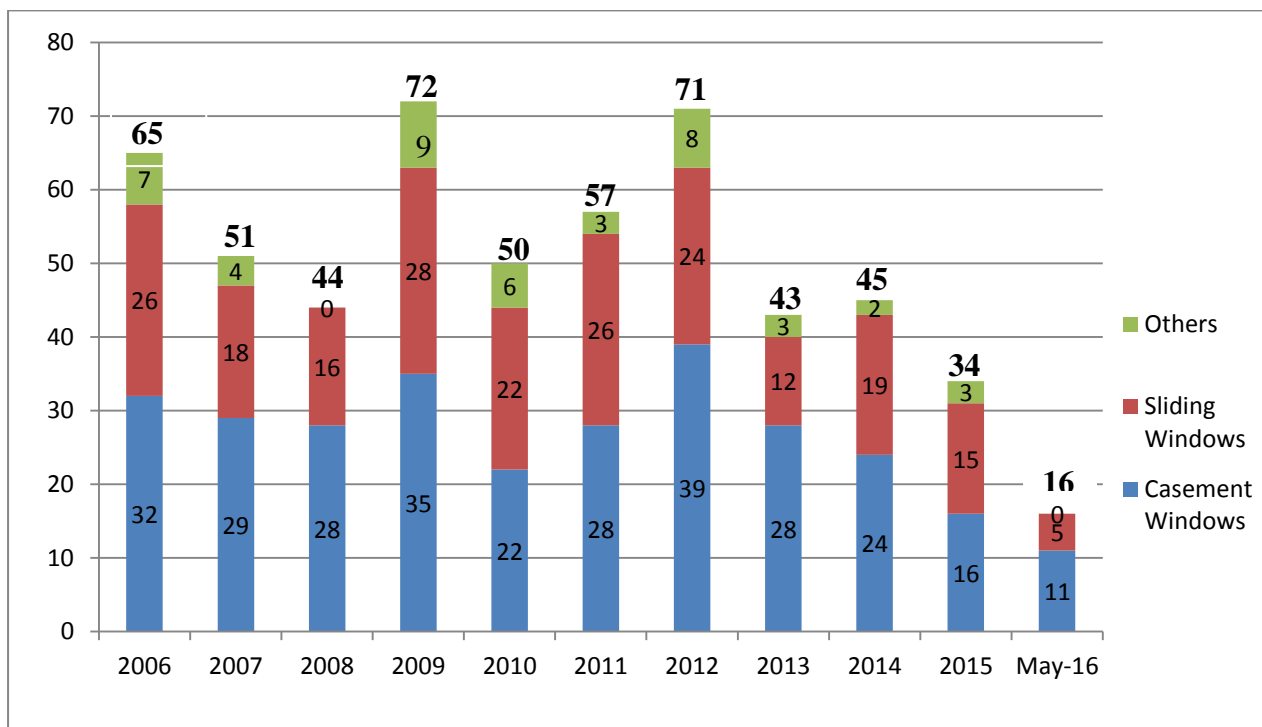


BCA-HDB JOINT MEDIA RELEASE

16 WINDOWS FELL IN THE FIRST FIVE MONTHS THIS YEAR

- number of fallen windows dropping but regular window maintenance still important

5 June 2016 – There were 16 cases of fallen windows in the first five months this year. While the number of fallen windows has dropped over the past few years, homeowners should continue to regularly maintain their windows at least once every six months.



TOTAL NUMBER OF FALLEN WINDOWS FROM 2006 TO MAY 2016

2. “Everyone should play their part in checking and maintaining their windows regularly to create a safe and liveable environment for fellow Singaporeans. Falling windows pose a safety risk to the public given our highly built up environment. All

windows are subject to wear and tear, and window parts can become loose or defective over time, causing windows to detach and fall,” said Er. Lim Beng Kwee, Director of BCA’s Special Functions Group.

3. 11 casement windows and 5 sliding windows fell in the first five months this year. Most of the fallen casement windows were found to have corroded aluminum rivets which had loosened from the window stays. In addition, most sliding windows that have fallen did not have safety stoppers and angle strips to secure the window panels, and the windows were not able to slide smoothly along the tracks. These incidents could have been prevented if homeowners had retrofitted aluminium rivets of casement windows with stainless steel ones and maintained their windows regularly.

4. “Besides educating the public on the importance of window safety and window maintenance tips, BCA has recently enhanced our Window Safety Campaign to focus on the common tools that homeowners can use to maintain their windows. Window maintenance is easy – all you need is a mirror to check your windows as well as a brush and lubricating oil to clean the window parts. We encourage homeowners to check their windows at least twice a year, on the 6/6 and 12/12 Window Safety Days (6 June and 12 December). Homeowners are also required to engage an approved window contractor to carry out any installation or repair works to their windows,” Er. Lim added.

5. 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

6. 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, they can face up to a maximum fine of S\$10,000 and/or jail term of up to one year. Since 2006, 303 people have been fined and 76 people have been prosecuted for fallen windows.

**Issued by the Building and Construction Authority and Housing & Development Board
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ANNEX A

COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS ABOUT WINDOW SAFETY

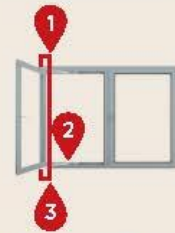
	MYTH	FACT
1	Sliding windows would not fall	Sliding windows can also fall if they are not regularly maintained. Homeowners should check that the safety stoppers and angle strips of sliding windows are in their proper place, clean the windows and ensure that window panels can slide smoothly, and change 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:



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Supporting Partner:

