

Nighttime lights



A night time view of the holiday decorated Ennis-Handy House, 13th and Center, The house is cared for by the Sherman County Historical Society with support from the City of Goodland. Photo by Pat Schiefen/The Goodland Star-News

Falling TVs injure increasing number of kids

A new report released recently 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 10 years.

The study, "A Report to the Nation on Home Safety: The Danger of TV Tip-Overs," includes data from the Consumer Product Safety Commission and new findings from Safe Kids Worldwide primary research. According to the safety commission 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, seven out of 10 children injured by TV tip-overs are five years old or younger. This age group also accounts for nine 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 visits the emergency room because of a TV tipping over," said Kate Carr, president and chief executive officer of Safe Kids Worldwide. "Dramas and tragedies should be on TV, not

caused by them."

Many TV tip-overs are a result of unsteady TV's 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 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.

"You wouldn't think to bring a baby home from the hospital without a car seat or have your child ride a bike without a helmet," said Carr. "Mounting your TV will protect your TV, and most important, your child."

Safe Kids Worldwide is 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 tiems 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 to learn more.

Program taking applications

The Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership Program, also known as KARL, is seeking applicants for its next class.

"As a graduate of the Kansas Agriculture and Rural Leadership program and current assistant director, I have personally benefitted from the program's unique leadership curriculum and network of industry and community contacts," said Al Davis, who recently became vice president of KARL, Inc. "I truly believe in the program and its impact: increasing the capacity and number of qualified agricultural and rural community leaders. KARL alumni play important roles at the community, state and national levels."

Prior to taking on the KARL vice president position, Davis served as education director for the American Royal and knows the importance of a network of spokespersons and trained leaders in an urbanizing population.

"A typical class has an average age of 32 with a historic age range of 25-55 years of age, said Jack

Lindquist, KARL, Inc. president and program director. "Ever since our first 30 adult leaders were accepted into Class I in 1991, we contend that the group is learning as much from their classmates as they do from the curriculum. It is a powerful dynamic when you bring positive minded, action oriented, servant leaders together and watch them debate issues and create solutions for our rural communities and their supporting industries."

Applications will be available online through the KARL Program website www.karlprogram.com beginning Jan. 1. Interested candidates and nominees will need to download. Current leaders may nominate candidates and advise their nominee to go online to save the form filler documents and complete them. Forms must be submitted no later than the deadline of April 15.

Applicants who complete and submit the forms will undergo a screening process to determine up to 45 of the top candidates who will be invited for personal interviews

in May 2013.

Each class consists of 30 individuals. The program value is over \$20,000 per person accepted, however the tuition fee is \$2,000 per year for a total of \$4,000. KARL donors contribute to the "fellowship fund" which pays for the remaining \$16,000 cost per person.

The program operates without tax-derived funding support so the total pays for all office operations, staff salaries, speaker costs, class lodging, meals and transportation during seminars, including the national and international tours. The program is hosted at Kansas State University through an in-kind gift of office space and access to services.

The two-year program for KARL Class XII includes nine in-state seminars, two national study tours and a two-week international study tour. New class members will be announced on June 1 to the public and training begins in August, 2013. The series runs through the spring of 2015.

"Five seminars have evolved

to the point that the titles have changed," Lindquist said. "All 12 seminars have been enhanced to include leadership training modules that give participants facilitation skills that help produce positive change in their communities, organizations and businesses."

After the two-year experience, alumni become lifetime members of the KARL Graduate Program with life-long learning and travel opportunities. The KARL Graduate Program is self funded.

corrections

The Goodland Star-News will correct any mistake or misunderstanding in a news story. Please call our office at (785) 899-2338 to report errors. We believe that news should be fair and factual. We want to keep an accurate record and appreciate you calling to our attention any failure to live up to this standard.



Please Join Us

For a Public Reception honoring Dale Schields who is retiring after 43 years as Director of Human Resources at GRMC

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Dr. Swinehart will be in Burlington, CO on the following days:
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