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PRESS ADVISORY

For Immediate Release

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Announcing National Window Safety Week

Mechanicsburg, Pa. – Each year, about eight children, under age five, die from falling out of a window. More than 3,000 are injured seriously enough to go to the hospital. As spring arrives, the Window Safety Task Force (WSTF) of the National Safety Council (NSC) and the American Trauma Society, Pennsylvania Division (ATSPA) wants to ensure your children are safe.

Each year, the first full week of April is dedicated to educating the public about the importance of practicing window safety year-round. This year Window Safety Week will be observed Sunday, April 5 through Saturday, April 11.

ATSPA CEO, Krista Brands stated, “Falls from a window can result in serious injury or death and pose an especially dangerous threat for children. These incidents are also preventable. At ATSPA, we want to continue to inform the public on the importance of taking the proper safety precautions in order to prevent injury and death.”

The ATSPA recommends the following safety measures to protect your children:

1. When young children are around, keep windows closed and locked.
2. When opening a window for ventilation, use those located out of a child’s reach.
3. Avoid placing furniture near windows to prevent young children from climbing and gaining access to an open window.
4. Don’t allow children to jump on beds or other furniture to help reduce potential falls.
5. Don’t rely on insect screens to prevent a window fall. Insect screens are designed to keep bugs out, not to keep children in the home.
6. Supervise children to keep child’s play away from windows, balconies or patio doors.
7. Install ASTM F2090 compliant devices designed to limit how far a window will open or window guards (with quick-release mechanisms in case of fire or another emergency) to help prevent a fall.
8. Teach your child how to safely use a window to escape during an emergency, such as a fire.

For more information on window safety or National Window Safety Week, contact the ATSPA at 717-766-1616.

The American Trauma Society, PA Division (ATSPA) is a non-profit trauma prevention education organization dedicated to reducing suffering, disability and death due to trauma. The ATSPA strives to help all Pennsylvanians survive and lead healthier lives through its trauma prevention education programs. For information, call 717-766-1616 and visit www.atspa.org.

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