

Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings



Village of Hoffman Estates

Code Enforcement
1900 Hassell Road
Hoffman Estates, IL 60169
(847) 781-2631
www.hoffmanestates.org/permits

Emergency escape and rescue opening requirements:

- Habitable attics, basements 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 above the floor.
- Emergency escape and rescue openings with a finished sill height below the adjacent ground elevation shall be provided with a window well.
- Window well shall be a minimum of 9 square feet with a minimum of 3 feet from foundation wall. Permanently affixed ladder is required for well deeper than 44 inches.
- All emergency escape and rescue openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5.7 square feet, except grade floor openings shall have a minimum net clear opening of 5 square feet. 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.
- The minimum net clear opening height shall be 24 inches. The minimum net clear opening width shall be 20 inches.
- Emergency escape and rescue openings shall be operational from the inside of the room without the use of keys, tools or special knowledge.
- Bars, grilles, covers, screens or similar devices are permitted to be placed over emergency openings, bulkhead enclosures, or window wells that serve such openings, provided the minimum net clear opening size complies with above requirements. 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.

