



**Window Falls Roundtable  
Ad Hoc Committee Meeting  
November 15, 1994, 9:30 a.m.-Noon  
Room 714, East West Towers**

**Log of Meeting**

**Date of Log Entry:** November 16, 1994  
**Source of Log Entry:** Susan Kyle, Ph.D., Management and Program Analyst  
Office of Hazard Identification and Reduction  
CPSC  
**Attendees:** See attached list

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**Summary of Meeting**

The meeting was convened by the Consumer Product Safety Commission as a follow up to the July 27, 1994 meeting on window falls. CPSC Chairman Ann Brown opened the meeting with brief remarks emphasizing her concern about the problem of children falling from windows and her commitment to seeing a solution to the problem developed and implemented.

Ron Medford called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. He stated that the purpose of the meeting was to follow up on suggestions made at the July 27 meeting, and to determine if there were any other approaches to dealing with the window falls problem that the committee might pursue.

The first item discussed was the suggestion made in the July 27 meeting that a design contest be held for the best window /screen design that would provide adequate ventilation and be child-proof, escape-worthy, safely cleaned on both sides from the inside, reasonably priced, attractive, keep insects out and provide a security advantage. Discussion centered around the need to define precisely what it is we want to accomplish. The issue of retrofit versus new design was raised: should the design contest be for a retrofit accessory design which would make windows currently in use safer, or should it be for a totally new window design. It was noted that there are over 1 billion windows currently in use, while only about 47 million windows are manufactured each year.

The need for a common body of data to support the committee's efforts was discussed. A data work group was formed with the understanding that data analysis will not impede the progress of the award process, and that the data work group will have balanced representation. Harold Evans agreed to chair the data subcommittee. Mr. Evans will submit work group member names to CPSC for concurrence.

Sandy Jones suggested that part of the design contest be an awareness program for children which would be educational for both children and parents. Children would develop and submit awareness designs and an award for best design would be given at the same time as the window design award.

The need for private sector funding was noted. The possibility of CPSC contributing money was discussed. Ron Medford indicated that there was no funding planned for this purpose and that he thought private sector funding was appropriate.

CPSA 6 (b)(1) Cleared

No Mfrs/PrvtLblrs or  
Products Identified  
Excepted by

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*[Signature]*

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Jane Roemer of the National Safety Council agreed to chair an Award work group. The group will consider issues including retrofit versus new construction, necessary steps in the awards process, funding for the award and the award process, and other groups to get involved in the process, such as the insurance industry. Marvin Cantor from AIA will be working with Jane Roemer to organize this effort.

Harold Evans gave a summary of the report "Window Safety: Data and Patterns Related to Entrapments and Accidental Falls From Windows" by the Window Safety Study Committee. The report analyzed data from the National Fire Protection Association, the Consumer Product Safety Commission, the National Center for Health Statistics, and the National Safety Council. It emphasized the importance of windows as a means of emergency egress and rescue and noted that building codes throughout the country require the use of windows as a means of emergency escape and rescue. The study concluded that "any approach to minimize the risk of window falls must not in any way impede escape or rescue through windows, resulting in an unacceptable life safety tradeoff." Mr. Evans noted that statistics are not kept concerning the positive contributions that windows make and that fall accidents are not the fault of the window per se, but are due to the way the window is used.

Suzi Solomon reported that a Boston initiative to require window guards similar to the New York City requirement was rejected by the Board of Health and Hospitals. However, an ordinance was passed which established a window falls prevention program in the Department of Health and Hospitals. The purpose of this program is to educate the public about the danger of children falling from windows, and to encourage the voluntary installation of window safety guards on windows in dwellings occupied by children age six and under. She showed two video tapes: a public service announcement featuring Eric Clapton advising parents to be aware of the hazard of children falling from windows, and "Kids Can't Fly" which was part of the Boston "Kids Can't Fly" campaign to prevent window falls.

Carole Sullivan reported that the American Academy of Pediatrics is formulating a position statement on falls to be published in approximately a year. The Academy would be interested in any input the Ad Hoc committee might provide since they want to consider all available information in formulating their position.

The last topic discussed was window guards and whether or not some sort of industry standard is necessary to ensure that window guards intended to protect children are adequate. Mike von Kaenel noted that there are 700-800 window guard manufacturers. It was suggested that window guards are covered by building code requirements for guardrails. A committee was formed to compile existing codes and standards relating to window guards.

Three work groups formed: Awards group, under chairmanship of Jane Roemer, National Safety Council; Data group, Harold Evans, Andersen Corporation, chairman; and Standards and Codes group, Mike von Kaenel, National Ornamental and Miscellaneous Metal Association, Chairman. No date for the next meeting was set in order to allow time for the work groups to form, meet, and have something to report to the overall committee.

The meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.



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**Attendees**

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