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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Window Falls Cause 3300 Injuries Each Year!

Lake Stevens, WA – This is the time of year when families are opening their windows to take advantage of the rising temperatures. Lake Stevens Fire and Safe Kids Snohomish County want to provide parents with window safety tips so children are free to explore without the risks that come from unsecured windows.

Window falls account for approximately 8 deaths and 3,300 injuries among children ages 5 and under each year.

Window falls are more common than we think. Even a fall from a first story window can be life threatening. “We don’t want to see any child hurt from a window fall, especially when there are simple things parents can do to ensure that their children are safe when the windows are open,” commented Safe Kids Snohomish County Coordinator Shawneri Guzman. She further explained, “There are many misconceptions to installing window locks in fear of not being able to use the window as an escape route.” Assistant Fire Marshal David Petersen commented, “Practicing a family escape plan is critical in recognizing prominent escape routes.”

Lake Stevens Fire, in partnership with Safe Kids Snohomish County, recommends the following four tips to help prevent window falls.

1. **Keep windows closed and locked.** To be safe, try to remember to keep windows closed and locked whenever children are around or when windows are not in use.
2. **Open windows that a child cannot reach.** If you have windows that can open from both top and bottom, make a habit of opening just the top to help prevent accidental falls. Keep in mind that as children grow, they may have enough strength, dexterity and curiosity to open the bottom.
3. **Keep children from playing near windows.** For your crawlers and climbers, move chairs, cribs and other furniture away from windows to help prevent window falls. *Screens are meant to keep bugs out, not children in.*
4. **Determine your family’s emergency escape plan and practice it.** Remember that windows may be your escape route during an emergency. If you plan to install window guards or stops, make sure they include an emergency release device in case of a fire.

For free window locks please contact Lake Stevens Fire at 425.334.3034. Check Lake Stevens Fire or Safe Kids Snohomish County websites for further information. Stay safe and have a great summer!

Additional Resources: www.lsfire.org & www.safekids.org/coalition/safe-kids-snohomish-county

LAKE STEVENS
FIRE

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