



By *CURIE Risk Advisory Committee*

University buildings have many things that can cause physical injury if safeguards are not in place. CURIE has dealt with claims from crushing injuries, head trauma along with injuries to legs and arms. In 1998 a university student in Quebec was accidentally killed when a vending machine toppled over on top of him. Opta Precise Services inspectors have recommended that vending machines be secured to prevent rocking of the machines. They now estimate that close to 75% of vending machines at CURIE member universities have been secured.

Here is a list of other items that should be reviewed for safety and secured appropriately to prevent injury and damage.

Things that tip, fall or collapse:

- Vending Machines
- Video Lottery Terminals (VLT)
- Lockers
- Tall Cabinets
- Shelving Units
- Items placed unsafely on bookshelves or atop of cabinets
- Overloaded tables
- Items attached to wall e.g., large monitors
- Chairs

There are other considerations to be made when reviewing the safety of the items that can cause harm. The location of the items may make them more of a target for vandalism or they could be in

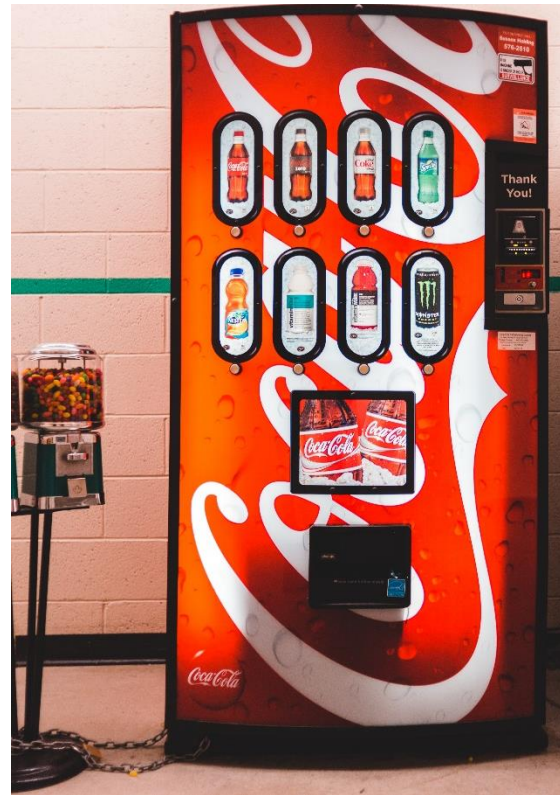
areas where children venture and could become an allurements. A further consideration is the possibility of earthquakes. Universities in locations that are in earthquake prone areas may need to implement additional safeguards.

Safeguards

- Items that could be subject to tipping should be secured to structural members, anchored to each other, or securely attached to the floor.
- Warning labels indicating the dangers of tipping or rocking vending machines should be affixed to the units.
- Vending machines should be checked regularly to ensure methods of the securing the machines are still in place.
- Vending machines and other items that may be subject to vandalism should be placed in well-lit areas.
- Placement of materials, machines, or equipment should not be located or placed in places of egress including exits (emergency or other), hallways or stairwells.
- Ensure that vending machines, lockers, shelving units, equipment, television monitors and other items that could tip or fall are installed to manufacturer's specifications.
- Check cabinets and shelving units to ensure items are not stored too close to the edge and could easily topple if disturbed.

- Ensure that shelving units and tables are not overloaded and/or buckling from excessive storage weights.
- Stipulate in contracts that those providing vending machines or other items subject to tipping and rocking are responsible for securing the machines in accordance with institutional processes and standards. The contract should include language to put liability back on the vendor.
- Regular inspections should take place to monitor storage arrangements and ensure a safe environment.

The safeguards in this bulletin are offered as guidelines only. They represent measures that if taken will provide a reasonable degree of safety and that represent reasonable measures to alleviate risk. As many situations are unique, sound judgement should be given to selecting the best solutions for the case at hand.



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