



NEWS RELEASE

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Boy Falls From Second-story Window in Beaverton

At 9:56 a.m. this morning, firefighter/paramedics from [Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue Station 67](#) responded to reports that a four-year-old boy had fallen from a second-story window at the Birnam West Apartments in Beaverton, (13225 SW Allen Blvd.). Firefighters responded within three minutes of being dispatched and found the boy conscious and alert. They mobilized the boy and he was transported to Oregon Health Sciences University (OHSU) by Metro West Ambulance as a precaution, where he will be evaluated for any possible injuries.

This incident is one of several window falls that have occurred in the Portland metro area in the last two weeks. It highlights how dangerous open windows can be for children. Brain injury is the leading killer and disabler of children in the US: more than half the children who die as a result of fall-related injuries each year are under the age of five. Fall-related injuries generally occur inside the home, where parents often think their child is safe or outdoors when their children are at play. “We are hopeful that this young boy will emerge from this incident without serious injuries. This incident and the other recent window falls highlight how quickly a fall can happen. We encourage parents to evaluate their windows and install window locks where appropriate”, states Cassandra Ulven.

It only takes a minute for a child to fall and injure themselves, so NEVER leave children unattended on changing tables, beds, sofas, etc. Many infants injured in falls are in the same room as their caregiver.

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Child Fall Prevention Tips

Proper supervision is essential:

- NEVER leave children unattended on changing tables, beds, sofas, etc.
- Strap children into highchairs, swings, strollers, etc.
- Don't let children play unattended on balconies, porches, and/or fire escapes.
- Don't let children play near windows or patio doors.

Don't create your own hazards:

- Avoid use of baby walkers on wheels; all baby walkers should meet current [ASTM](#) standards.
- Use safety gates at tops and bottoms of stairs if infants or toddlers are in the home; gates should meet [ASTM](#) standards.
- Move furniture away from windows and draperies.
- Window screens are intended to **Keep Bugs Out not Kids In**: install [window guards](#) where needed. Use window guards that meet current [ASTM](#) standards for emergency exiting.
- Use slip-resistant mats or stickers in bathtubs.

For more safety information:

- Tualatin Valley Fire and Rescue: http://www.tvfr.com/CS/ip/Falls/fallprev_children.html
 - OHSU Fall Prevention: <http://www.ohsu.edu/childsafety/adults/02fallprev.php>
- American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM): <http://www.astm.org/> (specific pages for safety gates and window guards are linked from http://www.tvfr.com/CS/ip/Falls/fallprev_children.html)
- Kids Health: http://www.kidshealth.org/parent/firstaid_safe/index.html

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