

# Egress Window Winter Safety



It seems too nice to think about the cold and ice of the upcoming winter, but we Minnesotans are too well-versed in the seasonal changes and how rapidly they seem to creep up on us.

Now is the time to think windows, especially egress windows. A couple things we have seen with windows is people placing furniture in front of the window, causing window tracts to freeze due to condensation and water in the tract.

Common problems are beds with the headboard against the window, windows being frozen shut, and window wells full of snow, ice, and debris. Beds and other furniture, if placed against the window, shouldn't be taller than the sill height, if a bed is in front of the window please rotate the bed so the headboard is not on the window wall. Tracts, seals, and opening hardware should be kept dry to keep from freezing. Covers can be placed on window wells as long as they are easily removed and not frozen in place or covered in snow.



For more detailed information on egress windows, check out this document on the State Fire Marshals' website: [https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/document-library/Documents/Inspection%20Policies-General/INS04\(2007\)-Egresswindows.pdf](https://dps.mn.gov/divisions/sfm/document-library/Documents/Inspection%20Policies-General/INS04(2007)-Egresswindows.pdf) or call the St Cloud Fire Department Fire Prevention Office at (320) 650-3500

October is Fire Prevention month . . . a perfect time to work on this quick checklist:

- Change the batteries of your smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.
  - If your smoke detectors are more than 10 years old or carbon monoxide detectors more than 7 years old they should be replaced.
  - **PRACTICE** your home evacuation drills or create an evacuation drill if you don't have one yet.
- Clean your kitchen hood of any grease build up.
- Check your fire extinguisher.
- Discuss the dangers of lighters, matches, and candles with children.

Greg Adamietz, Assistant Fire Marshal  
St Cloud Fire Department  
(320) 255-7285