



Village of Fox Crossing Fire Department

Public Education Division

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High-Rise Safety

In modern high-rise buildings, special fire protection requirements (automatic sprinklers, smoke/fire/heat detection and alarm systems, and compartmentation features (automatic closing doors) associated with fire-resistive construction) are reflected in strict laws, codes and standards. These special requirements, although designed to provide sufficient time for occupants to escape, are not in and of themselves sufficient.

Critically important to the fire and life safety equipment installed in a building, is how ready the occupants of the building are to react swiftly, calmly and appropriately at the time of an incident.

If building management has provided a sound fire and life safety program, then a building can be considered well prepared. A sound fire and life safety program will assist all building staff/occupants to be in a constant state of readiness to react to an emergency, particularly one that involves fire in a way that will help provide for everyone's safety.

High-Rise Life Safety Tips

- ✓ Know your building inside and out.
- ✓ Read all fire emergency information.
- ✓ Recognize the sounds of the smoke alarm and fire alarm. Note the proper procedure for reporting a fire.
- ✓ Know how to open all windows and doors.
- ✓ Never lock or block (open or closed) fire exits, doorways, halls, or stairways.
- ✓ Keep a battery operated flashlight near by.
- ✓ Look outside for ledges, decks, or trees that might help or hinder your escape.
- ✓ Report any potential fire hazards to the person in charge.

Did you know...

- ✓ In most high-rise fires, two of the most important firefighting strategies are taken away from firefighters: removing victims using ladders and the ability to fight the fire from outside.
- ✓ Most office building fires are the result of arson.
- ✓ The key to escaping high-rise emergencies is planning ahead.
- ✓ Common fire hazards in high-rise structures are blocked exits, piled-up trash, missing exit lights, blocked trash chutes, overloaded electrical circuits and smoking.
- ✓ You should NEVER prop stairway door or other fire doors open. These need to remain closed (or available to close in the case of automatic doors) to help control the spread of fire, smoke and deadly gases.

***All information shown in this section is from the National Fire Safety Council Inc. High-Rise Safety brochure. ©MMIII

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