

Whether you live in a house, apartment, or condominium you need to know how to get out quickly when a fire starts. Below is some basic fire safety information. We encourage you to share these messages with your community about how to prepare for, and escape, if a fire starts.

Home Fire Escape Plans

- Ensure your fire escape plan that shows two ways out of every room.
- Everyone needs to know where the safe meeting place is outside the home and to stay there and wait for the fire department to arrive.
- Practice the escape plan two times a year with everyone in the home present.
- Establish a family emergency communications plan and ensure that all household members know who to contact if they cannot find one another.
- Make sure everyone knows how to call 9-1-1, how to provide the correct address, and if everyone is outside.
- Teach household members how to STOP, COVER, DROP and ROLL if their clothes catch on fire.
- If your door feels warm to the touch, do not open it. Use your second escape route if it is safe. If that is unsafe stay near a window and signal to people that you are inside. Call 911 if you can and tell them you can't get out of your room.
- If your door is cool to the touch, open it slowly. Stay low and check for smoke or fire in the hallway. If the hallway is safe, follow your escape plan.
- Smoke alarms should be in every bedroom, outside of the sleeping areas (like a hallway), and on each level (including the basement) of your home. Do not put smoke alarms in your kitchen or bathrooms.
- Test them once a month and replace the batteries at least once a year.
- Smoke alarms have an expiry date. Your smoke alarm must be replaced every ten years.
- Teach children what smoke alarms sound like and what to do when they hear one.

General Apartment/Condominium Building Fire Safety

- Do not prop open exit or stairway doors. These doors are installed to slow the spread of heat and smoke if there is a fire.
- Inform your building manager/superintendent if you see a damaged smoke alarm, outdated or missing fire extinguisher, or notice an emergency light that has burned out.
- Make sure your apartment has working smoke alarms. Have a smoke alarm inside each sleeping room. Test them every month. Replace the batteries every time the time changes. Tell your apartment manager if you think there is a problem with one of your smoke alarms.
- Know where all the exit doors and stairs are on your floor. Count the number of doors there are between your apartment and the nearest fire exit. Memorize the number in case you must find the exit in the dark.
- Learn your building evacuation plan if you have one. Create and practice an escape plan for your own apartment.

- If your door feels warm to the touch, do not open it. Call 911 and tell the dispatcher your apartment number and that you cannot open your door. Stuff the cracks around the door with towels, rags, bedding, or tape. Cover vents. Wait at a window and signal for help with a flashlight or by waving a white cloth.
- If your door is cool to the touch, open it slowly. Stay low and check for smoke or fire in the hallway. If the hallway is safe, follow your building's evacuation plan.
- In the event of a fire, stay calm. Move to the exit as you have practiced. Call the fire department once you are outside.
- Never use an elevator to escape a fire. Always use the stairs.
- Stay outside. Do not go back inside for any reason. Wait until firefighters tell you it is safe to go back inside.