

High-Rise Buildings Fact Sheet



Fire safety in a high-rise building starts with emergency preparedness.

The Saskatchewan Public Safety Agency (SPSA) recommends investigating the safety features of your building, including:

- The building's fire safety plan.
- The nearest fire alarm and fire extinguisher.
- The nearest stairway and designated muster area.

To be prepared for a fire in a high-rise building, begin by packing an emergency kit. This kit should contain everything you need to survive for at least three days.

The following must be followed for everyone to exit the building safely:

- Call 9-1-1 immediately.
- Instruct everyone in the home to vacate, feeling the door before you open it. If it is hot, use another way out. If it is cool, leave the building immediately, closing the doors behind you.
- Pull the fire alarm on your floor and yell "FIRE."
- Never use the elevator. Instead, use the nearest stairway to exit the building. If the nearest stairway has smoke, use another stairway.

Sometimes your best chance of survival is to stay in your unit and wait to be rescued. This is the case when smoke and fire has blocked exit routes.

In this event, the following mitigative measures must be taken:

- Do not leave your unit a long time after an alarm has sounded. The more time that passes, the more smoke will spread into stairways and corridors.
- Keep your unit door closed and use duct tape to seal cracks around the door, placing wet towels at the bottom. Seal vents or air ducts the same way.
- Move everyone onto the balcony and call 9-1-1, closing the door behind you. If you don't have a balcony, go to the most smoke-free room, closing and sealing the door behind you. Open the window for fresh air.
- Hang a sheet from the window or balcony to show firefighters where you are.
- Stay low to the ground where the air is always cleaner and listen to instructions from authorities.