



**For Immediate Release**

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## **One Child Dies Every Three Weeks from a TV Tipping Over**

New Report Reveals a 31% Increase in Injuries from Television Tip-Overs in the Last 10 Years

**January 2013– Grand Forks, ND** – The holiday season has just passed and electronics make popular gift giving ideas. Now, as Super Bowl Sunday draws near, new televisions fly off the shelves in anticipation of watching the “big game”. Safe Kids Grand Forks wants to alert the public of the dangers reported recently with TV tip over incidents.

A new report released in December by Safe Kids Worldwide and SANUS revealed that every three weeks, a child dies from a television tipping over and nearly 13,000 more children are injured each year in the U.S. This represents a 31 percent increase in TV tip-over related injuries over the last ten years.

The results of the report, *A Report to the Nation on Home Safety: The Dangers of TV Tip-Overs*, include data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) and new findings from Safe Kids Worldwide primary research. According to the CPSC, from 2000-2010, on average, a child dies every three weeks.

The report shows that young children are at greatest risk of TV tip-overs. According to the research, 7 out of 10 children injured by TV tip-overs are 5 years old or younger. This age group also accounts for 9 out of 10 serious injuries requiring hospitalization, including head injuries, which are among the most severe.

Every 45 minutes, or less than the length of a Sesame Street episode, a child in this country visits the ER because of a TV tipping over.

Many TV tip-overs are a result of unsteady TVs that are not secured to the wall. Flat screen TVs that are top-heavy with narrow bases can be easily pulled off an entertainment center or table. Large and heavy old-style cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs placed on dressers or high furniture can also tip over if children climb the drawers to reach a remote control, a piece of candy, a video game or anything else that attracts their attention.

The report also revealed that three out of four parents don't secure their TV to the wall. Most families are unaware that securing a TV is an important safety measure. Others decide not to mount their TVs because of concerns about damaging the wall or installing the TV incorrectly.

Safe Kids Grand Forks and our national partners are launching a national effort to prevent injuries from TV and furniture tip-overs and educate communities by calling on families to conduct a quick TV safety check, which includes the following steps:

- **Check Your TV.** Assess the stability of the TVs in your home. Remember, a curious, determined child can topple a TV. Children playing with friends or pets could knock a TV over, while other kids might be tempted to climb up to reach items placed on or near a TV, such as remote controls or candy.
- **Secure Your TV.** Securing your TV to the wall is a safe solution. Much like child proofing with a toddler gate or electrical socket cover, TV mounts and furniture straps are necessary precautions for keeping your family safe.

Go to [www.safekids.org](http://www.safekids.org) to learn more or contact Safe Kids Grand Forks at [safekids@altru.org](mailto:safekids@altru.org). Altru Health System is proud to serve as the lead agency for Safe Kids Grand Forks.