



SKIPPACK TOWNSHIP

www.skippacktownship.org

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Board Of Supervisors

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Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings

SECTION R310

EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENINGS

R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue required. *Basements*, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have at least one operable emergency escape and rescue opening, where *basements* contain one or more sleeping rooms, emergency egress and rescue openings shall be required in each sleeping room. Where emergency escape and rescue openings are provided they shall have a sill height of not more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the floor. Where a door opening having a threshold below the adjacent ground elevation serves as an emergency escape and rescue opening and is provided with a bulkhead enclosure, the bulkhead enclosure shall comply with Section R310.3. The net clear opening dimensions required by this section shall be obtained by the normal operation of the emergency escape and rescue opening from the inside. Emergency escape and rescue openings with a finished sill height below the adjacent ground elevation shall be provided with a window well in accordance with Section R310.2. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall open directly into a public way, or to a yard or court that opens to a public way.

Exception: *Basements* used only to house mechanical equipment and not exceeding total floor area of 200 square feet (18.58 m²).

R310.1.1 Minimum opening area. All emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet (0.530 m²).

Exception: *Grade* floor openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5 square feet (0.465 m²).

R310.1.2 Minimum opening height. The minimum net clear opening height shall be 24 inches (610 mm).

R310.1.3 Minimum opening width. The minimum net clear opening width shall be 20 inches (508 mm).

R310.1.4 Operational constraints. Emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.

R310.2 Window wells. The minimum horizontal area of the window well shall be 9 square feet (0.9 m²), with a minimum horizontal projection and width of 36 inches (914 mm). The area of the window well shall allow the emergency escape and rescue opening to be fully opened.

Exception: The ladder or steps required by Section R310.2.1 shall be permitted to encroach a maximum of 6 inches (152 mm) into the required dimensions of the window well.

R310.2.1 Ladder and steps. Window wells with a vertical depth greater than 44 inches (1118 mm) shall be equipped with a permanently affixed ladder or steps usable with the window in the fully open position. Ladders or steps required by this section shall not be required to comply with Sections R311.7 and R311.8. Ladders or rungs shall have an inside width of at least 12 inches (305 mm), shall project at least 3 inches (76 mm) from the wall and shall be spaced not more than 18 inches (457 mm) on center, vertically for the full height of the window well.

R310.3 Bulkhead enclosures. Bulkhead enclosures shall provide direct access to the *basement*. The bulkhead enclosure with the door panels in the fully open position shall provide the minimum net clear opening required by Section R310.1.1. Bulkhead enclosures shall also comply with Section R311.7.8.2.

R310.4 Bars, grilles, covers and screens. Bars, grilles, covers, screens or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency escape and rescue openings, bulkhead enclosures, or window wells that serve such openings, provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with Sections R310.1.1 to R310.1.3, and such devices shall be releasable or removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool, special knowledge or force greater than that which is required for normal operation of the escape and rescue opening.

R310.5 Emergency escape windows under decks and porches. Emergency escape windows are allowed to be installed under decks and porches provided the location of the deck allows the emergency escape window to be fully opened and provides a path not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height to a yard or court.

2009 INTERNATIONAL RESIDENTIAL CODE®

• Note: Ladder must not impede opening of window. Ladder or steps must be included on window wells exceeding 44" vertical depth.

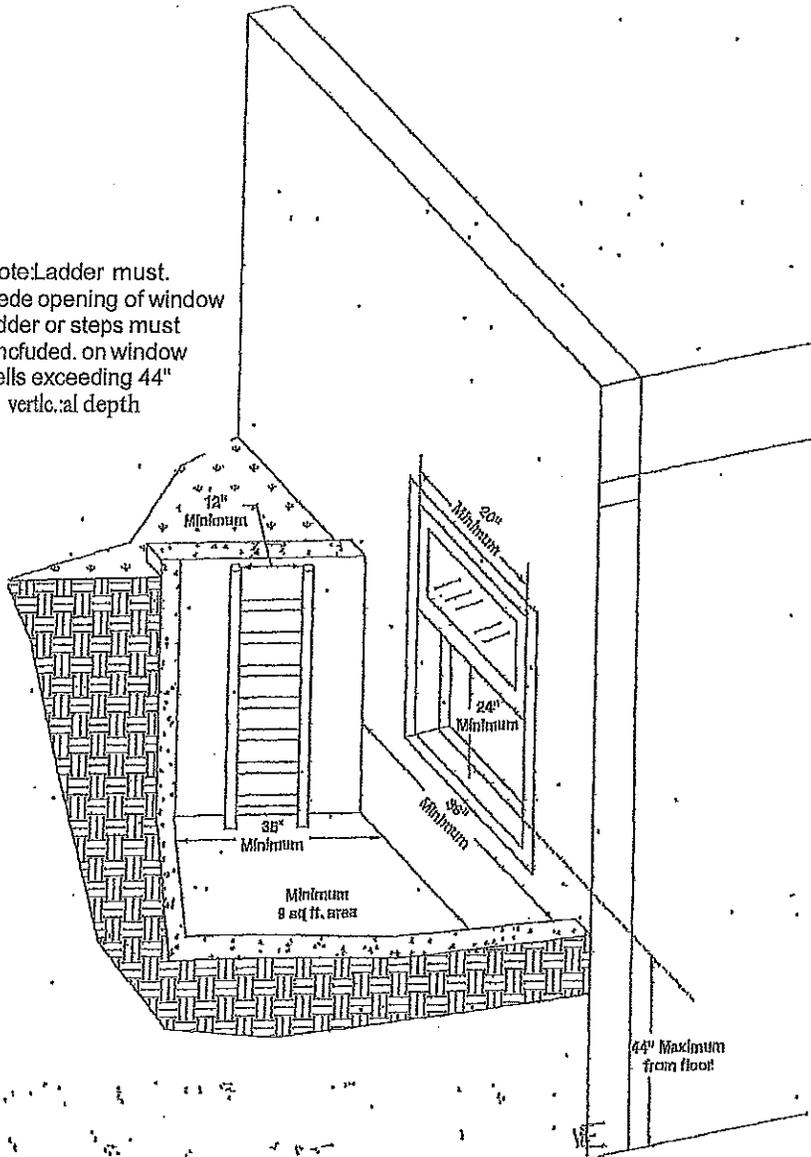


Figure 9: Basement Egress Window

CHANGE TYPE. Addition

CHANGE SUMMARY; A new section permits travel from an escape and rescue opening to a safe area to occur below an exterior deck or porch, provided the path is at least 36 inches in height.

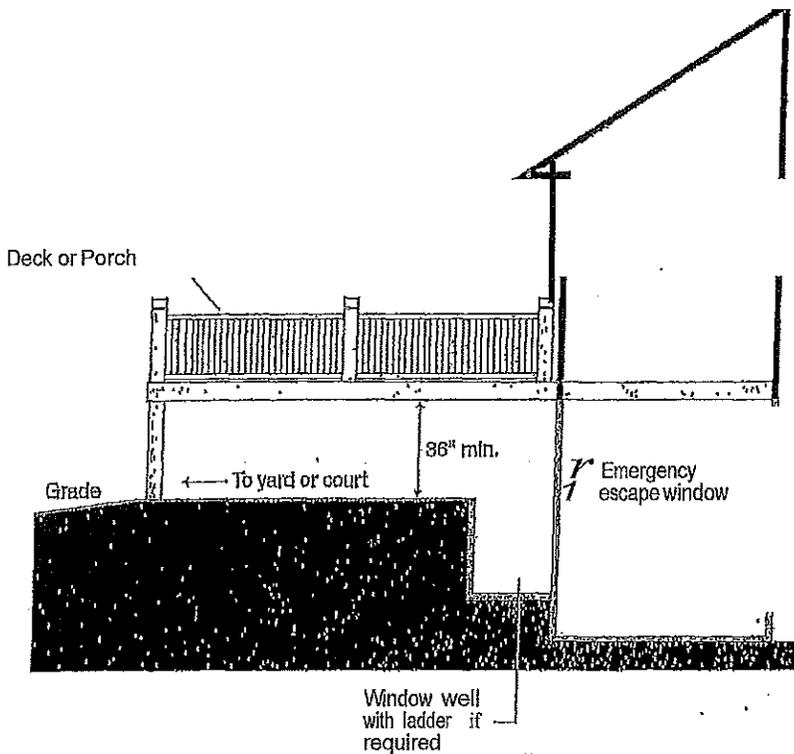
2006 CODE: 310.5 Emergency Escape Windows under Decks and Porches. Emergency escape windows are allowed to be installed under decks and porches provided the location of the deck allows the emergency escape window to be fully opened and provides a path not less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height to a yard or court.

CHANGE SIGNIFICANCE. The provisions of Section R310.1 mandate that a window utilized for emergency escape and rescue be located directly adjacent to an open space such as a street, alley, yard, or court. However, the design of some houses, particularly townhouses, makes the underside of decks or porches the only location where such an opening can be located. This new provision permits emergency escape or rescue openings to lead directly to an under-deck or under-

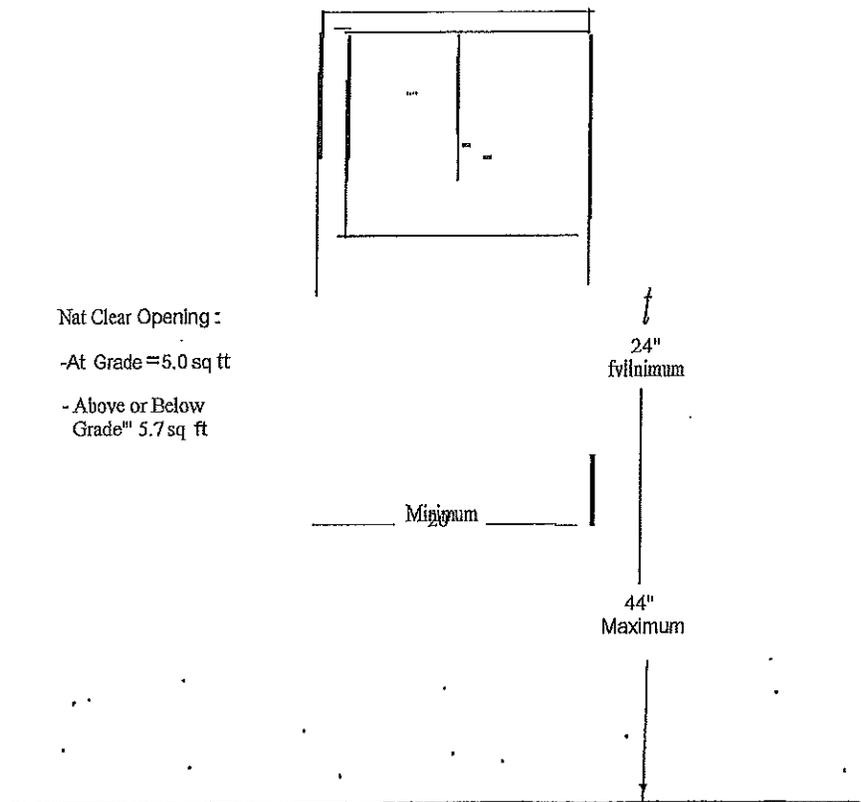
R310.5 continues

R310.5

Emergency Openings under Decks and Porches

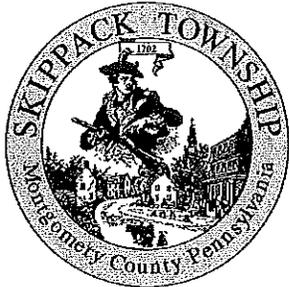


Emergency Openings under Decks and Porches



Nat Clear Opening :
-At Grade = 5.0 sq ft
- Above or Below
Grade = 5.7 sq ft

Figure 3.8: Egress Window



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2006 International Energy Conservation Code

The 2006 International Energy Conservation Code requires interior basement walls to have minimum R13 framing cavity insulation or R10. continuous insulation. Type of insulation to be used is required on plans.

Section Table 402.1.1