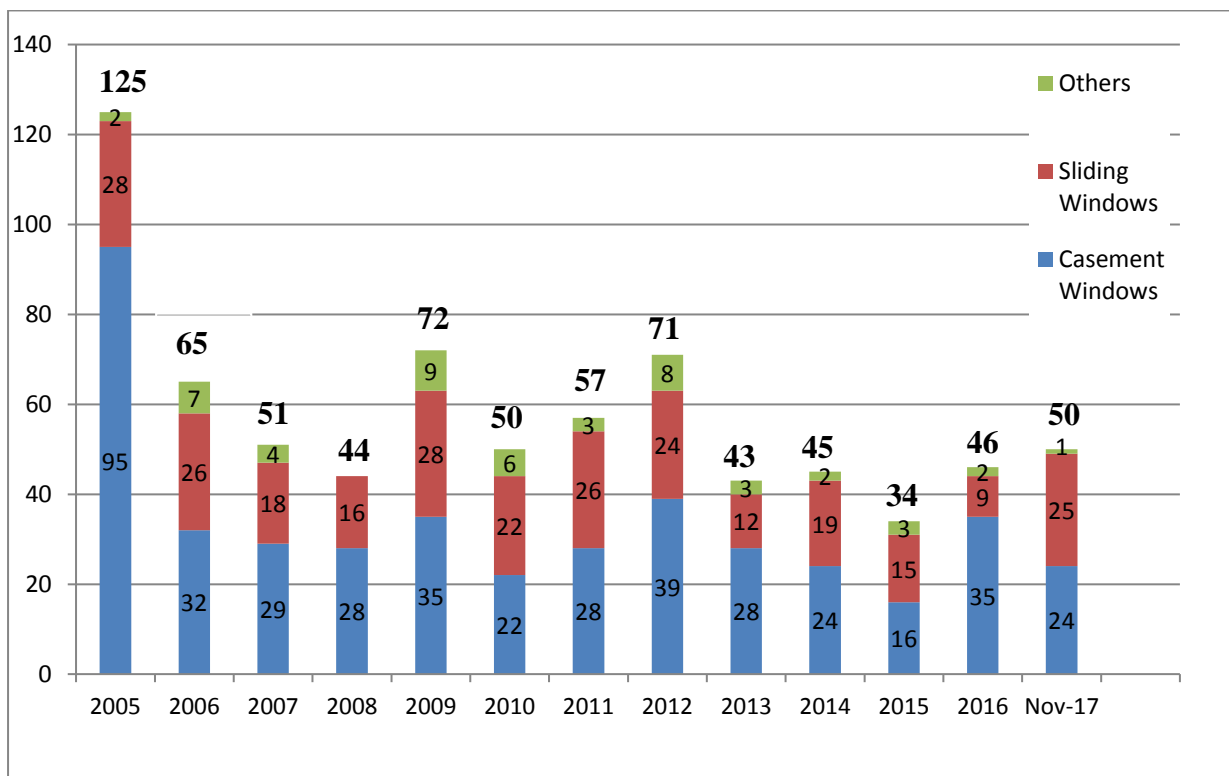


BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

50 CASES OF FALLEN WINDOWS THIS YEAR

- *BCA and HDB would like to remind homeowners to conduct regular window maintenance at least once every six months and carry out the necessary replacements required*

12 Dec 2017 – According to statistics by the Building and Construction Authority (BCA) and Housing & Development Board (HDB), there were 50 cases of fallen windows this year, with no injuries arising from the cases reported. The average number of fallen windows remains at 44 cases per year, over the last five years.



NUMBER OF FALLEN WINDOWS

2. The cases involved both casement and sliding windows.
 - a. Most fallen casement windows were found fitted with aluminum rivets which have corroded. This compromises the functionality and strength of the rivets, rendering them unable to hold the window panels firmly in place.
 - b. Most fallen sliding windows were due to the lack of proper safety stoppers and angle strips in place to ensure that the window panels are kept within the tracks. Thus, the window panels detached and fell when homeowners applied additional force to open or close the windows.

3. “Falling windows pose a huge danger to the public. We should all do our part to eliminate this risk. All homeowners and tenants should regularly maintain their windows at least once every six months,” said Er. Lim Beng Kwee, Director of BCA’s Special Functions Group.

4. All aluminium rivets in casement windows must be replaced with stainless steel ones. This has been a requirement since 2004. Homeowners should also check that the window rivets and fasteners are not rusty or loose, and regularly clean and lubricate joints or movable parts. Windows should be maintained regularly even if they have been installed with stainless steel rivets.

5. For sliding windows, safety stoppers and/or angle strips should be installed and should be replaced if they are worn out. Homeowners should also check that the safety stoppers and/or angle strips are in place and are not damaged. They should also clean the tracks and ensure that the window panels can slide smoothly (refer to [Annex B](#)).

6. “We will continue our outreach efforts to remind homeowners on the importance of proper window maintenance. Roving exhibitions, as well as distribution of posters and flyers will be conducted at both public and private housing estates. Homeowners should not hesitate to consult an approved window contractor if they are unsure of the condition of their windows at home,” Er. Lim added.

7. A list of BCA-approved window contractors and window maintenance tips can be found at:
 - https://www.bca.gov.sg/Window_Safety/
 - http://www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety

Homeowners can face a penalty of up to S\$5,000 and/or jail term of up to six months for failing to replace all aluminium rivets in casement windows with stainless steel rivets. In addition, if a window falls due to lack of maintenance, homeowners can face up to a maximum fine of S\$10,000 and/or jail term of up to one year. Since 2006, 326 people have been fined and 86 people have been prosecuted for fallen windows.

**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and Housing & Development Board
on 12 December 2017**

ANNEX A

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WINDOW SAFETY

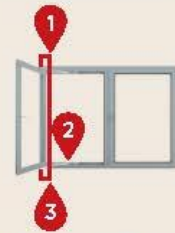
	MYTH	FACT
1	Sliding windows would not fall	Sliding windows can also fall if they are not regularly maintained. Homeowners should check that the safety stoppers and angle strips of sliding windows are in place, clean the windows and ensure that window panels can slide smoothly, and change worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips by engaging an approved window contractor.
2	New windows or windows that are never opened would not fall	All windows are subject to wear and tear, and window parts can become loose or defective over time, causing windows to detach and fall.
3	For casement windows, homeowners only need to check the rivets or screws on the visible part of the window or the pivot points of the window	When maintaining casement windows, homeowners should also use a mirror to check the rivets on the underside and top of the window panel, to ensure they are not corroded or loosened.

JOIN THE WINDOW SAFETY BUDDIES EVERY 6 & 12 TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE! JUN DEC

Falling windows can endanger public safety. Homeowners/ tenants may face a fine of up to S\$10,000 and/ or a jail term of up to a year, if a window from their unit falls. Do your part by checking your windows twice a year!



CASEMENT WINDOWS



<p>1 CHECK that fasteners are not rusty or loose</p>	<p>2 CLEAN and oil joints or moving parts</p>	<p>3 CHANGE all rivets from aluminium to stainless steel by engaging an approved window contractor</p>
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SLIDING WINDOWS



<p>1 CHECK that safety stoppers and angle strips are in their proper places</p>	<p>2 CLEAN the tracks and ensure window panels can slide smoothly</p>	<p>3 CHANGE worn-out safety stoppers and angle strips by engaging an approved window contractor</p>
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For more information about window safety and the list of approved window contractors:

Visit www.bca.gov.sg/window_safety (BCA) or www.hdb.gov.sg/window_safety (HDB)

Call 6334 6473 (BCA) or 1800 225 5432 (HDB)



A Public Service Message From:



We shape a safe, high quality, sustainable and friendly built environment.

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