BROCHURE # 74
EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE WINDOWS

FIRE SAFETY

Many fire deaths happen when people are asleep in their home. The Kitsap County Building & Fire Code requires that all sleeping rooms and basements have at least one openable door or window to allow occupants to escape, and rescue personnel wearing full gear to enter the building for rescue and firefighting.

Window Requirements

Egress windows must open directly into a public street, public alley, yard or exit court. The windows may exit to an interior exit court, provided the exit court has a passageway that provides exit to the public way. Egress windows MUST:

- Have a net clear openable area of 5.7 square feet;   (Or 5.0 s.f. for windows within 44" of exterior grade).
- Have a net clear openable height dimension of 24";
- Have a net clear openable width dimension of 20";
- Have a finished sill height no higher than 44" above the floor; and
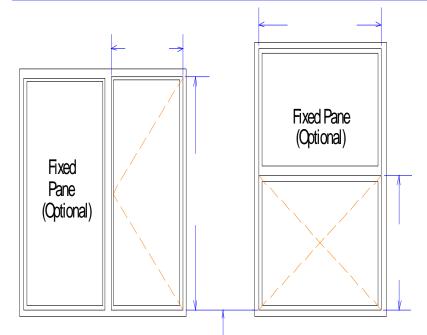- Be operable from the inside without special knowledge, tools or effort.

Bars, grates or grilles may be installed on egress windows if they are equipped with approved release mechanisms that are openable from the inside without use of a key, special knowledge, or a force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape & rescue opening.

Window Wells

Emergency escape windows are not required to have an escape route down to grade. However, any egress window below adjacent grade must have a window well.

Window wells must allow the window to be fully opened and provide a minimum net clear opening of 9 square feet and a minimum dimension of 36".

Window wells with a vertical depth of more than 44" must be equipped with a permanent ladder that is usable with the window in the fully open position. Ladder rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12", shall project at least 3" from the wall, and shall be spaced not more than 18" on center for the full height of the window well.

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