

## LA Fire Code Safety & Evacuation Standards

1. **Front Door:** Must open fully to allow emergency technicians and stretchers inside 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 fall down.  
**Reason:** firefighters in full gear & stretcher to access all rooms, front and back door, hallways, bedroom, 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 with L-brackets.**  
**Reason:** 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 you or your loved one of their stretcher.
7. **Windows:** Need to be clear of stacked boxes to permit healthy room ventilation.
8. **Wight 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 lift of 45lbs/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 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 appliance:** 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 unit are illegal as fire hazards.