



**City of Fountain Valley**  
**FIRE PREVENTION AND HAZARDOUS**  
**10200 Slater Avenue, Fountain Valley, CA 92708**  
Fire Prevention  
PHONE: (714) 593-4542

## **Emergency Escape and Rescue Windows Access**

*Information contained herein applies to typical circumstances and may not address all situations.*

### **PURPOSE:**

This standard was established in order to ensure code compliant access to emergency escape and rescue windows where aerial apparatus access is not physically feasible, or where a nexus does not exist given the size of the building. Ladder pathways and pads are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and prior approval to utilize either of the two options is required. Where conflicts with required landscape elements are found (primarily trees) the construction type of the building shall be modified to eliminate the need for rescue windows.

### **REQUIREMENTS:**

Section 1030.1 - July 2021 Supplement of the 2019 California Fire & Building Code requires emergency escape and rescue openings in residential buildings where occupants may be sleeping during fire within buildings of Type IIB, Type IIIB, Type VA, and Type VB construction.

### **DEFINITIONS:**

**All-Weather Pathway/Surface:** Concrete, asphalt, pavers, or other approved engineered surface. Pathway shall be engineered to support a minimum 1,000 pound load.

**Emergency Escape and Rescue Window:** An operable window, or other similar device that provides for a means of escape and access for rescue in the event of an emergency.

**Ladder Pad:** A level, slip-resistant, all-weather surface, capable of supporting the weight of the ladder, firefighter(s) in gear, equipment, and person(s) to be rescued. Ladder pads shall be engineered to support a minimum 1000 pound load.

### **Perimeter of Buildings:**

An all-weather pathway/surface shall be provided for ground ladder access meeting all of the following requirements:

1. All-weather pathway shall be provided around the entire perimeter of the building;
2. Pathway width shall be a minimum of 60-inches;
3. Pathway shall be designed and installed so that the extended ladder angle of inclination is at least 70° and no greater than 76° from horizontal. An easy way to determine the proper distance is to divide the required length of ladder by four. For example, if 36 feet of ladder is needed to reach a window on the third floor, the butt of the ladder should be placed a minimum of 9 feet from the building (see Figure 1).
4. Ladder set-up shall not be obstructed by architectural features, trees, or landscaping.

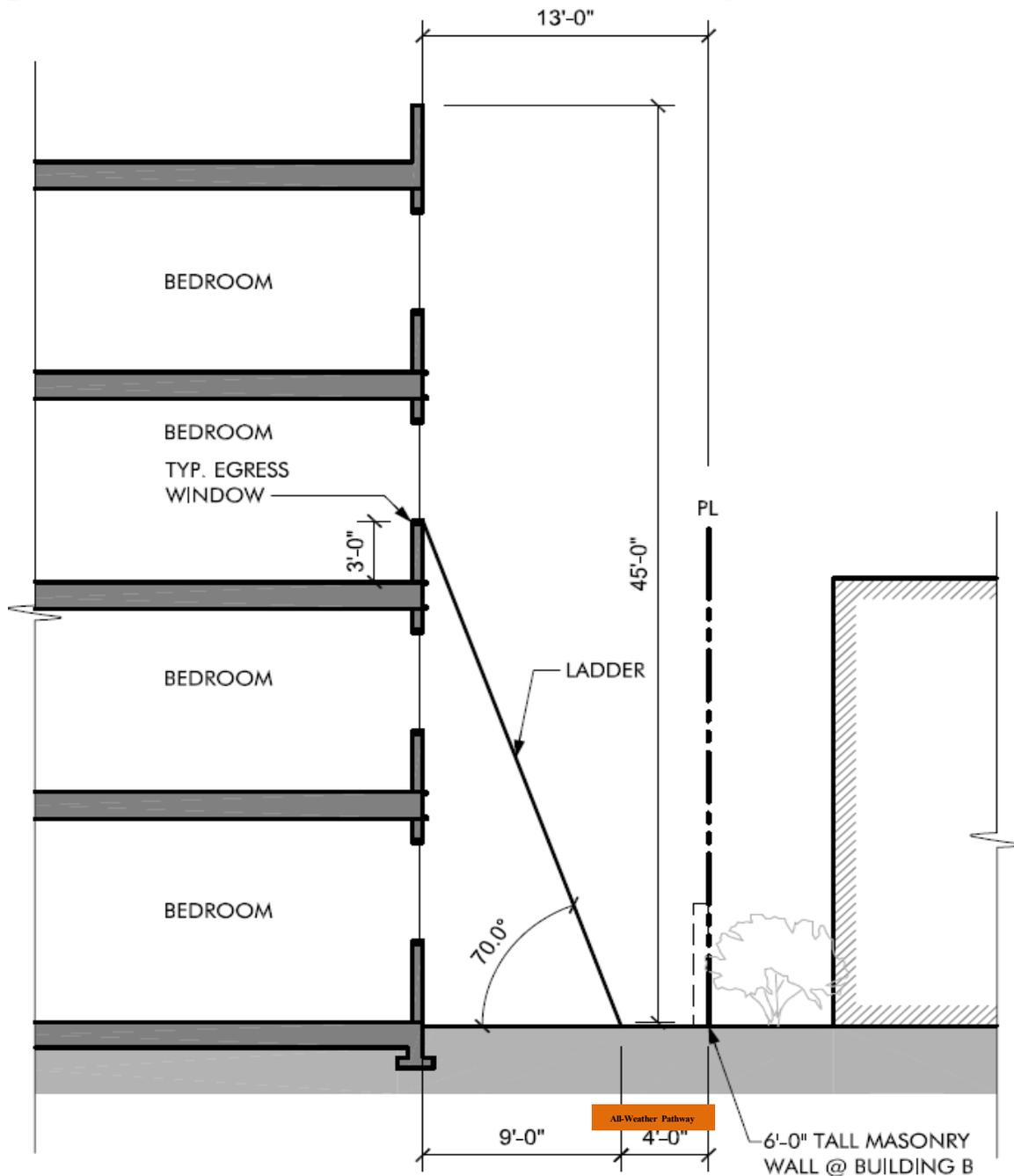
### **Interior Courtyards:**

Where there are fully enclosed interior courts, ladder pads are allowed to be utilized and shall comply with all of the following requirements:

1. A straight pathway from the public-way through the building to the interior court(s) shall be provided (code compliant stairs are acceptable);
2. Pathway width through the building shall be a minimum of 72" in width;
3. Ladder pads dimensions shall not be less than 4'- 0" wide by 5'- 0" deep by 6"- 0";

4. Ladder pads shall be designed and installed so that the extended ladder angle of inclination is at least  $70^\circ$  and no great than  $76^\circ$  from horizontal. An easy way to determine the proper distance is to divide the required length of ladder by four. For example, if 36 feet of ladder is needed to reach a window on the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor, the butt of the ladder should be placed a minimum of 9 feet from the building (see Figure 1).
5. Ladder Pads shall be permanently marked "Fire Dept. Ladder Pad".
6. Ladder set-up shall not be obstructed by architectural features, trees, or landscaping.

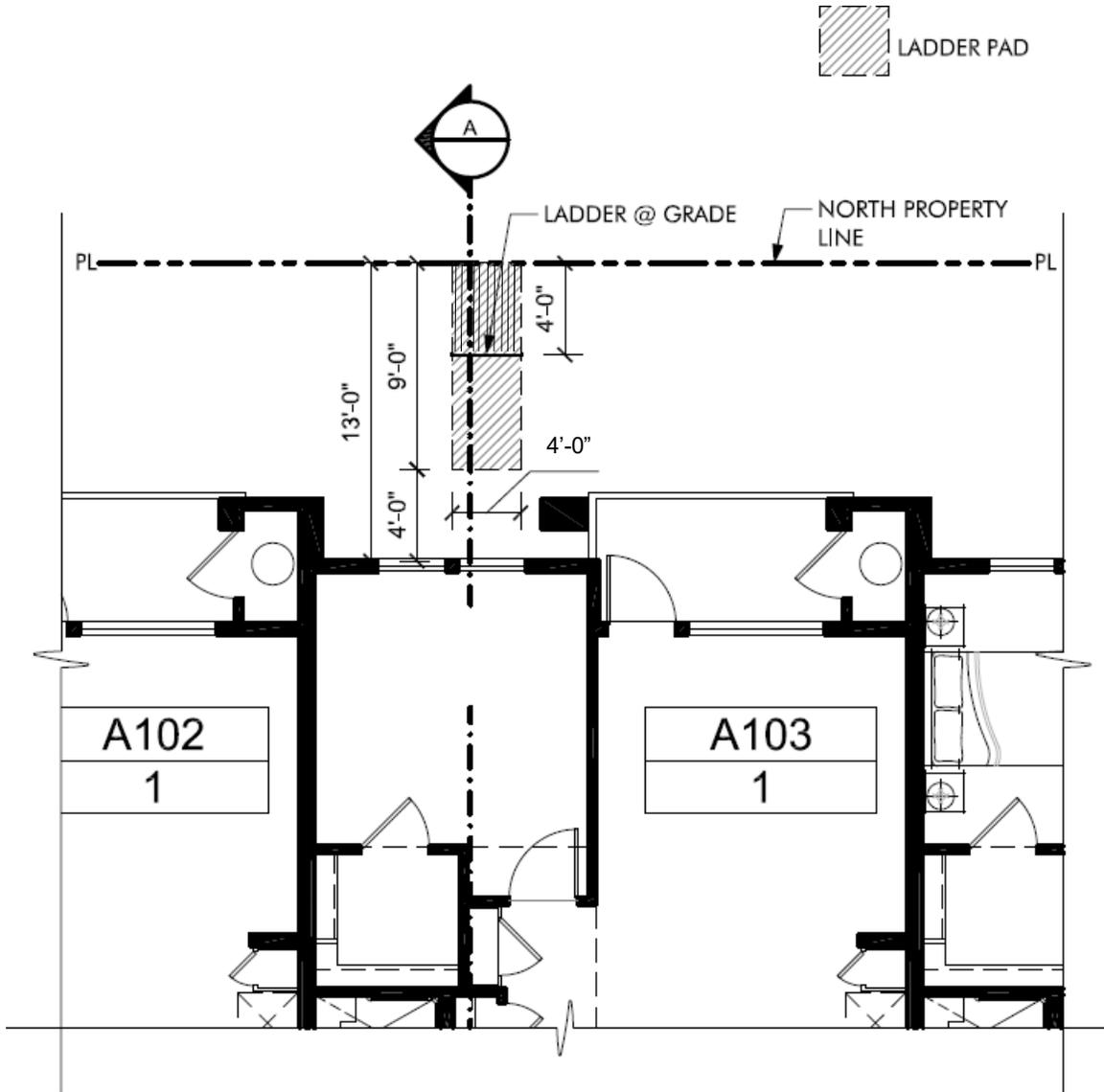
**Figure #1: Ground Ladder on Pathway**



**SITE SECTION "A"**

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"

# Figure #2: Ladder Pad (Interior Court Yards Only)



SITE PLAN

SCALE: 1/8" = 1'-0"