

HIGH-RISE / MULTI-STOREY BUILDING FIRE SAFETY

Recent fires in high-rise buildings have prompted the fire services to focus on the fire safety behavior of occupants. A key to fire safety for those who live and work in these structures is to practice the specific high-rise fire safety behaviors listed below.

BE PREPARED AND PLAN

- Make sure that all exit and stairwell doors are clearly marked and not locked or blocked by security bars or other obstacles.
- Fire doors provide a way out and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never prop stairways or other fire doors open.
- Know the locations of all available exit stairs from your floor in case the nearest one is blocked by fire or smoke.
- Learn your building's evacuation plans. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarm goes off. Plan and practise your escape plan.
- Make sure your building manager displays evacuation plans in high traffic areas like passages and outside lifts.
- Know the sound of your building's fire alarm and display emergency numbers near all telephones.
- Know who is responsible for maintaining the fire safety systems. Make sure nothing blocks these devices and promptly report any sign of damage or malfunction to the building management.

GET OUT AND STAY OUT

- If the fire alarm sounds, use the stairs to go to your designated meeting place outside (don't use the lift).
- Activate the fire alarm on your way out. This will notify other occupants in the building that there is a fire.
- Feel doors before opening and close all doors behind you as you leave. If the door is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave by the nearest way out.

- Early notification of the fire department is important. Call 112 on a cellphone. The call-taker (person who answers the phone) will ask questions regarding the emergency. Stay calm and give the call-taker the information they request.

TRAPPED!

- If you can't get out 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. Do not break it; you may need to close the window if smoke rushes in.
- Evacuation of a high-rise building can take a long time. Communicate with the fire department to monitor the progress.

MAINTAIN AND INSTALL WORKING SMOKE ALARMS

No matter where you live or work, always install smoke alarms. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

The risk of fire-related death or injury to all South Africans is REAL. PREPARE & SURVIVE!

FOR MORE FIRE SAFETY INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT YOUR LOCAL FIRE DEPARTMENT

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

From your landline:

10177

From your cellphone:

112