

Dangers of Flat Screen Televisions

In the majority of today's households, it is likely there are more televisions than people. The popularity of flat-panel displays has contributed to this trend. With this increase in the amount of household televisions comes an increase in injuries. Most of these incidents involve small children and often are head injuries.

Research shows a 41% increase in television tipover related injuries to children over the past two decades. In one year alone, nearly 17,000 children were rushed to emergency rooms after heavy or unstable furniture fell on them.

The research also shows this increase correlates with the popularity of increasingly bigger flat-panel televisions, along with the unstable stands they often rest on.

Flat-panel displays often pack as much as 100 pounds of circuitry and glass into a panel only a few inches thick. This contributes to the television being front-heavy with a narrow center of gravity, and thus, easy to tipover. Keep in mind that any size television, if unstable, can create a hazard.



It is a legal obligation that a homeowner takes the necessary steps to avoid causing harm to others. Small children are unable to recognize any of the aforementioned dangers. This makes it imperative that homeowners take steps to secure flat-panel televisions properly.

The following preventative steps can dramatically reduce the likelihood of an injury:

- Place the TV on sturdy furniture appropriate for its size or on a low rise base.
- Place the TV as far back as possible from the front of its stand.
- Remove items that might entice children to climb, like toys and remote controls, from the tops of televisions and stands.
- Place any electrical cords out of a child's reach.
- Use a proper anchor and/or angle brace to secure any TV to a wall.
- Have the TV professionally installed.
- If you are a "Do-it-Yourselfer," follow ALL mounting/installing/placing guidelines.

