



## Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings

### *Do you know about Fairfax County's egress rules ?*

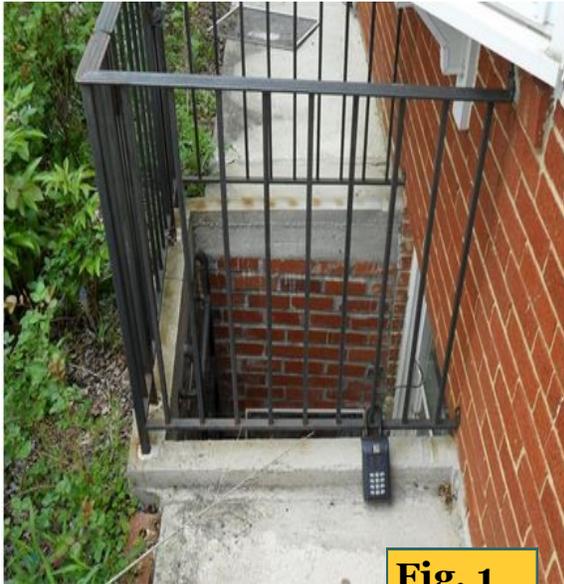
According to the Virginia Maintenance Code, means of egress must be provided throughout a dwelling so that:

- ◆ A safe, continuous and unobstructed path of travel is provided from any point in the structure to the exterior.
- ◆ Stairways, hallways, and all other paths of travel must be free of belonging to provide an aisle at least 36 inches wide of clear space.
- ◆ An emergency escape and rescue opening in the form of a window or a door, which opens directly to the exterior, is required for sleeping areas.
- ◆ Emergency escape openings shall be maintained in accordance with the building code in effect at the time of building construction and include:
  - A window opening directly to the exterior of the building (**Fig. 1 on back**).
  - A window opening below grade into a window well or areaway (**Fig. 1 & 2 on back**).
  - A door leading directly to the exterior of the building.
  - Basement windows must have a minimum clear opening of 5.7 square feet, which is a minimum window opening 20 inches wide x 24 inches high, (**Fig. 3 on back**) with the opening of the window no higher than 44 inches above the basement finished floor (**Fig. 4 on back**).

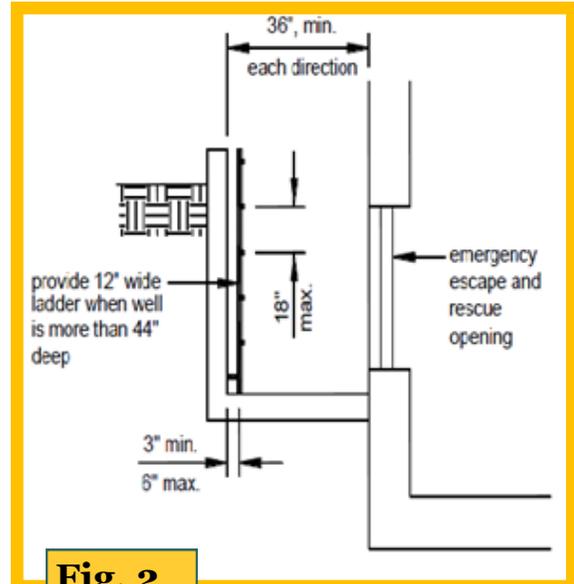
Turn Over



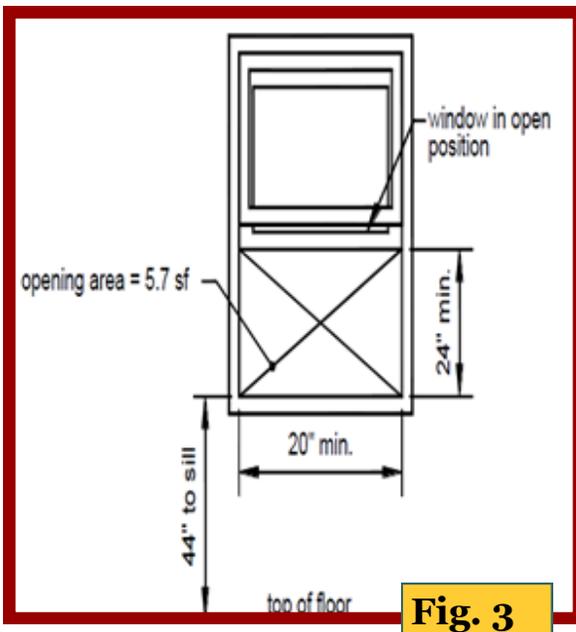
# Emergency Escape and Rescue Opening Examples:



**Fig. 1**



**Fig. 2**



**Fig. 3**



**Fig. 4**

To report a possible violation OR for more information contact:



Fairfax County Department of Code Compliance  
12055 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035  
Phone: 703-324-1300, TTY 711  
Web: [www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code](http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/code)



To request this information in an alternate format, call the Department of Code Compliance.

*This Fairfax County, Va. publication (October 2014) summarizes a few regulations. See relevant codes for specific requirements.*