

L.A. County DMH Hoarding Task Force L.A. Fire Code Safety & Evacuation Standards

- **Front Door:** Must open fully to allow emergency technicians and stretchers inside the home.
- **Aisles to all rooms:** 3 foot clearance, measured with yard stick. 4 feet to allow EMT's to 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.
- **Stacks:** Under 3 feet high of boxes, clutter, etc on the floor.
- **Ceiling clearance = 2 feet:** Nothing should be stacked on top of bookcases. Reason: To prevent movement/falling during earthquakes
- **Bookcases:** tall furniture, armoires bolted to the wall w/L-brackets. Reason: Safety, earthquake protection and disaster preparedness.
- **All exits must open fully.** This means front and back doors can open wide enough for the
- **EMT's** to enter and exit with your loved one on their stretcher.
- **Windows:** need to be clear of stacked boxes to permit healthy room ventilation.
- **Weight load concerns:** Multi-story buildings are not prepared for unusually large weight loads in the middle of the room in apartments above the 1st floor.
- **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.

- **No flammable liquids in the home:** such as gasoline, kerosene, etc. (Lighter fluid is ok) Reason: reduce the need for a fire department visit.
- **No open flames** (other than stove while cooking.) Fireplace must have 1 foot clearance.
- **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
- **Working plumbing:** toilets, sinks, tub, hot and cold running water.
- **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 terms.
- **Heaters:** Plugin units are illegal as fire hazards.