

January 2009

ED-2009-002

Tethered Children and Elevators/Escalators

This STANDATA is being issued by Alberta Municipal Affairs and the Safety Codes Council's Elevator Technical Council to inform you that a concern has been expressed regarding the safety of children of being tethered together (as a means of child control) while riding elevators or escalators.

Background:

Today there are many daycare facilities that are located in high-rise office complexes. To ensure that children do not become lost daycare staff frequently tie children together using flat webbed belt or leash, when walking the children from one location to another in the building via elevators and escalators.

There is a possibility that when a group of tethered children entering an elevator a child could inadvertently be left on one side of the elevator door and the other children being on the opposite side of the door when the hall and cars door closes. If the elevator were to move to another floor during this condition serious or fatal injuries could occur to the child.

Escalators also pose similar dangers if tethered children are permitted to ride an escalator. If one child falls while tethered to another then all the tethered children can fall or be injured by the moving steps.

Notification:

All daycare and child care program operators should be aware of the potential dangers of tethered children while using elevators and escalators.

Instructions:

To reduce the risk of children being injured while riding elevator and escalators the following steps could be taken;

Elevators: Children should not be tethered when entering, riding or exiting elevators.

Escalators: Children should not be tethered when riding an escalator.

General Note:

In addition follow all the requirements set out in the Elevator and Escalator Safety Foundation's Education Brochure: <http://eesf.org/>.

Further Information:

For additional information contact Alberta Elevating Devices and Amusement Rides Safety Association (AEDARSA)

Edmonton (780) 448-0184

Calgary (403) 216-5750