

Risk Alert



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Keeping safe when using moveable carts

There are numerous areas within your ministry that present a variety of safety concerns, and the use of moveable television carts should be added to your list.

Whether it's a nursery, Sunday school or an after-school program, most religious organizations have programs that involve children. Many of these programs utilize a television with a video cassette player or DVD player for entertainment and education purposes.

Accidents involving televisions on carts are not uncommon. Recently, a 6 year old sustained a fatal injury when he attempted to climb onto a moveable cart and the television fell off striking him on the head. Another tragic accident occurred when a teacher asked an 8-year-old student to push a television cart from one room to another. The cart tipped when the wheels hit an object. The television fell onto the boy's leg causing permanent damage.

Simple steps help prevent accidents

If you have a television and other equipment on a moveable cart, there are some steps you need to take to help prevent accidents from occurring:

- Always secure televisions and audiovisual equipment to moveable carts by using a strap or mounting brackets.
- Make sure the carts are rated for the size and weight of the equipment.
- Flatscreen televisions require a custom bracket or a cart made specifically for these units as flatscreen televisions have a tendency to tip easily due to their higher center of gravity and smaller base footprint.
- Don't allow children to move the carts around without supervision.
- Never allow children to play on television carts, even if the television is strapped down.



For a complete collection of the *Risk Alert* series, visit our website and look in the Safety Resources section.