DETERMINING EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE OPENINGS

Net Openable Height (inches) _____ X _____ Net Openable Width (inches) = _____
Divided by 144 (square inches) = _____ square feet.

NOTES:

1) Clear openable height must be at least 24”.
2) Clear openable width must be at least 20”.
3) Distance from floor to the finished sill must be 44” or less.
4) Clear openable area must be equal or greater than 5.7 sq ft (grade floor openings or below-grade openings may have clear openable areas of not less than 5 sq ft, per an exception).
5) Window wells, if applicable, shall have a horizontal area of not less than 9 sq ft, with a horizontal projection width of not less than 36 inches, and the emergency escape and rescue opening must be able to open fully (additional requirements for ladders and steps and drainage may apply).
6) Requirements apply to basements, habitable attics, & all sleeping rooms (few exceptions apply) and are required to open directly to a public way, or yard or court that opens to a public way.
7) This handout is not intended to be a complete listing of all possible code requirements. The full text of the code as indicated by reference section is always applied: 2018 ICC IRC Sections R310-R312.