

CANADIAN WINDOW AND DOOR MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION



Prevent window and balcony falls – It can be done!

The tragic toll of the last few months is frightening and heart-wrenching:

- March 29, Hamilton, ON – 5 year old boy, seriously injured, fell from 9th floor balcony
- June 3, Toronto, ON – 18 month old boy, died, fell from 28th floor window
- June 26, Ottawa, ON – 3 year old boy, died, fell from 15th floor window
- July 5 in Ottawa, ON – 9 month old girl, injured, fell from 2nd floor window
- July 17, Toronto, ON – 2 year old boy, died, fell from 11th floor balcony
- July 20, Calgary, AB – 19 month old boy, injured, fell from 2nd floor balcony

Toronto Emergency Medical Services (EMS) reports 10 Toronto children have fallen from windows and balconies so far this year. A Calgary EMS report indicates 12 to 14 falls occur every year in that city.

A coalition of paramedic organizations and window and door manufacturers is working hard to prevent such tragic accidents. The Canadian Window and Door Manufacturers Association (CWDMA) and the Emergency Medical Services Chiefs of Canada (EMSCC) partnered in 2003 to educate the public on how to prevent young children from falling from windows and balconies. Paramedics in 12 EMS organizations across Canada are involved in this prevention campaign.

CWDMA President Henry Banman says, “Everyone wants to know how to keep children safe. Education is the key. If we know what the danger to our children and grandchildren is, then we can protect them.” He invites parents and caregivers to visit the Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety website for information on how to prevent falls from windows and balconies.

CWDMA-member companies have generously funded this campaign since it began. They have also constructed and donated 14 safety demonstration units which are used to teach window and balcony safety lessons to children, parents and even babysitters. “Paramedics are the ideal group to educate the public about window and balcony fall prevention since it is their life-saving skills that are called upon whenever a child falls,” says Toronto EMS Chief Bruce Farr, president of the EMS Chiefs of Canada. “Paramedics are highly motivated to prevent these tragedies and near tragedies which occur far too often.”

Safety tips, activities for children, an educational video and contact information are available on the Partners Promoting Window and Balcony Safety website www.windowandbalconysafety.ca

For more information or to arrange interviews, please contact Dean Shaddock, Coordinator, Community Medicine Program, Toronto EMS, Tel: 416-338-0473