

**DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
DIVISION OF CODES AND STANDARDS**


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December 18, 2018

**INFORMATION BULLETIN 2018-05 (SHL, FBH, MH)**  
***Supersedes Information Bulletin 2018-01 and 2018-01 Supplement***

**TO:** Local Code Enforcement Agencies  
Third-Party Agencies (FBH, MH)  
Interested Parties (SHL, FBH, MH)  
State Agencies and Departments

**FROM:**  Richard Weinert, Deputy Director  
Division of Codes and Standards

**SUBJECT:** Emergency Housing –  
Permanent Adoption of Emergency Regulations  
Effective December 7, 2018  
2016 California Building Code  
2016 California Residential Code

The purpose of this Information Bulletin is to address the permanent adoption of emergency building standards amending the 2016 California Building Code (CBC) and the 2016 California Residential Code (CRC), effective December 7, 2018. These regulations are part of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 2 (CBC) and 2.5 (CRC).

The emergency regulations for emergency housing were approved for adoption by the California Building Standards Commission (CBSC) on April 17, 2018; and became effective for a 180-day period ending October 15, 2018. These emergency regulations were subsequently approved for readoption for an additional 90-day period ending January 14, 2019.

In order to adopt these emergency regulations as permanent regulations in the 2016 CBC and 2016 CRC, the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) conducted “certifying,” rulemaking process in accordance with California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Part 1, Section 1-419(e); Government Code Section 11346.1; and Health and Safety Code Section 18938. This involved two public review periods (July 13, 2018, to August 27, 2018; and October 8—23, 2018) and a public hearing

(held on August 16, 2018). During the CBSC meeting on December 4, 2018, the CBSC approved the certificate of compliance to make the emergency building standards permanent, and were filed with the Secretary of State and became effective on December 07, 2018.

On December 4, 2018, the CBSC also approved the emergency housing regulations to be “carried forward” into the 2019 CBC and 2019 CRC.

The regulations are now permanent voluntary appendices to the 2016 CBC and 2016 CRC that provide a consistent minimum standard by which local agencies may develop emergency housing or shelter ordinances. The regulations also provide a codified basis for HCD to review, provide recommendations on, and approve submitted local emergency housing or shelter ordinances, pursuant to Government Code Sections 8698.3 and 8698.4.

The final approved permanent text of these regulations is attached to this Information Bulletin and available on the CBSC website:  
<http://www.bsc.ca.gov/Rulemaking/regrule/CertifyingRulemakingsforApprovedEmergencyBuildingStandards.aspx>.

To receive notifications about rulemaking activities related to building standards, please subscribe to HCD’s email lists. Visit HCD’s website at [www.hcd.ca.gov](http://www.hcd.ca.gov), click on Email Sign Up and use check the box under “Building Standards” labeled “State Housing Law Program.”

If you have questions regarding this Information Bulletin, please contact Emily Withers, Codes and Standards Administrator II, at (916) 263-2998 or [Emily.Withers@hcd.ca.gov](mailto:Emily.Withers@hcd.ca.gov).

Attachment

## ATTACHMENT A

**Note:** The following document includes permanent changes for both the 2016 California Building Code and the 2016 California Residential Code. The Express Terms in this document were approved by the California Building Standards Commission on December 4, 2018, and filed with the Secretary of State on December 7, 2018. These regulations became effective on December 7, 2018.

**FINAL EXPRESS TERMS  
FOR PROPOSED BUILDING STANDARDS  
OF THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT  
REGARDING THE AMENDMENT OF  
THE 2016 CALIFORNIA BUILDING CODE, AND  
THE 2016 CALIFORNIA RESIDENTIAL CODE,  
CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS, TITLE 24, PARTS 2 AND 2.5  
(HCD EF 01/18)**

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The Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) proposes these emergency regulations to be permanently included into the 2016 editions of the California Building Code (CBC) and the California Residential Code (CRC) as presented on the following pages.

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### LEGEND FOR EXPRESS TERMS

1. Model Code language appears upright.
  2. Existing California amendments appear in *italics*.
  3. Amended model code or new California amendments appear *underlined and in italics*.
  4. Repealed model code language appears ~~upright and in strikeout~~.
  5. Repealed California amendments appear in ~~*italics and strikeout*~~.
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### SUMMARY OF REGULATION ACTION

**Adopt Appendix N on a permanent basis into the 2016 California Building Code.**

**Adopt Appendix X on a permanent basis into the 2016 California Residential Code.**

1. HCD proposes to adopt a voluntary Appendix N in the 2016 CBC as follows:

**APPENDIX N**  
**EMERGENCY HOUSING**

The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.

**SECTION N101**  
**GENERAL**

**N101.1 Scope.** This appendix shall be applicable to emergency housing and emergency housing facilities, as defined in Section N102.

**SECTION N102**  
**DEFINITIONS**

**N102.1 General.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of this code for general definitions.

**DECLARATION OF SHELTER CRISIS.** The duly proclaimed existence of a situation in which a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety. (See Government Code Section 8698.)

**DEPENDENT UNIT.** Emergency housing not equipped with a kitchen area, toilet, and sewage disposal system. Recreational vehicles that are not self-contained and without utility service connections shall be considered dependent units.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING.** Housing in a permanent or temporary structure(s), occupied during a declaration of state of emergency, local emergency, or shelter crisis. Emergency housing may include, but is not limited to, buildings and structures constructed in accordance with the California Building Standards Code; and emergency sleeping cabins, emergency transportable housing units, and tents constructed and/or assembled in accordance with this appendix.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING FACILITIES.** On-site common use facilities supporting emergency housing. Emergency housing facilities include, but are not limited to, kitchen areas, toilets, showers and bathrooms with running water. The use of emergency housing facilities is limited exclusively to the occupants of the emergency housing, personnel involved in operating the housing, and other emergency personnel.

**EMERGENCY HOUSING SITE.** A site containing emergency housing and emergency housing facilities supporting the emergency housing.

**EMERGENCY SLEEPING CABIN.** Relocatable hard-sided structure constructed in accordance with this appendix, which may be occupied only for emergency housing if allowed by the enforcing agency.

**EMERGENCY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNIT.** *A single or multiple section prefabricated structure that is transportable by a vehicle and that can be installed on a permanent or temporary site in response to a need for emergency housing. Emergency transportable housing units include, but are not limited to, manufactured homes, mobilehomes, multifamily manufactured homes, recreational vehicles, and park trailers. For the purposes of this appendix, emergency transportable housing units may also include commercial modulares as defined in the Health and Safety Code Section 18001.8, if approved by the enforcing agency.*

*Emergency transportable housing units do not include factory-built housing as defined in the Health and Safety Code Section 19971.*

**LANDING PLATFORM.** *A landing provided as the top step of a stairway accessing a loft.*

**LOCAL EMERGENCY.** *Local Emergency as defined in the Government Code, Section 8558.*

**LOFT.** *A floor level located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the main floor and open to it on at least one side with a ceiling height of less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm), used as a living or sleeping space.*

**MANUFACTURED HOME.** *A structure designed to be used as a single-family dwelling, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18007.*

**MEMBRANE STRUCTURE.** *An air-inflated, air-supported, cable or frame-covered structure, not otherwise defined as a tent. (See Chapter 31 of this code.)*

**MOBILEHOME.** *A structure designed to be used as a single-family dwelling, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18008.*

**MULTIFAMILY MANUFACTURED HOME.** *A structure designed to contain not less than two dwelling units, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18008.7.*

**PARK TRAILER.** *A trailer designed for human habitation that meets all requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18009.3.*

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.** *A motor home, travel trailer, truck camper, or camping trailer, with or without motive power, designed for human habitation, that meets all requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18010.*

**STATE OF EMERGENCY.** *State of Emergency as defined in the Government Code, Section 8558.*

**TENT.** *A structure, enclosure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.*

## **SECTION N103** **EMERGENCY HOUSING**

**N103.1 General.** Emergency sleeping cabins, emergency transportable housing units, membrane structures and tents constructed and/or assembled in accordance with this appendix, shall be occupied only during declaration of state of emergency, local emergency, or shelter crisis.

Buildings and structures constructed in accordance with the California Building Standards Code, used as emergency housing, shall be permitted to be permanently occupied.

**N103.2 Existing buildings.** Existing residential and nonresidential buildings or structures shall be permitted to be used as emergency housing and emergency housing facilities provided such buildings or structures comply with the building code provisions and/or other regulations in effect at the time of original construction and/or alteration. Existing buildings or structures used as emergency housing shall not become or continue to be substandard buildings, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**N103.2.1 New additions, alterations, and change of occupancy.** New additions, alterations, and change of occupancy to existing buildings shall comply with the requirements of the California Building Standards Code effective at the time of addition, alteration, or change of occupancy. The requirements shall apply only to and/or within the specific area of the addition, alteration, or change of occupancy.

**Exception:** Existing buildings and structures used for emergency housing and emergency housing facilities may not be required to comply with the California Energy Code, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**N103.3 Occupant load.** Except as otherwise stated in this appendix, the maximum occupant load allowed in buildings and structures used as emergency housing shall be determined by the enforcing agency, but the interior floor area shall not be less than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) for one occupant. Where more than one person occupies the building/structure, the required floor area shall be increased at the rate of 50 square feet (4.65 m<sup>2</sup>) for each occupant in excess of one.

**Exceptions:**

1. Tents.
2. Recreational vehicles and park trailers designed for human habitation that meet the requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Sections 18009.3 and 18010, as applicable.

**N103.4 Fire and life safety requirements not addressed in this appendix.** If not otherwise addressed in this appendix, fire and life safety measures, including, but not limited to, means of egress, fire separation, fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms, shall be determined and enforced by the enforcing agency.

**N103.5 Privacy.** Emergency housing shall be provided with a privacy lock on each

entrance door and all windows for use by the occupants.

**N103.6 Heating.** All sleeping areas shall be provided with adequate heating as determined by the enforcing agency.

## **SECTION N104** **EMERGENCY SLEEPING CABINS**

**N104.1 General.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall have an interior floor area of not less than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) for one occupant. Where more than one person occupies the cabin, the required floor area shall be increased at the rate of 50 square feet (4.65 m<sup>2</sup>) for each occupant in excess of one. The interior floor area shall not exceed 400 square feet (37 m<sup>2</sup>), excluding lofts.

**N104.2 Live loads.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be designed to resist intrusion of wind, rain, and to support the following live loads:

1. Floor live loads not less than 40 pounds per square foot (1.92 kPa) of floor area.
2. Horizontal live loads not less than 15 pounds per square foot (718 Pa) of vertical wall and roof area.
3. Roof live loads not less than 20 pounds per square foot (958 Pa) of horizontal roof area.
4. In areas where snow loads are greater than 20 pounds per square foot (958 Pa), the roof shall be designed and constructed to resist these additional loads.

**N104.3 Minimum ceiling height.** Habitable space and hallways in emergency sleeping cabins shall have a ceiling height of not less than 80 inches (2032 mm). Bathrooms, toilet rooms, and kitchens, if provided, shall have a ceiling height of not less than 76 inches (1930 mm). Obstructions shall not extend below these minimum ceiling heights including beams, girders, ducts, lighting and other obstructions.

**Exception:** Ceiling heights in lofts constructed in accordance with Section N108 are permitted to be less than 80 inches (2032 mm).

**N104.4 Means of egress.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with at least two forms of egress placed remotely from each other. One form of egress may be an egress window complying with Section N104.4.1. When a loft is provided, one form of egress shall be an egress window complying with Section N104.4.1, provided in the loft space.

**N104.4.1 Egress window.** The bottom of the clear opening of the egress window shall not be more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the floor. The egress window shall have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 inches (610 mm), and a minimum net clear opening width of 20 inches (508 mm). The egress window shall have a minimum net clear opening area of 5 square feet (0.465 m<sup>2</sup>).

**N104.5 Plumbing and gas service.** If an emergency sleeping cabin contains plumbing or gas service, it shall comply with all applicable requirements of the California Plumbing Code and the California Mechanical Code.

**N104.6 Electrical.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with all of the following installed in compliance with the California Electrical Code:

1. Continuous source of electricity.

**Exception:** The source of electricity may be an emergency generator or renewable source of power such as solar or wind power.

2. At least one interior lighting fixture.

3. Electrical heating equipment listed for residential use and a dedicated receptacle outlet for the electrical heating equipment.

**Exception:** Electrical heating equipment and a dedicated receptacle outlet for the electrical heating equipment are not required if a non-electrical source of heating is provided.

4. At least one GFCI-protected receptacle outlet for use by the occupant(s).

**N104.7 Ventilation.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with means of ventilation (natural and/or mechanical) allowing for adequate air replacement, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**N104.8 Smoke alarms.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with at least one smoke alarm installed in accordance with the California Residential Code, Section R314.

**N104.9 Carbon monoxide alarms.** If an emergency sleeping cabin contains a fuel-burning appliance(s) or a fireplace(s), a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in accordance with the California Residential Code, Section R315.

## **SECTION N105** **EMERGENCY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNITS**

**N105.1 General.** In addition to the requirements in this appendix, manufactured homes, mobilehomes, multifamily manufactured homes, commercial modulars, recreational vehicles, and park trailers used as emergency transportable housing shall comply with all applicable requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2; and Title 25, Division 1, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2.



**SECTION N106**  
**TENTS AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES**

**N106.1 General.** Tents shall not be used to house occupants for more than 7 days unless such tents are maintained with tight wooden floors raised at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) above the ground level and are equipped with baseboards on all sides to a height of at least 6 inches (152.4 mm). Tents may be maintained with concrete slabs with the finished surface at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) above grade and equipped with curbs on all sides at least 6 inches (152.4 mm) high.

A tent shall not be considered a suitable sleeping place when it is found necessary to provide heating facilities in order to maintain a minimum temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) within such tent during the period of occupancy.

Membrane structures installed and/or assembled in accordance with Chapter 31 of this code, may be permitted to be used as emergency housing and emergency housing facilities, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**SECTION N107**  
**ACCESSIBILITY**

**N107.1 General.** Emergency housing shall comply with the applicable requirements in Chapter 11B and/or the US Access Board Final Guidelines for Emergency Transportable Housing.

**Note:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (US Access Board) issued the Final Guidelines for Emergency Transportable Housing on May 7, 2014. The final guidelines amended the 2004 ADA Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ADAAG) and the 2004 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ABAAG) to specifically address emergency transportable housing units provided to disaster survivors by entities subject to the ADA or ABA. The final rule ensures that the emergency transportable housing units are readily accessible to and usable by disaster survivors with disabilities.

**SECTION N108**  
**LOFTS IN EMERGENCY HOUSING**

**N108.1 Minimum loft area and dimensions.** Lofts used as a sleeping or living space shall meet the minimum area and dimension requirements of Sections N108.1.1 through N108.1.3.

**N108.1.1 Minimum area.** Lofts shall have a floor area of not less than 35 square feet (3.25 m<sup>2</sup>).

**N108.1.2 Minimum dimensions.** Lofts shall be not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) in any horizontal dimension.

**N108.1.3 Height effect on loft area.** Portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

**Exception:** Under gable roofs with a minimum slope of 6:12, portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 16 inches (406 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

**N108.2 Loft access.** The access to and primary egress from lofts shall be any type described in Sections N108.2.1 through N108.2.4.

**N108.2.1 Stairways.** Stairways accessing lofts shall comply with the California Residential Code or with Sections N108.2.1.1 through N108.2.1.6.

**N108.2.1.1 Width.** Stairways accessing a loft shall not be less than 17 inches (432 mm) in clear width at or above the handrail. The minimum width below the handrail shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

**N108.2.1.2 Headroom.** The headroom in stairways accessing a loft shall be not less than 74 inches (1880 mm), as measured vertically, from a sloped line connecting the tread or landing platform nosings in the middle of their width.

**N108.2.1.3 Treads and risers.** Risers for stairs accessing a loft shall be not less than 7 inches (178 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) in height. Tread depth and riser height shall be calculated in accordance with one of the following formulas:

1. The tread depth shall be 20 inches (508 mm) minus 4/3 of the riser height, or
2. The riser height shall be 15 inches (381 mm) minus 3/4 of the tread depth.

**N108.2.1.4 Landing platforms.** The top step of stairways accessing lofts shall be constructed as a landing platform where the loft ceiling height is less than 74 inches (1880 mm). The landing platform shall be 18 inches (457 mm) to 22 inches (559 mm) in depth measured from the nosing of the landing platform to the edge of the loft, and 16 inches (406 mm) to 18 inches (457 mm) in height measured from the landing platform to the loft floor.

**N108.2.1.5 Handrails.** Handrails shall comply with the California Residential Code, Section R311.7.8.

**N108.2.1.6 Stairway guards.** Guards at open sides of stairways shall comply with the California Residential Code, Section R312.1.

**N108.2.2 Ladders.** Ladders accessing lofts shall comply with Sections N108.2.2.1 and N108.2.2.2.

**N108.2.2.1 Size and capacity.** Ladders accessing lofts shall have a rung width of not less than 12 inches (305 mm), and 10 inches (254 mm) to 14 inches (356 mm) spacing between rungs. Ladders shall be capable of supporting a 200 pound (90.7 kg) load on any rung. Rung spacing shall be uniform within 3/8-inch (9.5 mm).

**N108.2.2.2 Incline.** Ladders shall be installed at 70 to 80 degrees from horizontal.

**N108.2.3 Alternating tread devices.** Alternating tread devices are acceptable as allowed by the enforcing agency.

**N108.2.4 Loft guards.** Loft guards shall be located along the open side of lofts. Loft guards shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height or one-half of the clear height to the ceiling, whichever is less. Loft guards shall not have openings from the walking surface to the required guard height that allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter.

## **SECTION N109** **LOCATION, MAINTENANCE AND IDENTIFICATION**

**N109.1 Maintenance.** Emergency housing and emergency housing facilities shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition, and free from vermin, vectors and other matter of an infectious or contagious nature. The grounds within emergency housing sites shall be kept clean and free from accumulation of debris, filth, garbage and deleterious matter. Emergency housing and emergency housing facilities shall not be occupied if a substandard condition exists, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**N109.1.1 Fire hazards.** Dangerous materials or materials that create a fire hazard, as determined by the enforcing agency, shall not be allowed on the grounds within emergency housing sites.

**N109.2 Identification.** Emergency housing shall be designated by address numbers, letters, or other suitable means of identification. The identification shall be in a conspicuous location facing the street or driveway fronting the building or structure. Each identification character shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height and not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) in width, installed/painted on a contrasting background.

## **SECTION N110** **EMERGENCY HOUSING FACILITIES**

**N110.1 Drinking water.** Potable drinking water shall be provided for all occupants of emergency housing.

**N110.2 Kitchens.** Where occupants of dependent units are permitted or required to cook for themselves, a separate area shall be equipped and maintained as a common use kitchen. Refrigerated storage shall be provided for safe storage of food.

**N110.3 Toilet and bathing facilities.** *When dependent units are used as emergency housing, the emergency housing site shall be provided with one toilet and one bathing facility for every 15 occupants of each gender. The enforcing agency may permit different types and ratios of toilet and bathing facilities. The approval shall be based upon a finding that the type and ratio of toilet and bathing facilities are sufficient to process the anticipated volume of sewage and waste water, while maintaining sanitary conditions for the occupants of the emergency housing.*

*Bathing facilities shall be provided with heating equipment which shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of 70 degrees F (21.0 degrees Celsius) within such facilities.*

*Lavatories with running water shall be installed and maintained in the toilet facilities or adjacent to the toilet facilities.*

**N110.4 Garbage, waste and rubbish disposal.** *All garbage, kitchen waste and rubbish shall be deposited in approved covered receptacles, which shall be emptied when filled and the contents shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner acceptable to the enforcing agency.*

**NOTE:**

Authority Cited: Health and Safety Code Sections 17040, 17050, 17920.9, 17921, 17921.5, 17921.6, 17921.10, 17922, 17922.6, 17922.12, 17922.14, 17926, 17927, 17928, 18300, 18552, 18554, 18620, 18630, 18640, 18670, 18690, 18691, 18865, 18871.3, 18871.4, 18873, 18873.1 through 18873.5, 18938.3, 18944.11, and 19990; and Government Code Section 12955.1.

Reference: Health and Safety Code Sections 17000 through 17062.5, 17910 through 17995.5, 18200 through 18700, 18860 through 18874, and 19960 through 19997; Civil Code Sections 1101.4, and 1101.5, and 1954.201; and Government Code Sections 12955.1 and 12955.1.1.

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**2. HCD proposes to adopt a voluntary Appendix X in the 2016 CRC as follows:**

**APPENDIX X**  
**EMERGENCY HOUSING**

*The provisions contained in this appendix are not mandatory unless specifically referenced in the adopting ordinance.*

**SECTION AX101**  
**GENERAL**

**AX101.1 Scope.** *This appendix shall be applicable to emergency housing and emergency housing facilities, as defined in Section AX102.*

## **SECTION AX102** **DEFINITIONS**

**AX102.1 General.** *The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this appendix, have the meanings shown herein. Refer to Chapter 2 of this code for general definitions.*

**DECLARATION OF SHELTER CRISIS.** *The duly proclaimed existence of a situation in which a significant number of persons are without the ability to obtain shelter, resulting in a threat to their health and safety. (See Government Code Section 8698.)*

**DEPENDENT UNIT.** *Emergency housing not equipped with a kitchen area, toilet, and sewage disposal system. Recreational vehicles that are not self-contained and without utility service connections shall be considered dependent units.*

**EMERGENCY HOUSING.** *Housing in a permanent or temporary structure(s), occupied during a declaration of state of emergency, local emergency, or shelter crisis. Emergency housing may include, but is not limited to, buildings and structures constructed in accordance with the California Building Standards Code; and emergency sleeping cabins, emergency transportable housing units, and tents constructed in accordance with this appendix.*

**EMERGENCY HOUSING FACILITIES.** *On-site common use facilities supporting emergency housing. Emergency housing facilities include, but are not limited to, kitchen areas, toilets, showers and bathrooms with running water. The use of emergency housing facilities is limited exclusively to the occupants of the emergency housing, personnel involved in operating the housing, and other emergency personnel.*

**EMERGENCY HOUSING SITE.** *A site containing emergency housing and emergency housing facilities supporting the emergency housing.*

**EMERGENCY SLEEPING CABIN.** *Relocatable hard-sided structure constructed in accordance with this appendix, which may be occupied only for emergency housing if allowed by the enforcing agency.*

**EMERGENCY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNIT.** *A single or multiple section prefabricated structure that is transportable by a vehicle and that can be installed on a permanent or temporary site in response to a need for emergency housing. Emergency transportable housing units include, but are not limited to, manufactured homes, mobilehomes, multifamily manufactured homes, recreational vehicles, and park trailers. For the purposes of this appendix, emergency transportable housing units may also include commercial modulars as defined in the Health and Safety Code Section 18001.8, if approved by the enforcing agency.*

*Emergency transportable housing units do not include factory-built housing as defined in the Health and Safety Code Section 19971.*

**LANDING PLATFORM.** A landing provided as the top step of a stairway accessing a loft.

**LOCAL EMERGENCY.** Local Emergency as defined in the Government Code, Section 8558.

**LOFT.** A floor level located more than 30 inches (762 mm) above the main floor and open to it on at least one side with a ceiling height of less than 6 feet 8 inches (2032 mm), used as a living or sleeping space.

**MANUFACTURED HOME.** A structure designed to be used as a single-family dwelling, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18007.

**MEMBRANE STRUCTURE.** An air-inflated, air-supported, cable or frame-covered structure, not otherwise defined as a tent. (See Chapter 31 of the California Building Code.)

**MOBILEHOME.** A structure designed to be used as a single-family dwelling, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18008.

**MULTIFAMILY MANUFACTURED HOME.** A structure designed to contain not less than two dwelling units, as defined in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18008.7.

**PARK TRAILER.** A trailer designed for human habitation that meets all requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18009.3.

**RECREATIONAL VEHICLE.** A motor home, travel trailer, truck camper, or camping trailer, with or without motive power, designed for human habitation, that meets all requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Section 18010.

**STATE OF EMERGENCY.** State of Emergency as defined in the Government Code, Section 8558.

**TENT.** A structure, enclosure or shelter, with or without sidewalls or drops, constructed of fabric or pliable material supported by any manner except by air or the contents that it protects.

## **SECTION AX103** **EMERGENCY HOUSING**

**AX103.1 General.** Emergency sleeping cabins, emergency transportable housing units, membrane structures and tents constructed and/or assembled in accordance with this appendix, shall be occupied only during declaration of state of emergency, local emergency, or shelter crisis.

Buildings and structures constructed in accordance with the California Building Standards Code, used as emergency housing, shall be permitted to be permanently occupied.

**AX103.2 Existing buildings.** Existing residential and nonresidential buildings or structures shall be permitted to be used as emergency housing and emergency housing facilities provided such buildings or structures comply with the building code provisions and/or other regulations in effect at the time of original construction and/or alteration. Existing buildings or structures used as emergency housing shall not become or continue to be substandard buildings, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**AX103.2.1 New additions, alterations, and change of occupancy.** New additions, alterations, and change of occupancy to existing buildings shall comply with the requirements of the California Building Standards Code effective at the time of addition, alteration, or change of occupancy. The requirements shall apply only to and/or within the specific area of the addition, alteration, or change of occupancy.

**Exception:** Existing buildings and structures used for emergency housing and emergency housing facilities may not be required to comply with the California Energy Code, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**AX103.3 Occupant load.** Except as otherwise stated in this appendix, the maximum occupant load allowed in buildings and structures used as emergency housing shall be determined by the enforcing agency, but the interior floor area shall not be less than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) for one occupant. Where more than one person occupies the building/structure, the required floor area shall be increased at the rate of 50 square feet (4.65 m<sup>2</sup>) for each occupant in excess of one.

**Exceptions:**

1. Tents.
2. Recreational vehicles and park trailers designed for human habitation that meet the requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Sections 18009.3 and 18010, as applicable.

**AX103.4 Fire and life safety requirements not addressed in this appendix.** If not otherwise addressed in this appendix, fire and life safety measures, including, but not limited to, means of egress, fire separation, fire sprinklers, smoke alarms, and carbon monoxide alarms, shall be determined and enforced by the enforcing agency.

**AX103.5 Privacy.** Emergency housing shall be provided with a privacy lock on each entrance door and all windows for use by the occupants.

**AX103.6 Heating.** All sleeping areas shall be provided with adequate heating as determined by the enforcing agency.

## **SECTION AX104** **EMERGENCY SLEEPING CABINS**

**AX104.1 General.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall have an interior floor area of not less than 70 square feet (6.5 m<sup>2</sup>) for one occupant. Where more than one person occupies the cabin, the required floor area shall be increased at the rate of 50 square feet (4.65 m<sup>2</sup>) for each occupant in excess of one. The interior floor area shall not exceed 400 square feet (37 m<sup>2</sup>), excluding lofts.

**AX104.2 Live loads.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be designed to resist intrusion of wind, rain, and to support the following live loads:

1. Floor live loads not less than 40 pounds per square foot (1.92 kPa) of floor area.
2. Horizontal live loads not less than 15 pounds per square foot (718 Pa) of vertical wall and roof area.
3. Roof live loads not less than 20 pounds per square foot (958 Pa) of horizontal roof area.
4. In areas where snow loads are greater than 20 pounds per square foot (958 Pa), the roof shall be designed and constructed to resist these additional loads.

**AX104.3 Minimum ceiling height.** Habitable space and hallways in emergency sleeping cabins shall have a ceiling height of not less than 80 inches (2032 mm). Bathrooms, toilet rooms, and kitchens, if provided, shall have a ceiling height of not less than 76 inches (1930 mm). Obstructions shall not extend below these minimum ceiling heights including beams, girders, ducts, lighting and other obstructions.

**Exception:** Ceiling heights in lofts constructed in accordance with Section AX108 are permitted to be less than 80 inches (2032 mm).

**AX104.4 Means of egress.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with at least two forms of egress placed remotely from each other. One form of egress may be an egress window complying with Section AX104.4.1. When a loft is provided, one form of egress shall be an egress window complying with Section AX104.4.1, provided in the loft space.

**AX104.4.1 Egress window.** The bottom of the clear opening of the egress window shall not be more than 44 inches (1118 mm) above the floor. The egress window shall have a minimum net clear opening height of 24 inches (610 mm), and a minimum net clear opening width of 20 inches (508 mm). The egress window shall have a minimum net clear opening area of 5 square feet (0.465 m<sup>2</sup>).

**AX104.5 Plumbing and gas service.** If an emergency sleeping cabin contains plumbing or gas service, it shall comply with all applicable requirements of the California Plumbing Code and the California Mechanical Code.



**AX104.6 Electrical.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with all of the following installed in compliance with the California Electrical Code:

1. Continuous source of electricity.

**Exception:** The source of electricity may be an emergency generator or renewable source of power such as solar or wind power.

2. At least one interior lighting fixture.

3. Electrical heating equipment listed for residential use and a dedicated receptacle outlet for the electrical heating equipment.

**Exception:** Electrical heating equipment and a dedicated receptacle outlet for the electrical heating equipment are not required if non-electrical source of heating is provided.

4. At least one GFCI-protected receptacle outlet for use by the occupant(s).

**AX104.7 Ventilation.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with means of ventilation (natural and/or mechanical) allowing for adequate air replacement, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**AX104.8 Smoke alarms.** Emergency sleeping cabins shall be provided with at least one smoke alarm installed in accordance with Section R314.

**AX104.9 Carbon monoxide alarms.** If an emergency sleeping cabin contains a fuel-burning appliance(s) or a fireplace(s), a carbon monoxide alarm shall be installed in accordance with Section R315.

## **SECTION AX105** **EMERGENCY TRANSPORTABLE HOUSING UNITS**

**AX105.1 General.** In addition to the requirements in this appendix, manufactured homes, mobilehomes, multifamily manufactured homes, commercial modulares, recreational vehicles, and park trailers used as emergency transportable housing shall comply with all applicable requirements in the Health and Safety Code, Division 13, Part 2; and Title 25, Division 1, Chapter 3, Subchapter 2.

## **SECTION AX106** **TENTS AND MEMBRANE STRUCTURES**

**AX106.1 General.** Tents shall not be used to house occupants for more than 7 days unless such tents are maintained with tight wooden floors raised at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) above the ground level and are equipped with baseboards on all sides to a height of at least 6 inches (152.4 mm). Tents may be maintained with concrete slabs with the finished surface at least 4 inches (101.6 mm) above grade and equipped with curbs on all sides at least 6 inches (152.4 mm) high.

A tent shall not be considered a suitable sleeping place when it is found necessary to provide heating facilities in order to maintain a minimum temperature of 50 degrees Fahrenheit (10 degrees Celsius) within such tent during the period of occupancy.

Membrane structures installed and/or assembled in accordance with Chapter 31 of the California Building Code, may be permitted to be used as emergency housing and emergency housing facilities, as determined by the enforcing agency.

## **SECTION AX107** **ACCESSIBILITY**

**AX107.1 General.** Emergency housing shall comply with the applicable requirements in the California Building Code, Chapter 11B, and/or the US Access Board Final Guidelines for Emergency Transportable Housing.

**Note:** The Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board (US Access Board) issued the Final Guidelines for Emergency Transportable Housing on May 7, 2014. The final guidelines amended the 2004 ADA Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ADAAG) and the 2004 Architectural Barriers Act (ABA) Accessibility Guidelines (2004 ABAAG) to specifically address emergency transportable housing units provided to disaster survivors by entities subject to the ADA or ABA. The final rule ensures that the emergency transportable housing units are readily accessible to and usable by disaster survivors with disabilities.

## **SECTION AX108** **LOFTS IN EMERGENCY HOUSING**

**AX 108.1 Minimum loft area and dimensions.** Lofts used as a sleeping or living space shall meet the minimum area and dimension requirements of Sections AX108.1.1 through AX108.1.3.

**AX108.1.1 Minimum area.** Lofts shall have a floor area of not less than 35 square feet (3.25 m<sup>2</sup>).

**AX108.1.2 Minimum dimensions.** Lofts shall be not less than 5 feet (1524 mm) in any horizontal dimension.

**AX108.1.3 Height effect on loft area.** Portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 3 feet (914 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

**Exception:** Under gable roofs with a minimum slope of 6:12, portions of a loft with a sloping ceiling measuring less than 16 inches (406 mm) from the finished floor to the finished ceiling shall not be considered as contributing to the minimum required area for the loft.

**AX108.2 Loft access.** The access to and primary egress from lofts shall be any type described in Sections AX108.2.1 through AX108.2.4.

**AX108.2.1 Stairways.** Stairways accessing lofts shall comply with this code or with Sections AX108.2.1.1 through AX108.2.1.6.

**AX108.2.1.1 Width.** Stairways accessing a loft shall not be less than 17 inches (432 mm) in clear width at or above the handrail. The minimum width below the handrail shall be not less than 20 inches (508 mm).

**AX108.2.1.2 Headroom.** The headroom in stairways accessing a loft shall be not less than 74 inches (1880 mm), as measured vertically, from a sloped line connecting the tread or landing platform nosings in the middle of their width.

**AX108.2.1.3 Treads and risers.** Risers for stairs accessing a loft shall be not less than 7 inches (178 mm) and not more than 12 inches (305 mm) in height. Tread depth and riser height shall be calculated in accordance with one of the following formulas:

1. The tread depth shall be 20 inches (508 mm) minus  $\frac{4}{3}$  of the riser height, or
2. The riser height shall be 15 inches (381 mm) minus  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the tread depth.

**AX108.2.1.4 Landing platforms.** The top step of stairways accessing lofts shall be constructed as a landing platform where the loft ceiling height is less than 74 inches (1880 mm). The landing platform shall be 18 inches (457 mm) to 22 inches (559 mm) in depth measured from the nosing of the landing platform to the edge of the loft, and 16 inches (406 mm) to 18 inches (457 mm) in height measured from the landing platform to the loft floor.

**AX108.2.1.5 Handrails.** Handrails shall comply with Section R311.7.8.

**AX108.2.1.6 Stairway guards.** Guards at open sides of stairways shall comply with Section R312.1.

**AX108.2.2 Ladders.** Ladders accessing lofts shall comply with Sections AX108.2.1 and AX108.2.2.

**AX108.2.2.1 Size and capacity.** Ladders accessing lofts shall have a rung width of not less than 12 inches (305 mm), and 10 inches (254 mm) to 14 inches (356 mm) spacing between rungs. Ladders shall be capable of supporting a 200 pound (90.7 kg) load on any rung. Rung spacing shall be uniform within  $\frac{3}{8}$ -inch (9.5 mm).

**AX108.2.2.2 Incline.** Ladders shall be installed at 70 to 80 degrees from horizontal.

**AX108.2.3 Alternating tread devices.** Alternating tread devices are acceptable as allowed by the enforcing agency.

**AX108.2.4 Loft guards.** Loft guards shall be located along the open side of lofts. Loft guards shall not be less than 36 inches (914 mm) in height or one-half of the clear height to the ceiling, whichever is less. Loft guards shall not have openings from the walking surface to the required guard height that allow passage of a sphere 4 inches (102 mm) in diameter.

## **SECTION AX109** **LOCATION, MAINTENANCE AND IDENTIFICATION**

**AX109.1 Maintenance.** Emergency housing and emergency housing facilities shall be maintained in a safe and sanitary condition, and free from vermin, vectors and other matter of an infectious or contagious nature. The grounds within emergency housing sites shall be kept clean and free from accumulation of debris, filth, garbage and deleterious matter. Emergency housing and emergency housing facilities shall not be occupied if a substandard condition exists, as determined by the enforcing agency.

**AX109.1.1 Fire hazards.** Dangerous materials or materials that create a fire hazard, as determined by the enforcing agency, shall not be allowed on the grounds within emergency housing sites.

**AX109.2 Identification.** Emergency housing shall be designated by address numbers, letters, or other suitable means of identification. The identification shall be in a conspicuous location facing the street or driveway fronting the building or structure. Each identification character shall be not less than 4 inches (102 mm) in height and not less than 0.5 inch (12.7 mm) in width, installed/painted on a contrasting background.

## **SECTION AX110** **EMERGENCY HOUSING FACILITIES**

**AX110.1 Drinking water.** Potable drinking water shall be provided for all occupants of emergency housing.

**AX110.2 Kitchens.** Where occupants of dependent units are permitted or required to cook for themselves, a separate area shall be equipped and maintained as a common use kitchen. Refrigerated storage shall be provided for safe storage of food.

**AX110.3 Toilet and bathing facilities.** When dependent units are used as emergency housing, the emergency housing site shall be provided with one toilet and one bathing facility for every 15 occupants of each gender. The enforcing agency may permit different types and ratios of toilet and bathing facilities. The approval shall be based upon a finding that the type and ratio of toilet and bathing facilities are sufficient to process the anticipated volume of sewage and waste water, while maintaining sanitary conditions for the occupants of the emergency housing.

**Bathing facilities shall be provided with heating equipment which shall be capable of maintaining a temperature of 70 degrees F (21.0 degrees Celsius) within such facilities.**

Lavatories with running water shall be installed and maintained in the toilet facilities or adjacent to the toilet facilities.

**AX110.4 Garbage, waste and rubbish disposal.** All garbage, kitchen waste and rubbish shall be deposited in approved covered receptacles, which shall be emptied when filled and the contents shall be disposed of in a sanitary manner acceptable to the enforcing agency.

**NOTE:**

Authority Cited: Health and Safety Code Sections 17040, 17050, 17920.9, 17921, 17921.5, 17921.6, 17921.10, 17922, 17922.6, 17922.12, 17922.14, 17926, 17927, 17928, 18300, 18552, 18554, 18620, 18630, 18640, 18670, 18690, 18691, 18865, 18871.3, 18871.4, 18873, 18873.1 through 18873.5, 18938.3, 18944.11, and 19990; and Government Code Section 12955.1.

Reference: Health and Safety Code Sections 17000 through 17062.5, 17910 through 17995.5, 18200 through 18700, 18860 through 18874, and 19960 through 19997; Civil Code Sections 1101.4, and 1101.5, and 1954.201; and Government Code Sections 12955.1 and 12955.1.1.