

MEDIA ACCOUNTS OF RECENT FALLS

Tot's death renews window debate

<http://ledger.southofboston.com/articles/2006/07/26/news/news05.txt>

By JESSICA VAN SACK
The Patriot Ledger

It was the second time in as many years that a child fell from a window at the Quincy apartment building. But there are no building code regulations that would require the property manager to make its windows safer. "The state building code does not regulate the child-proofing of windows," said Kelly Nantel, spokeswoman for the state Department of Public Safety.

Nor are there local regulations in Quincy and other South Shore cities and towns that would require a level of safety for windows in homes and apartments. It's a realization that struck Quincy officials as peculiar and had Mayor William Phelan suggesting that Quincy lead the way in seeking to change the rules.

"It seems to highlight an obvious need to have some standards that would guard against such a tragedy in the future," Phelan said.

Three-year-old Geetakrishna Gannavarapu died this past weekend after plunging about 60 feet from a sixth-floor hallway window at 1015 Southern Artery in Quincy on July 14. He is among about 18 children nationwide who die each year after accidental window falls.

Falls of all sort are the leading cause of non-fatal injury to children ages 5 and under, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control. Experts say most accidents occur in summer, because as the heat goes up, so do windows.

In 1993, the Boston Public Health Commission began a campaign to encourage residents and landlords to install window safety guards after 21 children fell out of windows the previous summer. Since the start of the so-called Kids Can't Fly program, which subsidizes the cost of window safety guards for landlords and homeowners, child window falls in Boston have decreased more than 80 percent, Boston officials said.

Across the country, more than 4,000 children are injured by falling out of windows each year. Over the past decade, window falls have seriously injured children in Canton, Marshfield, Plymouth, Hull and Quincy.

Erin Christiansen, program director for Boston's Child Injury Prevention Program, which runs the window safety campaign, said advocates have considered waging a campaign to pass window safety laws. Such rules are rare throughout the country but have been adopted by larger urban areas such as New York City. Aside from the difficulty of requiring landlords and households to purchase window safety guards, there are lingering concerns of fire escape access that have limited Boston to a voluntary approach, Christiansen said.

Window safety guards are usually aluminum or steel bars that are secured to the bottom half of the window and designed to withstand 150 pounds of pressure. Some guards are removable to allow an easy escape in the event of a fire.

While advocates admit there's no real way to child-proof a window, they say the bars greatly reduce the chance of an accident. Manufactured by several companies including Guardian Angel and Kidco, they generally range in price from \$15 to \$150

Media-Deadly Fall from window in Mass.
per window, depending on the size.

As an alternative to window guards, safety advocates also suggested installing windows that open from the top rather than the bottom, where children are able to crawl through.

Nantel said that cities and towns seeking to pass stronger building regulations, such as requiring window safety guards, can make their case before the Board of Building Regulations and Standards.

“But they have to demonstrate a need, and that there’s a significant issue or concern,” she said.

The fatal fall at 1015 Southern Artery in the Faxon Commons apartment complex was the second time in little more than two years that a young child had fallen from a window there.

On July 14, a 3-year-old fell from an open window in the hallway at 1015 Southern Artery in Faxon Commons. For residents of that building, it was an all-too-familiar scene. In June 2004, 4-year-old Ian Ngugi fell from the window of his fourth-floor apartment, landing in the bushes and suffering serious injuries. The screen was found on the ground.

Following the recent accident, the property management firm immediately replaced many hallway screens. There were no immediate plans to install window safety guards.

“We’re evaluating it internally,” said Carol MacDonald, vice president of Corcoran Management. “We’re thoroughly investigating options.”

Safety tips

1. Lock all unopened doors and windows
2. Keep furniture and anything a child can climb on away from windows
3. Open windows from the top.
4. Install child safety window guards.
5. Consider planting shrubs or grass under windows to cushion potential falls.
6. Remember that screens are not meant to protect a child from falling.

Source: Boston Public Health Commission's Kids Can't Fly campaign; the Timothy Healey Foundation

Jessica Van Sack may be reached at jvansack@ledger.com .



News Archive

-  **Autos**
Reviews & more
-  **Homes**
Homelife news
-  **Careers**
News & advice
-  **Subscribe**
Customer service
-  **Yellow Pages**
Local search

News

- Today's news
- Archive
- Blogs
- Commentary
- Editorials
- Education
- Elections
- Lottery
- Obituaries
- Politics
- Religion
- George Ryan Trial
- Special sections
- Weather
- War on Terror
- War in Iraq

Columnists

- Brown
- Falsani
- The Fixer
- Foster
- Greeley
- Hart
- Higgins
- Jackson
- Laney
- Levitt
- Marin
- Martire
- McNamee
- Miller
- Mitchell
- Novak
- Ontiveros
- O'Rourke
- O'Sullivan

Two-year-old falls out of third-floor window

July 17, 2006

FROM STNG WIRE REPORTS

A 2-year-old boy was reportedly in critical condition after he apparently pushed through a screen and fell out of the third floor window of his South Side apartment building Sunday night.

The boy climbed up on a couch and apparently pushed through a screen and fell out a window to the building's courtyard, on the 1500 block of 82nd St., according to Gresham District Lt. John Brundage.

Authorities were notified when a friend of the family noticed the child was not in the front room and notified the mother, the lieutenant said.

The child was found laying on the sidewalk in the courtyard, Brundage said.

The boy was in critical condition at University of Chicago Comer Children's Hospital, the lieutenant said.

The boy's mother was home at the time, but was in the bathroom when the child fell, at 9:24 p.m., Brundage said.

No one was arrested, and no citations were issued in connection with the fall, Brundage said.

The incident is under investigation, the lieutenant said.



REAL CHICAGO
PHOTOS FROM THE SUN-TIMES FILES

THE 1940s to TODAY

▶ VIEW THE GALLERIES ▶ BUY THE PHOTOS

DIS

A lot
in a y
Good
0% A
0% Ir



Media accounts of falls

[Return to regular web page](#)

detnews.com

This is a printer friendly version of an article from **The Detroit News**
To print this article open the file menu and choose Print.

April 24, 2006

Oakland Briefs

Addison Township

Trench collapse kills man, injures another

A 41-year-old Eastpointe man was killed and another man was injured Sunday when a trench they were working in at a construction site collapsed on them in the 5700 block of Rochester Road in Addison Township in northern Oakland County. Oakland County Sheriff's Sgt. Charles Bernard and Addison Township Fire Department officials said three men had dug a 3-foot-wide, 6-foot-deep trench to install pipes for a septic field for a house when the collapse occurred about 11:20 a.m. The second man, a 42-year-old St. Clair Shores resident, was rescued in about two hours. He is being treated at Beaumont Hospital in Royal Oak and is reported to be in stable condition. The names of the men were not released.

Rochester Hills

Arbitration sought over Wal-Mart limits

Developer Grand Sakwa is taking the city to arbitration over the City Council's limitations to a Wal-Mart it approved earlier this month. The city wanted to limit the Wal-Mart to an 18-hour operation, reduce the intensity of parking lot and building lights, and require Wal-Mart officials to meet with the Oakland County Sheriff's Office at six months and one year from opening to address security issues. Wal-Mart officials say the terms don't meet their corporate standards.

Southfield

Toddler's fatal fall prompts look at code

Wayne Jewell, Southfield building official, said he has written to the International Code Council that sets building code standards suggesting stricter codes to make high-rise apartment buildings safer. Jewell said he was moved to write following the death of a 16-month-old boy who fell out of a seven-story window last week. Police said Saviour God-Scientific Allah fell out a bedroom window while his parents were elsewhere in their North Park Place Apartment complex. Jewell said it was the 11th incident in Southfield in which a child has fallen out a window since 1989.

Orion Township

Grant aids crackdown on minors' liquor sales

Orion and Independence township substations of the Oakland County Sheriff's Office were recently awarded a \$17,000 combined grant from the Michigan Office of Highway Safety to help prevent underage drinking. The money will be used to pay overtime for undercover deputies who accompany underage decoys into various businesses that stock liquor to see if they will sell to minors.

[Return to regular web page](#)