Recent fatal fires in highrise structures have prompted Americans to rethink fire safety. A key to fire safety for those who live and work in these special structures is to practice specific highrise fire safety and prevention behaviors.

The U.S. Fire Administration (USFA), a part of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, would like you to know there are simple fire safety steps you can take to prevent the loss of life and property in highrise fires.

**BE PREPARED FOR A HIGHRISE FIRE EMERGENCY**

- Never lock fire exits or doorways, halls or stairways. Fire doors provide a way out during the fire and slow the spread of fire and smoke. Never prop stairway or other fire doors open.

- Learn your building evacuation plan. Make sure everyone knows what to do if the fire alarm sounds. Plan and practice your escape plan together.

- Be sure your building manager posts evacuation plans in high traffic areas, such as lobbies.

- Learn the sound of your building’s fire alarm and post 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.

**DO NOT PANIC IN THE EVENT OF A HIGHRISE FIRE EMERGENCY**

- Do not assume anyone else has already called the fire department.

- Immediately call your local emergency number. Early notification of the fire department is important. The dispatcher will ask questions regarding the emergency. Stay calm and give the dispatcher the information they request.

- If you don’t hear the building’s fire alarm, pull the nearest fire alarm “pull station” while exiting the floor.

- If you encounter smoke or flames on your way out, immediately return to your apartment or office.

**AFTER A HIGHRISE FIRE EMERGENCY**

- Once you are out of the building, STAY OUT! Do not go back inside for any reason.

- Tell the fire department if you know of anyone trapped in the building.

- Only enter when the fire department tells you it is safe to do so.

**MAINTAIN AND INSTALL WORKING SMOKE ALARMS**

No matter where you live, always install smoke alarms on every level of your home. Test them monthly and change the batteries at least once a year.

Remember, fire safety is your personal responsibility... Fire Stops With You!

For more information contact:
The U.S. Fire Administration
16825 South Seton Avenue
Emmitsburg, MD 21727

or

Visit the USFA Web site:
www.usfa.fema.gov

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