



# Oregon

Kate Brown, Governor

## Department of Human Services

*Safety, Oversight, and Quality*

*PO Box 14530, Salem, OR 97309*

*3406 Cherry Ave NE, Salem, OR 97303*

*Phone: (503) 373-2227*

*Fax (503) 378-8966*

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**To:** Community Based Care Providers:  
Assisted Living, Residential Care, Memory Care Facilities



**Subject:** Window Safety Reminder – Preventing Accidental Falls

This is a reminder about the importance of ensuring upper floor facility windows have adequate mechanisms to prevent windows from opening wide enough to allow the possibility of a resident to fall out of an unsecured window. The care and safety of residents in our facilities is essential.

**Important things to consider:**

- Oregon Administrative Rule 411-054-200(5)(g)(C) specifies, "...Operable windows must be designed to prevent accidental falls when sill heights are lower than 36 inches and above the first floor."
- Resident unit windows with a windowsill lower than 36 inches require window mechanisms that prevent the window from opening greater than four inches to allow a person to fall out.
- Window barrier devices need to be removable, without the use of tools, allowing windows to be utilized as a fire escape when needed.
- Best practice is to have barrier devices assessed by the local fire authority.
- These rules have been in place since 1994 for RCF and 1999 for ALF. If your building was constructed before these dates, and you have windowsills lower than 36 inches, please contact your policy analyst.
- Review and communicate your existing facility policies and procedures with all facility staff to ensure resident safety.

To contact the Community Based Care Licensing Policy team please email us at:

[CBC.team@state.or.us](mailto:CBC.team@state.or.us)