

This brochure was developed by the **Norristown Fire Department** to better educate the occupants of residential high rise buildings on how to prevent, prepare for and respond to fires in your apartment building.



History has shown that for both occupants and fire fighters, high-rise fires can be difficult to control and can prove fatal if sound fire prevention practices are ignored and proper response by occupants is not immediate. Please take the time to read the information presented to you. For your and our safety, please do your best to prevent fires in your building and remember what to do in the event of a fire.



Norristown Fire Department

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Norristown, Pa 19401
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NORRISTOWN FIRE DEPARTMENT



FIRE SAFETY IN RESIDENTIAL HIGH RISES

FIRE PREVENTION

Do not leave food cooking on the stove unattended or cook when sleepy or tired. Do not wear loose fitting clothes when cooking.

Always clean your stove and keep it clean of grease build up.

Do not place combustible material on or near your stove.

Never smoke in bed.

Do not leave candles burning unattended.

Replace or repair broken appliances.

Report electrical problems such as recurring circuit breaker trips or worn/ unusable electrical outlets.

Do not overload electrical outlets and do not use extension cords as a permanent power supply for appliances, etc.

Never keep trash in hallways. Dispose of trash properly and do not place items that are too big in the trash chute – they may get stuck.

PREPAREDNESS

Ensure all smoking materials are completely extinguished before placing into the trash.

Never block fire exits or doorways.

Never prop open fire doors, they are meant to be closed or close automatically when the fire alarm sounds to prevent the spread of smoke and fire.

Learn your evacuation plan and be sure to know where alternate stairwells are located in case fire or smoke blocks your first way out.

Learn the sound of your fire alarm and react accordingly each time it activates. Let the Fire Department determine if the alarm is false.

Ensure that working smoke detectors are installed, tested and maintained.

Know the number of doors between your apartment and the exit stairs. This may help you find your way to an exit in the dark or smoke.

Report blocked or damaged fire protection devices such as smoke detectors and manual fire alarm boxes.

YOUR RESPONSE

IF THE FIRE ALARM SOUNDS OR A FIRE IS DISCOVERED

If there is smoke on your floor, evacuate. If the smoke will impede your exit, follow the instructions below.*

IF YOUR APARTMENT IS ON FIRE

Evacuate and stay low. Close but do not lock the door to your apartment as you exit.

Alert others on the floor by knocking on doors and instruct them to evacuate. Activate the manual fire alarm box on your way out, if one is present.

Go to the nearest stairway and evacuate.

Do not assume the Fire Department has been notified; call 911 from a safe area.

*IF YOU CAN NOT EVACUATE

Call 911 to report your location. Fire fighters will be directed to you.

Keep the door closed to your apartment.

Seal the door with wet sheets and towels to keep the smoke out.

Turn off heating and air conditioning systems and cover vents to keep the smoke out.

If possible, open a window. Try not to break the window, if smoke or fire rushes in you may need to close it quickly.