



Washington State Building Code Council  
*Improving the built environment by promoting health, safety and welfare*

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**STATE BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION 17-24**

**CODE:** 2015 International Residential Code

**SECTION:** R310, Emergency Escape and Rescue Openings

**QUESTION:** I have a small basement connecting to an underground garage. The basement and garage are on the same level. The basement does not have any bedrooms located within it. The basement meets the code section R311 for means of egress. Code section R310 states you need an Emergency Escape Rescue Opening from the basement that leads directly to a public way or yard. The question is can you access the Emergency Escape Rescue Opening going through the garage? The Emergency Escape Rescue Opening in the garage leads directly to a yard

**ANSWER:** **No. The intent is to provide direct access from the habitable space to the outside. The definition of the phrase emergency escape and rescue opening is an operable window, door or similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency. Additionally, Section R311 prohibits traveling through a garage to access the required exit door from a dwelling to the exterior.**

**SUPERSEDES:** None

**REQUESTED BY:** City of Clyde Hill