

Toddler's Death Exposes Stove Tipping Dangers

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LAS VEGAS - By Monday night, most people in the Calico Creek Apartments heard that one-year-old Elijah Landeros died after a stove toppled over him. Some neighbors now wonder if the same thing could happen in their homes.

Cristina Cortes is a mother of four. She's concerned her kids may accidentally cause the stove to tip over. "When you pull the stove, they usually come out, but see how they come forward," she asked. "I lift and then pull."

"We made like little holes on the bottom, so it kind of gets stuck... At the point where they try to pull it out, it wont come out," she said.

Typically, stoves are supposed to come with anti-tip brackets. The brackets were part of voluntary standards adopted in the 1990s for ranges made after 1991. According to Calico Creek management, the stoves they install in all of their apartments were made in 1987. In light of what happened Sunday night, management says it's waiting for the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission to recommend what needs to be done to make these old appliances safer.

"It's a tragedy what happened. How could something so dangerous happen to a child in a matter of seconds," Cortes asked.

According to the CPSC, there have been more than one hundred accidents and at least 34 deaths involving tipping in the last 30 years. In some cases, lawsuits have been filed against manufacturers and apartment complexes.

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