

Professionally and Compassionately Helping People

The Danger of Open Windows

Prevent a tragedy in your home

Kent, Wash. -March 27, 2015- Each spring we hear tragic reports of children who have fallen out of windows, often at their own homes. One of the saddest parts of this is that they could have *all* been prevented.

As the weather begins to change, many people will be leaving windows open to take advantage of the warmer spring air. The Kent Fire Department Regional Fire Authority asks adults to do what they can to protect children by following these simple steps:

1. **Always supervise young children** - Yes, it is difficult and time consuming, but it is the responsible thing to do.
2. **Child-proof windows** - Place a stick or other device in the window track to keep it from opening more than a few inches. Commercial locking devices are available from your local hardware store.
3. **Keep beds/cribs and chairs away from windows** - Do not make it easy or convenient for kids to reach windows.
4. **Do not draw attention to windows** - Avoid hanging anything on or near windows that will attract children. This includes wind chimes, window stickers, and wind socks.
5. **Remember what window screens are for** - Screens keep bugs out, not kids in. Screens are easy to push outward and offer no barrier to prevent kids from falling out a window.
6. **Check on them regularly** - Even when they are sleeping - especially during naps, monitor your children.

For more information, contact your local fire department or public health agency.

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