



# CAL FIRE - OFFICE OF THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

## Code Interpretation 25-10

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Issued: September 23, 2025

## Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings – Fire Department Ground Ladders

### OVERVIEW

**Edition:** 2022 Title 24, California Building Standards (July 2024 Supplement)  
**Code:** Part 2-California Building Code (CBC), Part 9- California Fire Code (CFC)  
**Section(s):** Sections 1031.1  
**Requested By:** Bonnie Terra, Alameda County Fire Department  
Update requested by Contra Costa County Fire Department  
**Date Received:** September 28, 2017, Updated October 31, 2022

### QUESTION #1

Are the Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings in Group R occupancies (not meeting exceptions) required to be accessible to the fire department using ground ladders?

### ANSWER #1

Yes. Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings provide an alternate means of egress from bedrooms or basements during a fire. These openings must be accessible to the fire department using ground ladders and must be large enough to allow firefighter entry into the structure through the window.