safety announcement](#).

Inhalation abuse is a deadly issue that has become increasingly commonplace in homes, schools and offices throughout the country. It is imperative that consumers of all ages understand the seriousness of inhalation abuse, and take the appropriate measures to protect themselves, their families and loved ones from its extremely dangerous effects. Falcon Safety Products maintains an unwavering commitment to promoting consumer safety through education which is the ultimate tool in battling inhalation abuse, protecting our loved ones and eliminating the problem of inhalation abuse in the future .

Sincerely,

Phil Lapin
President/CEO