



High-Rise Fire Safety Tips

It is important to know the fire safety features of your building and work with your neighbors to keep your building as fire-safe as possible.

- For the best protection, select a fully sprinklered building. If your building is not sprinklered, ask the landlord or management to consider installing a sprinkler system.
- Meet with your landlord or building manager to learn about the fire safety features of your building (fire alarms, sprinklers, voice communication procedures, evacuation plans, and how to respond to an alarm). Insist that all fire safety systems be kept in working order.
- Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- If you use a wheelchair or walker or are unable to make it down the stairs in case of an emergency, talk with your landlord or building manager about purchasing an evacuation chair.
- Make sure all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked, are not locked or blocked by security bars, and are clear of clutter.
- Learn the location of your building's fire alarms and how to use them.
- If there is a fire, pull the fire alarm on your way out of the building to notify the fire department and your neighbors.
- Leave the building by the fastest route but do not use elevators.
- Close all doors behind you and be sure to take your key.
- If there is smoke or fire on your way out, use your second way out. If you must escape through smoke, get low and go under the smoke to your way out.
- Some evacuation plans require you to go to a "safe area" ("shelter in place") inside the high-rise and wait for instructions from the fire department.
- Listen for instructions from fire fighters or public address system—you may be told to stay where you are. Follow instructions.
- Go to your outside meeting place and stay there. Call the fire department. If someone is trapped in the building, notify the fire department.
- If you can't get out of your apartment because of fire, smoke, or a disability, **STUFF** wet towels or sheets around the door and vents to keep smoke out. **CALL** the fire department and tell them where you are. **OPEN** a window slightly and wave a bright cloth to signal your location. Be prepared to close the window if it makes the smoke condition worse. Fire department evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor evacuation status.