

# EMERGENCY ESCAPE

## EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENINGS FOR NEW CONSTRUCTION

### WHERE DO I NEED AN ESCAPE WINDOW?

Basements and every sleeping room below the 4th floor shall have at least one operable emergency and rescue opening. Such opening shall open directly into a public street, alley, yard or court. Where basements contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency egress and rescue openings shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the basement.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR AN EMERGENCY ESCAPE OPENING

Where emergency escape and rescue openings are provided, they shall have a sill height of no more than 44 inches above the floor.

- All emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet.
- The minimum net clear opening height shall be 24 inches.
- The minimum net clear opening width shall be 20 inches.
- Emergency escapes and rescue windows shall be operational from the inside room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.

### WINDOW WELLS

The minimum horizontal area of the window well shall be 9 square feet with a minimum horizontal projection and width of 36 inches. The area of the window shall allow the emergency escape and rescue opening to be fully opened.

### LADDER AND STEPS

- Window wells with a vertical depth greater than 44 inches shall be equipped with a permanently affixed ladder or steps usable with the window in the fully open position.
- Ladders or rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12 inches, shall project at least 3 inches from the wall and shall be spaced not more than 18 inches on center vertically for the full height of the well.
- Cover or guard is also required over or around the well if the bottom of the window well is more than 30" below grade.

### MAKE A FAMILY ESCAPE PLAN

Inhaling as little as one or two breaths of smoke can be fatal. Having an escape plan and practicing it with your family can save lives. Follow these simple tasks to ensure your family's safety.

- Make sure you practice escaping from each room in your house.
- Once you are out of the home, **STAY OUT!** Do not go back into the house for personal items.
- Have a familiar place to meet your family in the event of an emergency or fire.
- Firefighters are friends. Let your children know they are there to help and to not hide from them.

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