

## SAFETY

Every day you whisper a promise to your child, “I’ll always love you and keep you safe.” As you know, keeping your home and children safe requires more than promises. It can only be done with safety awareness, emergency planning and preventive action. Fires and falls of all kinds are among the leading causes of injury and death in young children. While some falls occur from windows, it’s important to realize that in a fire, a window can save a child’s life – if the window can be easily opened from the inside. That is why windows play a critical role in home safety. Fire is frightening. All too often, the bodies of young children are found after a fire in places where they tried to hide. Teach your children that they can’t hide from fire; they must escape it. Windows provide one of the fastest, easiest ways out of a burning home. Decide on at least two emergency escape routes from your home. Teach children how to safely escape through windows and take time to practice.

Every family member should know how to operate the windows used for fire emergencies. Delays in escaping from a fire, cost lives and increase injuries. Often paint, dirt, or weathering can seal a window shut. Make sure your windows open easily from the inside and are not blocked by furniture or other objects. Remember that security bars, grilles, grates and window guards not only keep intruders out; they can also lock you in. Everyone should always be able to get out through a window without using tools, keys, special knowledge or effort.

Another important point to research is the amount of egress, or space that you would have to escape through a window. You also get more space to escape through a window if the sash (the framed glass panel) can be tilted, removed, or opened quickly.