



NEWS RELEASE

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TV Tip-Overs Pose Serious Safety Concern for Young Children

Television is a popular form of entertainment in the United States, and almost all American households own at least one television set. Yet, many parents may not realize the serious safety concerns related to their TVs. In light of the new national study recently published online in *Pediatrics* on the dangers of TV tip-overs and the increasing number of families affected by this hidden danger, Kids In Danger is working to make sure that parents understand how often these injuries occur and what they can do to prevent TV tip-over injuries.

Studies have found that every 45 minutes, a child is treated in a U.S. emergency department for a TV tip-over injury, and every three weeks, a child in the U.S. dies from a TV tipping over. “This is an unacceptable number of injured children,” said Nancy Cowles, Executive Director of Kids In Danger, a member of Prevent Child Injury.

KID is committed to educating the public about injury prevention and safety concerns, such as TV tip-overs. “This problem can only be solved with a multifaceted approach,” continued Cowles. “We need better designs and testing to avoid tip-overs and parents need to have the information and tools they need, such as anchoring straps, to keep their children safe.

Parents can reduce the risk of injury from TV tip-overs by following these tips:

- All TVs should be secured to the wall. Use safety straps or L-brackets for cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs and wall mounts for flat screen TVs.
- Place TVs only on furniture designed to support televisions, such as TV stands and entertainment centers. Dressers, armoires, and chests of drawers are not safe places for your television.
- Secure TV stands and entertainment centers to the wall using safety straps or L-brackets.
- Do not place toys or the remote control on top of the furniture or the TV. Your child could climb the furniture to reach the item and cause the TV and furniture to tip over onto him.
- Make sure TVs are safely secured in all the places your child spends time—not just in your home.

More prevention tips are available at www.preventchildinjury.org.

Prevent Child Injury is a national group of organizations and individuals, including researchers, health professionals, educators, and child advocates, working together to prevent injuries to children



and adolescents in the U.S. In collaboration with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Prevent Child Injury promotes coordinated communication to the public about prevention of child injury, which is the leading cause of death of our nation's youth. To become a member of Prevent Child Injury or for more information and resources on this and other injury topics, please visit www.preventchildinjury.org.

Kids In Danger (KID) is a nonprofit dedicated to protecting children by improving children's product safety. For more information, please visit www.KidsInDanger.org. KID was founded in 1998 by Linda Ginzel and Boaz Keysar, the parents of sixteen-month-old Danny Keysar who died in his Chicago home when a portable crib that had earlier been recalled collapsed around his neck.