

## Why Trust Anyone Else?

### What is an EGRESS window?

Too many times people are trapped in a burning house and cannot escape. This review will help you to understand an Egress window. All sleeping rooms must have two means of egress (escape). Typically one doorway and at least one window. **The following was taken from the Wisconsin Universal Dwelling Code & Commentary 2004; Comm 21.03 Exits, doors, and hallways R310.1 Emergency escape and rescue required.** Basements and every sleeping room shall have at least one operable emergency and rescue opening. Such opening shall open directly into a public street, public 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. 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



- **6) WINDOWS USED FOR EXITING.**  
Windows which are installed for exit purposes shall comply with the requirements of this subsection.
- (a) The window shall be openable from the inside without the use of tools or the removal of a sash. If equipped with a storm or screen, it shall be openable from the inside
- (b) 1. The nominal size of the net clear window opening shall be at least 20 inches by 24 inches irrespective of height or width. Nominal dimensions shall be determined by rounding up fractions of inches if they are  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or greater or rounding down fractions of inches if they are less than  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch.
- 2. No portion of the window, including stops, stools, meeting rails and operator arms, shall infringe on the required opening.
- (c) The area and dimension requirements of par. (b) may be infringed on by a storm window.
- (d) 1. For any window used for exiting, the lowest point of clear opening shall be no more than 60 inches above the floor.
- 2. If the lowest point of clear opening is more than 46 inches above the floor, a permanent platform or fixture shall be installed such that a flat surface at least 20 inches wide and 9 inches deep is located no more than 46 inches directly below the clear opening.
- 3. The topmost surface of the platform or fixture shall be no more than 24 inches above the floor.
- 4. The topmost surface of the platform or fixture shall support a live load of at least 200 pounds.
- 5. A Step used for the sole purpose of reaching the top of the platform or fixture is exempt from the requirements of s. Comm 21.04. (Stairways and Elevated areas)
- (e) 1. An egress window with any point of clear opening below adjacent grade shall be provided with an areaway in accordance with this section.
- 2. The width of the areaway shall be at least equal to the width of the window.
- 3. The areaway shall be a minimum of 36 inches measured perpendicular from the outer surface of the below-grade wall.
- 4. If the bottom of the areaway is more than 46 inches below adjacent grade or the top of the areaway enclosure, the areaway shall be provided with a ladder or at least one additional step to aid egress. Steps used to comply with this section are exempt from the requirements of s. Comm 21.04.
- International Residential code covers ladders, the Wisconsin UDC does not.
- 6. The areaway shall be constructed such that water entering
- the areaway does not enter the dwelling.