



MEANS OF EGRESS REQUIREMENTS EGRESS WINDOWS

CITY OF LACONIA FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION
848 NORTH MAIN STREET, LACONIA, NH 03246

Call (603) 524-6881 for appointments and information

FIRE
PREVENTION
Means of Egress
400-5
March 2025

Every sleeping room in residential or institutional structures shall have at least one, operable window or exterior door approved for emergency escape or rescue. The secondary means of escape is not required in building provided with an approved automatic sprinkler system or rooms with a door leading directly to the outside of the building or at grade level.

The window shall:

Be operable from the inside without the use of special tools, keys or requiring special effort.

and

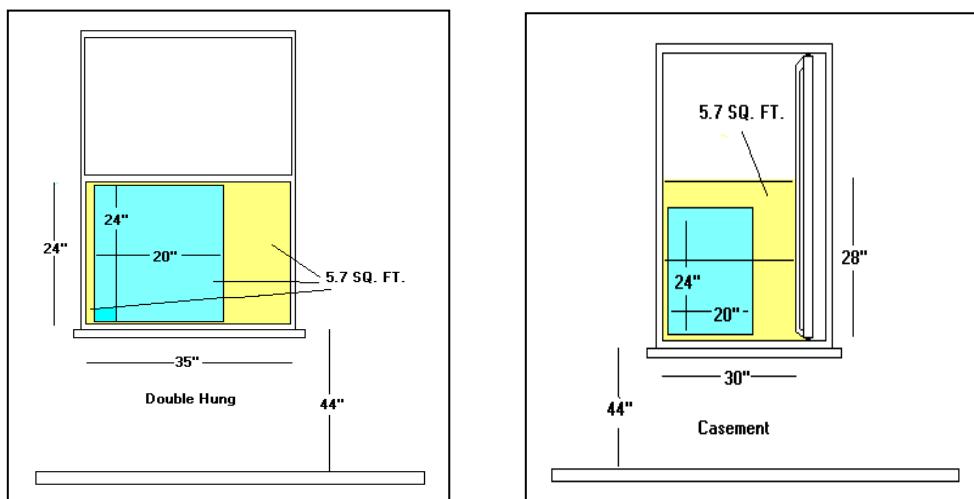
(NEW) An egress window is an outside window operable from the inside without the use of tools, keys, or any special effort. It shall provide a clear opening of **not less than 5.7 square feet in the natural open position** for new windows. The window width shall be not less than 20 in. and the height shall be not less than 24 in. The bottom of the window opening shall be not more than 44 in. above the floor.

or

(EXISTING) The clear opening of an existing secondary means of escape shall be:

1. The opening (natural open position) for a wood, vinyl, aluminum, or fiberglass framed window shall be a minimum of 20" X 24" (3.3 sq. ft.). - For the occupant(s) to escape and for firefighters to enter for search & rescue.
2. The opening (natural open position) of a steel framed window shall be a minimum of 20" X 24" with at least one dimension exceeded to provide not less than 5.0 square feet of net free opening.

Guidance: The minimum clear opening was based on tests conducted to determine the minimum size of the wall opening required to allow a firefighter wearing turnout gear and SCBA entry into the room from the exterior to affect search and rescue.



Bars, grills, or screens placed over emergency escape windows shall be released or be removable from the inside without the use of a key, tool or greater force than is required for the normal operation of the window.

Window measurements are taken with the window open to its full extent. In the event the casement window slides into the opening the measurement is taken from the edge of the frame to the edge of the opened window section. Casement windows can be purchased with egress hardware to maximize the clear opening of the window.

Additionally:

- (1) The window shall be within 20 ft. of the finished ground level.
- (2) The window shall be directly accessible to fire department rescue apparatus as approved by the authority having jurisdiction.
- (3) The window or door shall open onto an exterior balcony.

Below is a chart indicating the width to height minimum, clear width, and opening required for approval as an egress window.

Width	Height	Square Foot in Inches	Minimum Clear Opening
20	41	144	5.7
21	39	144	5.7
22	37	144	5.7
23	36	144	5.8
24	34	144	5.7
25	33	144	5.7
26	32	144	5.8
27	31	144	5.8
28	30	144	5.8
29	29	144	5.8
30	28	144	5.8
31	27	144	5.8
32	26	144	5.8
33	25	144	5.7
34	24	144	5.7
35	24	144	5.8
36	24	144	6.0
37	24	144	6.2
38	24	144	6.3
39	24	144	6.5
40	24	144	6.7
41	24	144	6.8
42	24	144	7.0
43	24	144	7.2
44	24	144	7.3

The above clear width/area does not reflect rough opening space required.