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# A safety checklist for facilities with electrically powered beds.

Children and individuals with mental disabilities are particularly susceptible to accidents involving electrically powered beds, such as those often found in residential facilities.

The potential danger? People can become entangled in spaces around moving bed components or crushed between the stationary portion of the bed and its moving frame after the automatic “walk away” bed-lowering controls are activated.

## A comprehensive guide from the FDA.

To help identify and address any bed entrapment risks in your facility, you can start by reviewing the “*Hospital Bed System Dimensional and Assessment Guidance to Reduce Entrapment*,” published by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). (To access the report, visit [fda.gov](http://fda.gov) and type “Hospital Bed System” into the Search window.) Once familiar with that document, take the next step toward safety by completing the checklist below.

## Check *all* the boxes to reduce the likelihood of entrapment injury.

- Conduct an inventory of all electrically powered beds in your facility, especially those with automatic lowering devices like the “walk-away” feature with a “scissors” or “guillotine” action in the metal components on the underside of the bed.
- Remove electrically powered beds from areas that serve individuals at a higher risk of injury, such as the physically or mentally disabled.
- Where electrically powered beds are located, disable or modify the “walk-away” feature of the electric bed-lowering control.
- Make it your facility’s policy to adjust all beds to the lowest position possible. (To keep visitors from sitting on beds, raise the bed side rails instead of raising the beds.)



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