Securing Rooftop Hatches/Skylights and Fire Escapes

Source: Police Service Area (PSA) 208, Washington, D.C., Metropolitan Police Department

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Securing Skylights and Roof Top Hatches

- Skylights that don’t allow access via external entrance (roof top)
- Wire glass is always a good choice
  - Wire glass contains a wire mesh embedded within the glass to avoid shattering when broken
- Install metal bars on skylights
- Securing the window with an internal locking device (key optional)
- Alarms can be installed:
  - Either via security system
    - Ensure to poster advertisement on window
    - Use several safeguards
      - Shock
      - Break in circuit
      - Motion
  - A battery charged isolated alarm
    - Loud noise emanates from device once seal is broken
  - Internal window lock and alarm
  - Most of these items can be purchases at hardware stores or via home security provider.

Examples of skylights, hatches, and locking mechanisms:

Skylight secured with plastic cover (internal lock or permanent)
Roof Hatch with internal locking device and external locking capacities

Skylight with internal locking device

Roof hatch secured with two locks bolted in a cement wall
Securing a Fire Escape

- Never leave fire escape access stairs down.
- Secure fire escape in up position off the ground (avoid giving adverse subject access to your building).
- Don’t use it unless emergency (don’t get in routine of using this for normal entrance and exit into building).
- Don’t use fire escape as balcony or for leisure purposes.
- Inform other building tenants not to use fire escape unless emergency.
- Check to ensure fire escape has not been moved to down position.
- Inform neighbors when doing home repairs that require roof access.
- Don’t give access to construction workers or repair people unless needed and approved.

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