



## INFORMATION BULLETIN WINDOWS AS AN EXIT



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1. Windows as exits are an essential part of escape planning.
2. Windows can be identified as primary exit for rooms on the first floor and secondary for rooms on the second floor and higher.
3. Windows/doors should be options - taught and selected by individuals developing the plan - base plan on type of home and occupant - teach the safest way out.
4. Windows designated as escape routes should be:
  - a. Easily opened.
  - b. Not painted over.
  - c. Large enough to exit from.
  - d. Should not have keyed locks.
  - e. Should be able to open from the inside with no special knowledge.
  - f. Checked for operation and maintained on a regular basis.
5. Windows used for escape purposes from higher elevations (two-story and up) required escape ladders to assist individuals in a safe exit. Escape ladders should have standaway rungs.
6. If an escape ladder is not available, a sheet or blanket should be hung out the window to signal rescuers. If, as a last resort, an escape must be attempted, back out of the window, hang from the sill facing the building, and drop to the ground feet first.
7. Caution is urged in teaching children to break open windows. If forced to break them, clear all glass shards from sill, place blanket over sill, and escape.
8. Plan and practice escape routes utilizing windows. Educate the occupants on the operation of the windows and their safe escape.