

RANGE TIPPING: A HAZARD HIDING IN PLAIN SIGHT

Since 1991, manufacturers of electric and gas kitchen ranges have been required to comply with standards to prevent freestanding ranges from tipping over. Ranges are inherently unstable when their oven doors are open, and forward tipping can be started by a weight of as little as 30 lbs. on the leading edge of an open door. Especially at risk are young children and the elderly. Young children can easily reach oven handles that are less than three feet above the floor. Preoccupied or unsteady adults can trip over doors and then attempt to use the doors for support with disastrous results. Crushing injuries can result from the weight of the range, or severe burns can occur from hot liquids on the top burners.

To prevent these injuries, manufacturers have affixed warning labels to the back of all ranges on the hazard, described the potential in their instructions, and most importantly, **provided anti-tip brackets** for use in installation. Unfortunately, many installers fail to install this device.

The New Jersey Public Housing Authority Joint Insurance Fund urges users and installers to do your **PART**:

Protect Against Range Tipping. Commit to a program that will assure that your residents are protected from this hazard:

- ✓ **Review** this bulletin with your maintenance supervisors; agree to install anti-tip devices on **all** new installations;
- ✓ **Survey** the ranges in your properties. Determine if the anti-tip devices have been installed. If not, contact the manufacturers for repair kits. Almost all major appliance manufacturers have a website or 800# to facilitate this process. These devices generally cost around five dollars apiece. Establish a schedule to bring all your properties into compliance;
- ✓ **Add** inspection of the anti-tip device to the move-in checklist;
- ✓ **Discuss** this potential hazard with your residents at committee meetings or other communication opportunities. Urge parents to supervise children in the kitchen, always keep the range door closed when not in use, and never use the door as a stepstool, seat, or support for body weight or other objects.

For further information on this subject, contact:

The Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers
1111 19th St., NW
Washington, DC 20036
201.872.5955
www.aham.org

For further assistance on this matter or other safety and risk control issues, contact your risk management consultant or Jim Rhoads, NJPHA-JIF safety consultant (610-397-5061).

IMPORTANT NOTICE - *The information and suggestions presented by PMA Companies in this risk control technical guide are for your consideration in your loss prevention efforts. They are not intended to be complete or definitive in identifying all hazards associated with your business, preventing workplace accidents, or complying with any safety related or other laws or regulations. You are encouraged to alter the information and suggestions to fit the specific hazards of your business and to have your legal counsel review all of your plans and company policies.*