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June 29, 2009

*******CONSUMER ALERT*****CONSUMER ALERT*********ATTORNEY GENERAL MADIGAN AND AARP WARN CONSUMERS ABOUT DEFECTIVE WOMEN'S ROBES LINKED TO SIX DEATHS***More than 2,500 Dangerous Robes Still in Illinois Homes*

Chicago – Attorney General Lisa Madigan and AARP Illinois today are alerting consumers about the dangers of a full length chenille robe, which is known to be flammable and has caused the deaths of six individuals nationwide - three of the victims were in their 80s. More than 2,500 of the robes, sold by Blair LLC., are believed to be still in the homes of Illinois consumers. Five of the six victims wearing the Chenille robes were female and were cooking when the robes caught fire.

"I strongly urge Illinoisans to make sure they do not have this product and to check with family and friends to help protect them from danger, as well," Madigan said. "We need to work together to get the word out, and to protect people from this defective product."

"Defective products pose particular risks to older adults. Timely and accurate information about those products is critical to help protect consumers," said Nancy Nelson, AARP Illinois' Director of Advocacy. "AARP commends Attorney General Madigan for taking action to keep Illinois consumers, and especially older adults, informed about this important issue."

Blair sold the robes in catalogs and online from January 2003 through March 2009 for \$20 to \$40. Blair reports that it sold 4,736 robes to Illinois consumers. While 2,057 robes have been accounted for, Illinois consumers potentially are still using more than 2,500 robes. The robes included in the recall have the following item numbers, which can be found on the label in the garment's neckline: 3093111, 3093112, 3093113, 3093114, 3093115 and 3093116.

Attorney General Madigan and AARP Illinois strongly recommend that consumers immediately stop wearing this dangerous garment and contact Blair for information on returning the robe.

Consumers can contact Blair toll-free at 1-877-392-7095 between 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. ET, Monday through Saturday. Consumers also can visit the firm's Web site at www.blair.com/recall, or send the firm an email at blairproductrecall@blair.com. Blair will send consumers a post card, which they can use to obtain a free shipping label to return the robe. On the post card, consumers can indicate whether they would like a full refund of the purchase price of the robe or would prefer a \$50 gift card.

Earlier this month, in cooperation with the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), Blair renewed its April 2009 voluntary recall of 162,000 of the dangerous robes. Blair reports that the six fatalities occurred since the recall was originally announced last April.

According to Attorney General Madigan, there were more than 170 recalls covering 569 different products and more than 18 million items in 2008. Consumers with questions or concerns about this, or any other unsafe product, should call Attorney General Madigan's Product Recall Hotline at 1-888-414-7678. Madigan also urges consumers to sign up to receive e-mail notification of recalls as they are announced by the CPSC at www.cpsc.gov. Consumers can receive notification about specific recalls including infant or child products, sports or recreation product recalls, outdoor product recalls and household product recalls.

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