

## FALLS

Falls are the leading cause of accidental injury to children. Nearly 40 percent of all nonfatal injuries to children are associated with falls. Each year, more than 100 children ages 14 and under die from accidental falls and approximately 2.3 million emergency room visits by children ages 14 and under are for accidental falls. Children ages 4 and under account for more than half of these fatalities and 40 percent of these injuries.

- ❑ Each year, approximately 18 children ages 10 and under die as a result of falling from a window, and an estimated 4,700 children ages 14 and under are treated in emergency rooms for injuries sustained from falling out of windows; 28 percent of these children require hospitalization.
- ❑ Each year, an estimated 15 children ages 14 and under die and more than 200,000 are treated in emergency rooms for injuries involving playground equipment. More than 70 percent of these injuries involve falls to the surface and 10 percent involve falls onto equipment.
- ❑ Protective surfacing under and around playground equipment can reduce the severity of injuries, and even prevent injuries, in the event of a fall. According to a 2002 national survey, 75 percent of public playgrounds lack adequate protective surfacing.



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