

## LA Fire Code Safety & Evacuation Standards

1. **Front & Rear Doors:** Must open fully to allow emergency technicians and firefighters in full gear and stretchers inside to every room in the home.
2. **Aisles to all rooms:** 3 foot clearance, measured with a yardstick. 4 feet to allow EMTs access to be on one of both sides of the stretcher during emergencies and not to fall down.  
**Reason:** firefighters in full gear & stretcher to access all rooms, front and back door, hallways, bedrooms, kitchen, and bathroom.
3. **Stacks:** under 3 feet high of boxes, clutter, etc on the floor.
4. **Ceiling clearance = 2 feet:** Nothing should be stacked on top of bookcases. **Reason:** To prevent movement/falling during earthquakes.
5. **Bookcases, tall furniture, armoires bolted to the wall w/L-brackets. Reasons:** Safety, earthquake protection, and disaster preparedness
6. **All exits must open fully.** This means front and back doors can open wide enough for the EMTs to enter and exit with your loved one on their stretcher.
7. **Windows** need to be clear of stacked boxes to permit healthy room ventilation.
8. **Weight load concerns.** Multi-story buildings are not prepared for unusually large weight loads in the middle of the room in apartments above the 1<sup>st</sup> floor. Fire-load pounds/weight limit of 45 lbs/square foot for safety, maintaining building integrity. This is more important for tenants not on the first floor of multi-story buildings.
9. **Electrical outlets** should only have 3 or 6 plugs in use, according to the outlet's capacity. Clearance should be 1 foot at each outlet. **Reason:** electrical fires occur from overloaded circuits where too many appliances plugged into overworked outlets can't safely handle the excess draw of electricity requested.
10. **No flammable liquids in the home**, such as gasoline, kerosene, etc. (Lighter fluid is OK.)  
**Reason:** Reduce the need for a fire department visit.
11. **No open flames** (other than stove while cooking) Fireplace must have 1 foot clearance.
12. **Pets?** No more pets than can be quickly evacuated in an emergency situation by the owner.  
**Reason:** In a fire, emergency responders won't have much time looking for too many pets.
13. **Working plumbing:** toilets, sinks, tub, hot and cold running water,
14. **Working electrical appliances:** stoves, refrigerators, heaters, etc. **Reason:** CA Health & Safety Code Section 17920.3 concerns any part of a home where any condition exists that endangers the life, limb, health, property, safety, or welfare of the public or occupants becomes a substandard building. This section lists about 30 specific items
15. **Heaters.** Plug in units are illegal as fire hazards. Floor and/or wall heaters need to be clear of any storage. No stored items on top of the floor heaters