



# Development Services Department



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## Building Official Determination

**Subject:** Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings at 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor / Bonus Room

**Issue / Question:** When is an emergency escape and rescue opening required at a second floor or second floor bonus room?

**Code References:** R310.1 states in part "Basements, habitable attics and every sleeping room shall have not less than one operable emergency escape and rescue opening." The IRC Code and Commentary further explains that as so many fire deaths occur as a result of occupants being asleep during a fire, the code requires windows or doors that may be used for emergency escape and rescue.

**Determination:** Where a second floor or second floor bonus room is a habitable space where occupants might congregate, or where the space might be used as a temporary guest sleeping area, an emergency escape and rescue opening shall be required.

Where an attic or bonus room is not habitable space and used only for storage, an emergency escape and rescue opening will not be required.

Tom Crosby  
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7/21/2025  
Date

**Planning • Zoning • Building • Code Enforcement • Engineering • GIS**

*While balancing diverse interests, the Canyon County Development Services Department (DSD) delivers community development services to implement the County's vision and values, provide stewardship of public resources, and maintain a prosperous future for all.*