



EMERGENCY ESCAPE & RESCUE OPENINGS OFFICIAL CODE INTERPRETATION

As of February 8, 2016, the new 2015 Michigan Residential Code took effect throughout the State of Michigan.

All homes with a C of O issued under the 2000 Michigan Residential Code, which was in effect July 31, 2001, or any code adopted after that code, that has habitable space in the basement, is required by code to have an emergency escape and rescue opening installed in the basement. This was a requirement in the 2000 Michigan Residential Code. This requirement was enhanced in the 2006 Michigan Residential Code, and became a mandatory requirement for every basement to have an emergency escape and rescue opening in the basement, regardless if the basement has habitable space or not.

All homes with habitable space in basements built **prior** to the 2000 Michigan Residential Code, which was in effect July 31, 2001 will now fall under the **2015 Michigan Residential Code Section 310.6 "Alterations or repairs of existing basements"**. This section now states **"an emergency escape and rescue opening is not required where existing basements undergo alterations or repairs"**. **Exception:** New sleeping rooms created in an existing basement shall be provided with emergency escape and rescue openings in accordance with Section R 310.1

All homes issued with a C of O under the 2000 and 2003 Michigan Residential Codes, that does not currently have habitable space in the basement, and are applying for permits to provide habitable space in the basement, will fall under Section 310.6 of the 2015 MRC and will not be required to install an emergency escape and rescue opening unless they are adding a bedroom or sleeping rooms.

Since all bedrooms and sleeping rooms require an emergency escape and rescue opening, a bedroom or sleeping room in any basement will require an emergency escape and rescue opening to code, regardless of when the home was built. **Exception:** The construction work was permitted, completed and approved or the work complies with a previous adopted code at the time of construction, as determined by the Code Official.

Permits, inspections and approvals are still required for work that was performed without Township approvals, regardless of who now owns the property.

For the purposes of Canton's Rental Inspection Program, all inspections performed prior to February 8, 2016 conformed to the adopted codes prior to that date. All work permitted on or after February 8, 2016 can be reviewed under the new 2015 Michigan Residential Code.

Rob Creamer, Building Official
Canton Township, Michigan (3-31-16)

Tim Faas, Director
734/394-5160

Building & Inspection Services
734/394-5200

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL SERVICES
1150 Canton Center S.
Canton, MI 48188-1699
www.canton-mi.org

Planning Services
734/394-5170
Public Works
734/394-5150

