



## **Construction Code Services Division**

### **Escape and Rescue Window Policy 2013-01**

From the Office of the Building Official

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Construction Code Services recognizes that the various code requirements for escape and rescue windows can be difficult to understand. The information herein is provided to help clarify the requirements so property owners know what requirements will be enforced by inspectors when installing/replacing escape and rescue windows. An escape and rescue window is an important life safety feature which provides a means of escape from smoke, fire, and other potentially hazardous conditions.

#### **2007 Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1309.0310**

Section R 310 of the Minnesota State Residential Code defines the size requirements for new and newly installed escape and rescue windows. Windows must have 5.7 square feet of net clear opening with a minimum clear opening height of 24 inches and a minimum clear opening width of 20 inches and a sill height of not more than 44 inches above the finished floor.

Section R 310.1.5 continues and exempts **replacement** windows from the requirements in Section 1309.0310 for buildings meeting the scope of the International Residential Code (One or Two Family Dwellings) when the replacement window is the largest standard size that will fit in the existing opening.

Other buildings not meeting the scope of the International Residential Code shall comply with 1305.1026 for Emergency Escape and Rescue (For complete requirements review State Building Code)

#### **Minneapolis Emergency Escape and Rescue Window Policy**

All new and newly created basements, sleeping rooms and replacement sleeping room windows must meet the requirements of the most current Minnesota State Building Code Chapter 1309.0310 for one and two family buildings and 1305.1026 for all other Group R occupancies.

Pursuant to section 1300.0110 of the Minnesota State Building Code, the Building Official may grant modification for individual cases when the owner or owner's representative can provide compliance with the intent and purpose and does not lessen the health, life and fire safety of this code.