

# Fire Safety Guidelines For Residential High Rise Buildings



City of Chicago  
Richard M. Daley  
Mayor

Chicago Fire Department  
James J. Joyce  
Commissioner

**"WE'RE THERE WHEN YOU NEED US."**



# FIRE SAFETY GUIDELINES FOR RESIDENTS

**T**he Chicago Fire Department wants you to know that high rise buildings are constructed with fire resistant materials, making them among the safest types of buildings in the event of a fire.

Most often, high rise fires are contained to a single room or one apartment.

For that reason, you should remain calm if there is a fire in your building.



Long before a fire strikes, it is important that residents familiarize themselves with their surroundings. Know the floor plan and the location of all exits, especially the stairwells and which one to use in the event of an emergency.

The Chicago Fire Department offers these general fire safety guidelines for high rise residents.

## ***If a fire occurs in your apartment:***

- **LEAVE IMMEDIATELY** and close the door behind you. Exit from the safest stairwell. When you reach a safe area, call **9-1-1**. Give the Fire Department your address, floor and apartment number.
- **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATORS.** They are not reliable during a fire and can only be used by firefighters.
- Once in the stairwell, begin to head **down** to the lobby. Do not head upstairs or to the roof because smoke and heat rise and this can complicate fire rescue operations.

# RESIDENTIAL HIGH RISE BUILDINGS

## *If a fire occurs on the floor where you live:*

- Immediately call **9-1-1** and your building security office to report the fire and give them the address and floor where the fire is.
- The Fire Department recommends that you stay in your apartment unless directed otherwise. Due to the fire resistant construction of high rise buildings, your apartment is usually the safest place to be. Keep the door closed and seal the door.
- If conditions worsen in your apartment call **9-1-1** and your building security office to inform them of your problem and your apartment number. If heat and smoke start to build up, open the window slightly and wait for the Fire Department to reach you. If your windows do not open, stay low to the ground.



Please remember, these are general guidelines for fire safety in residential high rises. All fires behave differently and different conditions require different responses. That's why it is imperative that you familiarize yourself with your surroundings and the exits in your building.

*Make sure your smoke detector has batteries and is working. It's a good idea to test it once a month.*





*For more information contact the Chicago Fire Department's Public Education Unit at 1010 S. Clinton St., Chicago, IL 60607 or call (312) 747-6691.*