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SUPER BOWL PREP TIP: CHECK YOUR TV FOR SAFETY ON NATIONAL TV SAFETY DAY
TO KEEP KIDS SAFE FROM TV TIP-OVERS

Missoula, MT – Every hour in the United States, a child is rushed to the emergency room for injuries caused by televisions that are not appropriately secured. To help prevent these TV tip-overs, Safe Kids Missoula is promoting National TV Safety Day the day before Super Bowl XLII. As families and friends prepare for this popular, televised event, National TV Safety Day raises awareness about TV tip-overs and educates parents and caregivers on the important things they can do to make their homes safer.

The Consumer Electronics Association (CEA)® and local Coalitions of Safe Kids Worldwide across the United States are teaming up to make homes safer by encouraging parents and caregivers to recycle their old TVs and do quick checks of their homes to make sure TVs are safely secured and properly placed. Larger and heavier cathode ray tube (CRT) TVs placed on dressers or high furniture can tip over and cause serious injuries, even death, if children climb onto the furniture. A 36-inch CRT TV falling three feet creates the same momentum as a 1-year-old child falling 10 stories.

“We’re asking families to add one important, and perhaps overlooked, task to their Super Bowl prep,” said Kira Huck, Co-Coordinator of Safe Kids Missoula. “Take a look at the TVs in your home. Make sure flat screen TVs are properly mounted or secured, and if you use a box-style CRT TV, make sure it is not placed where it can easily tip over.”

Safe Kids encourages families to include TV safety as part of their childproofing plans by placing CRT TVs on low, stable pieces of furniture. If families no longer use their CRT TV, consider recycling it. For families with flat screen televisions, Safe Kids recommends mounting TVs to the wall to reduce the risk of TV tip-overs. Families can also purchase anti-tip straps that secure a flat screen TV to a piece of furniture if mounting it to the wall is not an option.

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“Major sporting events, including the upcoming Super Bowl, drive significant TV sales every year,” said Gary Shapiro, president and CEO of CEA. “As these new TVs enter the home, families deciding what to do with their old CRT TVs should visit a local recycling location to properly dispose of the TV and get it out of the home.”

Safe Kids and CEA recommend these important tips to help keep kids safe and improve the environment:

- **Properly place box-style CRT TVs.** If you have a heavier, box-style TV, place it on a low, stable piece of furniture that is appropriate for the TV’s size and weight.

- **Secure flat-screen TVs.** Be sure your flat-screen TV is properly secured with a wall mount that has a safety certification by an independent laboratory (such as UL, CSA, ETL) or secure it with anti-tip straps if mounting it is not an option.

- **Recycle unwanted TVs.** To find a location near your home that safely and responsibly recycles unwanted TVs, go to [www.GreenerGadgets.org](http://www.GreenerGadgets.org).

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**About Safe Kids Missoula**

Safe Kids Missoula Coalition, a local partner of Safe Kids Worldwide, is led by Foundation for Community Health and includes safety experts from more than 30 nonprofit and government agencies dedicated to protecting kids from preventable injuries—the number one cause of death to children in the United States. The Coalition works together to increase awareness and create safer environments with the goal of preventing traffic injury, concussion, poisoning, child gun access and more. For more information, visit fchwmt.org/safe-kids-missoula.