EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE WINDOWS

The 2016 California Residential Code regulates emergency escape and rescue windows in residential buildings. The following requirements shall apply when permits are issued for new residential buildings and for replacement of existing windows in residential buildings.

Emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet (0.53 m²). *Except The minimum net clear opening for emergency escape and rescue grade-floor openings may be 5 square feet (0.46 m²).* The minimum net clear opening height dimension shall be 24" inches (610 mm). The minimum net clear opening width dimension shall be 20" inches (508 mm). The net clear opening dimensions shall be the result of normal operation of the opening. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall have the bottom of the clear opening not greater than 44 inches (1118 mm) measured from the floor.

*Please note:* The minimum dimensions of 20" x 24" will not provide the 5 or 5.7 square feet clear opening dimension. If you have any questions please contact a Building Inspector.