INFORMATION SHEET

No. EG-02 : (Previously numbered E-02)
DATE : August 2, 2013
CATEGORY : Egress
SUBJECT : Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings to Yard for Existing or New Building of R-3 Occupancies

REFERENCE : 2013 San Francisco Building Code
Section 1029, Emergency Escape and Rescue
AB-005, Local Equivalency Case-by-Case Application Procedures
AB-028 Pre-application and Pre-addendum Plan Review Procedures

INTENT : To clarify local equivalency requirements if the subject openings that open to a yard that does not open to a public way for R-3 occupancies

DISCUSSION : SFBC Section 1029 requires subject openings to open directly into a public way or to a yard that opens to a public way. In the event that subject openings open to a yard that does not open to a public way for R-3 occupancies, the following local equivalencies can be used:

1. The intent of the code is that windows required by SFBC Section 1029 be available so that rescue can be effected from the exterior or, alternatively, by which one may escape from that window to the exterior of the building without having to travel through the building itself. If these emergency windows open onto a yard that has no access to a public way, they may not meet the requirements of the code. However, as an equivalency to this requirement, an emergency escape or rescue window may open into a yard with 25’ minimum depth.
2. Other conditions will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Supervisor or Manager. Pre-application meeting and/or approval of AB-005 is required.

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