SAFETY TIPS
From Your Building Inspector

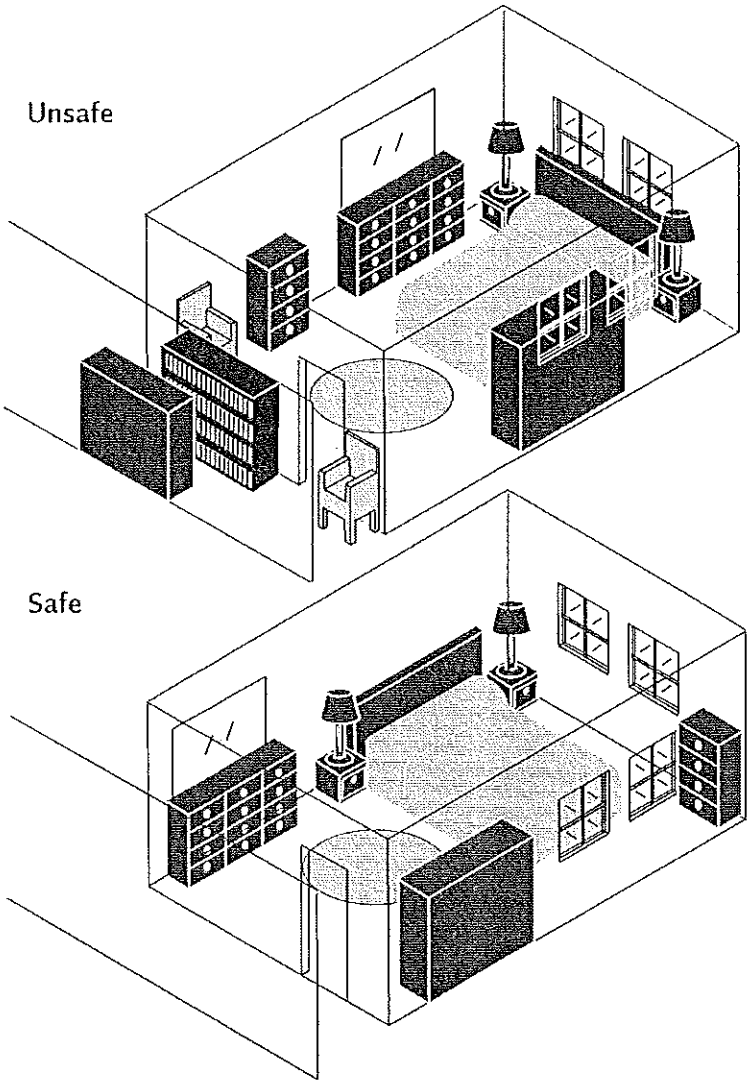
Make a Safe Exit

During a home emergency, such as a fire, it's important that all occupants are able to get out—and emergency personnel are able to get in—as quickly and easily as possible.

Safe Exit Paths and Passages:

- Keep hallways clear of obstructions.
- Do not block or obstruct emergency escape windows and exit doors.
- Make sure all family members know how to unlock and open windows and doors.
- Be sure window security bars release from the inside in case of emergency.
- Develop and practice a fire escape plan.

According to the U.S. Fire Administration, it takes less than 30 seconds for a small flame to burn completely out of control and turn into a major fire. Within minutes, a house can fill with thick, black smoke and become engulfed in flames. Building safety codes designate minimum window and hallway sizes so occupants will be able to get out in case of emergency, and provide access for first responders to get in. Contact your local building safety department for more information.



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