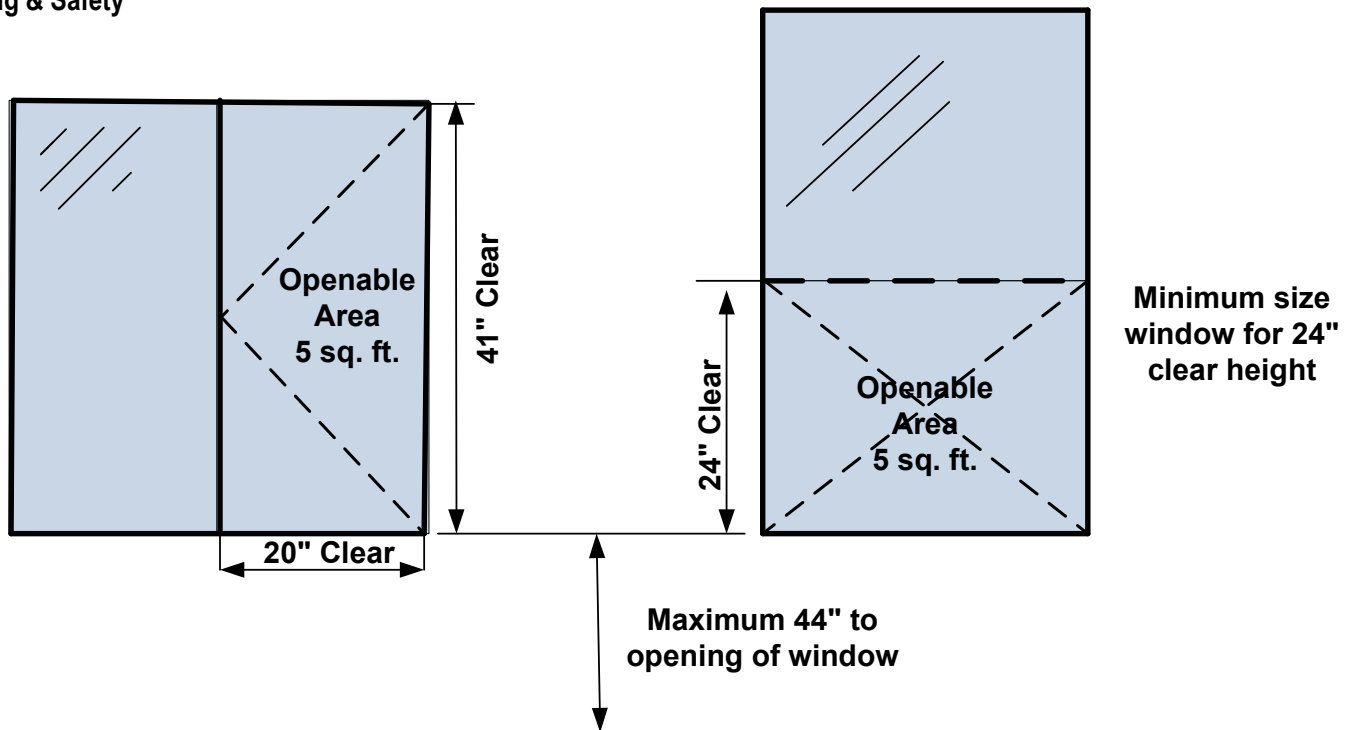


## Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows

### 2010 California Residential Code Section 310



Because so many fire deaths occur when occupants of residential buildings are asleep at the time of a fire, the California Building Code requires that:

- basements in dwelling units; and,
- every sleeping room below the fourth story shall have at least one operable window or door approved for emergency escape and rescue. This exit shall open directly into a public street, public alley, yard or exit court. The units shall be operable from the inside to provide a full clear opening without the use of separate tools.

#### The minimum size window requirements found in Section 310

- The net clear openable area shall be no less than 5.0 square feet on the first floor (5.7 sq. ft. on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor).
- In addition to the above requirement, the net clear openable height dimension shall be a minimum of 24 inches. The net clear openable width dimension shall be a minimum of 20 inches. (Note: Using both minimum figures will NOT obtain the required 5 square feet).
- The window opening height shall not be more than 44 inches above the floor.

Minimum Width/Height Requirements for Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows (inches)

Multiply the Width X Height ÷ 144 = Sq. Ft. of Opening  
(see next page for window sizing chart)

## Minimum Width/Height Requirements for Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows (inches)

### First Floor

Width	20	20.5	21	21.5	22	22.5	23	23.5	24	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27
Height	36	35	34.5	33.5	32.7	32	31.3	30.7	30	29.3	28.8	28.3	27.7	27.3	26.7

Width	27.5	28	28.5	29	29.5	30	30.5	31	31.5	32	32.5	33	33.5	34	34.2
Height	26.1	25.7	25.3	24.8	24.4	24	23.6	23.2	22.9	22.5	22.2	21.8	21.5	20.9	21

### Second Floor

Width	20	20.5	21	21.5	22	22.5	23	23.5	24	24.5	25	25.5	26	26.5	27
Height	41.1	40.1	39.1	38.2	37.3	36.5	35.7	35	34.2	33.5	32.9	32.2	31.6	31	30.4

Width	27.5	28	28.5	29	29.5	30	30.5	31	31.5	32	32.5	33	33.5	34	34.5
Height	29.9	29.3	28.8	28.3	27.9	27.4	26.9	26.5	26.1	25.7	25.3	24.9	24.5	23.5	23.8

### Bedroom Window Egress

The second exit required in a bedroom is usually a window. The dimensions of the opening are to assure the residents an escape route, but equally important, they are designed to allow a firefighter with a backpack to enter. This opening must be a minimum of 24" high. The window sill must not be higher than 44" from the floor.

