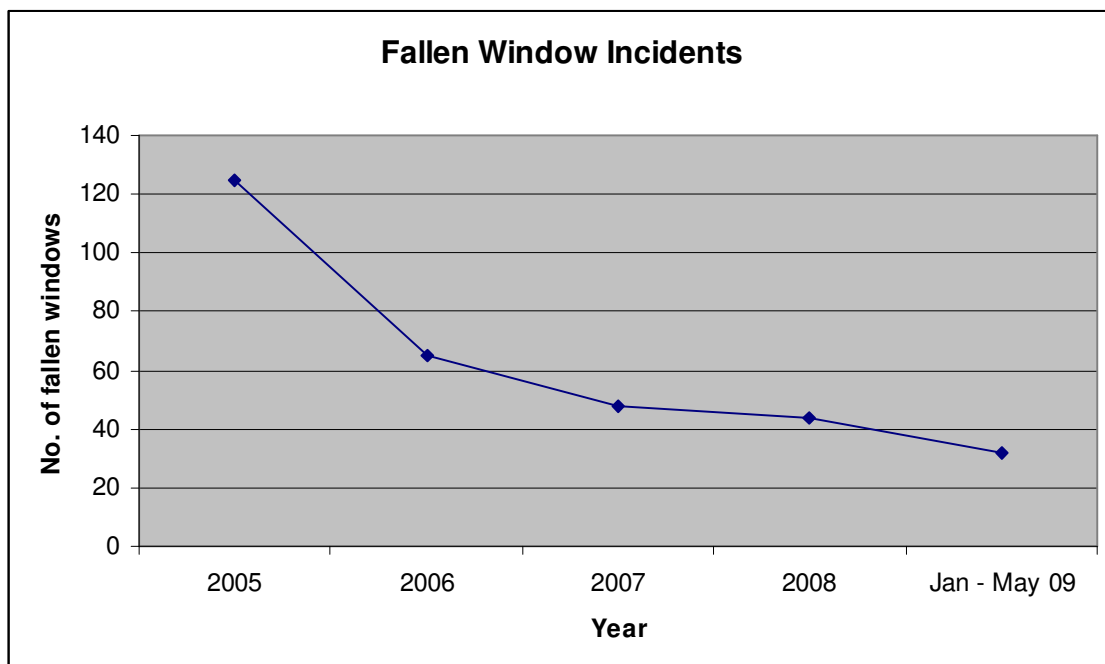


BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

BCA and HDB encourage property owners and tenants to check and maintain windows at least twice a year

1. The safety of exterior features such as windows is critical in our densely built environment as fallen exterior features could cause serious injury. Windows, in particular, are subject to wear and tear because we open and close them daily. All property owners and tenants are responsible for ensuring that their windows are well maintained so that they do not fall off and cause danger to the public.

2 Since BCA introduced legislation to retrofit casement windows in October 2004, the number of incidences of fallen windows has reduced significantly, from 125 fallen window incidents in 2005 to an average of 52 cases per year, from 2006-2008.



However, it is important that property owners and tenants regularly check and maintain their windows to keep them in good working condition. Hence, BCA, jointly with HDB, is embarking on a public campaign to urge property owners and tenants to practise window safety. 6th June and 12th of December of each year have been designated as “Window Safety Day”, where property owners and tenants are encouraged to check their windows at least once every six months. (See Annex A, separate attachment on window safety poster).

3 To raise awareness of the need for regular window maintenance, BCA is simultaneously working with Management Corporations for private buildings and Town Councils for HDB blocks to put up posters. Apart from encouraging residents to perform regular window checks on the designated dates, the posters also provide tips on window maintenance. Additionally, BCA and HDB will be sending out advisory letters to MCSTs and all residential households to raise awareness and the importance of practicing window safety.

4 “High-rise buildings are predominant in our built environment and falling windows pose a danger to public safety, which is our utmost priority. Although previous public education efforts with HDB have reduced the number of incidents considerably over the years, the safety of windows cannot be neglected. Hence, we will continue to drive and reinforce the safety message to property owners and tenants”, said Mr Chin Chi Leong, Director of Building Plan and Management Division, BCA.

5 For more information on window safety and maintenance tips, homeowners can refer to these websites or hotlines.

www.hdb.gov.sg/windows_safety or call **1800-225-5432** (HDB)

www.bca.gov.sg/windows_safety or call **6325-8677** (BCA)