



# FIRE in your HIGH-RISE

## HIGH-RISE APARTMENT AND CONDOMINIUM FIRE SAFETY

People living in a high-rise apartment or condominium building need to think ahead and be prepared in the event of a fire emergency.

### FIRE SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU

Learn what to do if a fire happens in your building. This is the best way to protect yourself and those around you.

- Talk to your landlord, superintendent or building manager.
- Know the emergency procedures outlined in the building's fire safety plan.
- Every fire is different. You must act quickly when you hear the alarm or discover a fire.
- Remember, most people die from the smoke, not the fire.



### HERE IS WHAT TO DO.

#### IF THERE IS A FIRE IN YOUR UNIT

- Tell everyone in your unit to leave.
- Close, but don't lock, all doors behind you.
- Leave the building using the nearest exit stairway.
- Pull the fire alarm on your floor and yell "fire".
- Call the fire department at **9-1-1** from a safe location. Never assume this has been done.
- Meet the firefighters when they arrive and tell them where the fire is.



#### WHEN YOU HEAR THE FIRE ALARM

Although the safest place to be during a fire is outside the building, if smoke is NOT entering your unit it is safe to stay put, and await further instructions. The following tips may help:

#### IF YOU REMAIN IN YOUR UNIT

You must protect yourself from smoke. Stay in your unit until you are rescued or until you are told to leave.

- Keep toxic smoke from entering your unit. Use duct tape to seal cracks around the door and place wet towels at the bottom. Seal vents or air ducts the same way.
- If smoke enters your unit:
  - Call the fire department at **9-1-1** and tell them where you are and then move to the balcony. Close the doors behind you.



### HIGH BUILDINGS ARE DESIGNED TO BE FIRE SAFE

- Floors, walls, and ceilings provide up to a 2 hour barrier against the spread of fire, and suite doors close automatically to protect openings
- Every floor has access to 2 separate stairways which provide a protected exit to the exterior.
- A fire alarm system provides early warning of a fire condition.
- Modern buildings often have:
  - A voice communication system, used by supervisory personnel to make announcements about fire location and conditions.
  - Sprinkler systems to put water directly on the source of the fire.
  - Balconies (or windows) to be used for fresh air if smoke enters your suite

- If you don't have a balcony, go to the most smoke-free room, close the door and seal it with tape and towels. If necessary, open the window for fresh air. Show emergency personnel where you are by hanging a sheet from the window or balcony.
- Keep low to the floor where the air is cleaner.
- Listen for instructions from authorities.



## FIRE SAFETY BEGINS WITH YOU



### PREVENTION

Prevent fires from occurring

Careless cooking and smoking remain the leading causes of fire in the home

## IF YOU MUST LEAVE YOUR UNIT

Check the door to your unit. If smoke is entering from around the door, do not open it. Feel the door and door knob. If the door or knob are hot, do not open it. Protect yourself from smoke inside your unit as described earlier in this brochure.

- If there is no smoke or heat, brace yourself against the door and open it slowly.
  - If you see smoke or feel heat, close the door quickly and protect yourself.
  - If the corridor is clear, take your keys, close the door behind you and go to the nearest exit stairway.

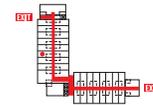


### DETECTION

Have a working smoke alarm on all levels and outside all sleeping areas and have a working carbon monoxide alarm outside all sleeping areas

## DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR.

- Open the nearest exit stairway door carefully.
  - If there is no smoke, use the stairway to leave the building.
  - If there is smoke, do not enter. Close the door. Go to another exit stairway and open the door carefully.
  - If there is no smoke here, use this stairway to leave the building.
  - If there is smoke, do not enter. If there are other stairways, try them. If there are not, return to your unit (or knock on the nearest available unit door) and protect yourself from smoke.



### ESCAPE

Prepare and practise your home fire escape plan

## WHEN YOU ARE INSIDE THE STAIRWAY

If you encounter smoke on your way down the stairs, do not continue.

- Leave the stairway at the nearest and safest door, cross the floor area, and proceed down the other stairway if it is safe to do so - and leave the building
- If you cannot use any stairway to exit the building, return to your unit if possible, or enter an available floor area and bang on unit doors until you are able to take shelter.
- Never go to the roof, smoke rises! Doors to the roof are locked and you could become trapped.
- Remember stay low to the ground if you are in a smoke filled environment. The air is cleaner near floor level.
- Once out, stay out. Do not go back into the building until the fire department tells you it's safe.



For more information about high-rise fire safety and information in your language, ask your building management or contact Toronto Fire Service by calling 311 or visiting

[toronto.ca/fire/prevention](http://toronto.ca/fire/prevention)

### Persons Requiring Assistance

If you are a person requiring assistance, see your superintendent/building manager – the fire safety plan must include provisions for these persons



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