

## CHAPTER 10 MEANS OF EGRESS

SECTION 1030.1  
2015 Edition  
IBC Interpretation 03-17  
Issued 5-11-2017  
BU\_15\_03\_17

### SECTION 1030 EMERGENCY ESCAPE AND RESCUE

**1030.1 General.** In addition to the *means of egress* required by this chapter, provisions shall be made for *emergency escape and rescue openings* in Group R-2 occupancies in accordance with Tables 1006.3.2(1) and 1006.3.2(2) and Group R-3 occupancies. *Basements* and sleeping rooms below the fourth story above *grade plane* shall have at least one exterior *emergency escape and rescue opening* in accordance with this section. Where *basements* contain one or more sleeping rooms, *emergency escape and rescue openings* shall be required in each sleeping room, but shall not be required in adjoining areas of the *basement*. Such openings shall open directly into a *public way* or to a *yard* or *court* that opens to a *public way*.

**Exceptions:**

1. *Basements* with a ceiling height of less than 80 inches (2032 mm) shall not be required to have *emergency escape and rescue openings*.
2. *Emergency escape and rescue openings* are not required from *basements* or sleeping rooms that have an *exit door* or *exit access door* that opens directly into a *public way* or to a *yard, court* or exterior exit balcony that opens to a *public way*.
3. *Basements* without *habitable spaces* and having not more than 200 square feet (18.6 m<sup>2</sup>) in floor area shall not be required to have *emergency escape and rescue openings*.



**Q:** Are emergency escape and rescue openings required in R-2 occupancies, where the story has more than one exit?

**A:** No.

Emergency escape and rescue openings are not required in R-2 occupancies where the story has more than one exit. As stated in Section 1030.1, emergency escape and rescue openings are required in accordance with Tables 1006.3.2(1) and 1006.3.2(2), which call for emergency escape and rescue openings in R-2 occupancies where the story has only a single exit.

Tables 1006.3.2(1) and 1006.3.2(2) refer to footnotes which require emergency escape windows in Group R-2 occupancies and sprinklers in accordance with NFPA 13 or NFPA 13R as conditions which are required for allowing single exits from the building or story.

These tables are intended to address potential building design parameters for Group R-2 occupancies which are provided with only **one exit**.