



# CPSC Safety Alert

## The Tipping Point: Preventing TV, Furniture, and Appliance Tip-Over Deaths and Injuries

The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) estimates that in 2006 16,300 children 5 years old and younger were treated in U.S. hospitals emergency rooms because of injuries associated with TV, furniture, and appliance tip-overs. Additionally, between 2000 and 2006, CPSC staff received reports of 134 tip-over related deaths involving this same age group.

Typically, injuries and deaths occur when children climb onto, fall against or pull themselves up on television stands, shelves, bookcases, dressers, desks, chests, and appliances. In some cases, televisions placed on top of furniture tip over and cause a child to suffer traumatic and sometimes fatal injuries.



### **CPSC offers the following simple, low-cost safety tips to prevent tip-overs:**

- Furniture should be stable on its own. For added security, anchor chests or dressers, TV stands, bookcases, and entertainment units to the floor or attach to a wall.
- Place TVs on a sturdy, low-rise base. Avoid flimsy shelves.
- Push the TV as far back as possible.
- Keep remote controls and other attractive items off the TV stand so kids won't be tempted to grab for them and risk knocking the TV over.
- Make sure free-standing ranges and stoves are installed with anti-tip brackets.

There are voluntary safety standards in place for TV stands/carts, chests, bureaus, and dressers, which require that the furniture passes a stability test. If a piece of furniture violates the appropriate standard, the product can be recalled. 5004-0909