

MFES READY *Make your home fire safe*

Apartment & Condominium Fire Safety

Multi-Unit &
Multi-Level Living



**Mississauga Fire
& Emergency Services**



This brochure is intended to provide multi unit and multi level apartment or condominium residents with general guidelines on emergency procedures. These procedures are a compilation of information from the Office of the Ontario Fire Marshal and Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services. It should be noted that these procedures may not be appropriate or applicable for every apartment or condominium building.

If you are in doubt or have any questions please contact your building management team or Mississauga Fire and Emergency Services at 905 896 5908 or fire.prevention@mississauga.ca.

Please Note: If you have a disability that would prevent you from evacuating the building on your own or would require assistance during an emergency contact and discuss this with the building management team as soon as possible. Ensure that they record your needs in the building's Fire Safety Plan under 'Persons Requiring Assistance.'

If there is a fire in your unit

- Tell everyone in your unit to leave immediately.
- Close doors behind you. Do not lock.
- Pull the fire alarm on your floor and yell “FIRE, FIRE, FIRE.”
- Leave the building using the nearest safe exit or exit stairway.
- Call the fire department at 911 when you are safe.
- Meet firefighters at the front entrance and tell them where the fire is.
- The smoke alarm in your unit is not connected to the building fire alarm system, it notifies only you of a fire in your unit.



If you hear the fire alarm

The decision is yours to stay or leave the building.

Most of the time the best thing to do in a fire is leave the building as soon as possible. In some cases, however, you may not be able to leave and you may have to stay in your unit. In either case, you must act quickly. No matter what your decision, you must protect yourself from smoke. If you encounter smoke or fire conditions call 911 immediately.

If you decide to leave the building

Check the door to your unit

- If smoke is entering from around the door, do not open it. Protect yourself from smoke inside your unit as described later in this brochure under the section If you remain in your unit.
- If there is no smoke, feel the door for heat and if there's none, brace yourself and open the door a little. If you see smoke or feel heat, close the door quickly to protect yourself.

If the corridor is clear, take your keys, lock your door and go to the nearest safe stairway.

- Open the nearest stairway door carefully. If there is no smoke, use the stairway to leave the building.
- If there is smoke, do not enter. Close the door. Go to another stairway and open the door carefully. If there is no smoke here, use the stairway to leave the building. If there is smoke, do not enter. If there are other stairways, try them. If there aren't other stairways, return to your apartment and protect yourself from smoke.

Remember

- Do not use the elevators
- Never go to the roof

Smoke usually rises to the top of the stairway. Doors opening onto the roof are usually locked and you could be trapped.

- If there is smoke...

Get below the smoke even if you have to crawl. The air is cleaner near the floor.

When you are inside the stairway

- If you find smoke on your way down the stairs, leave that stairway as soon as you can. In some buildings, some doors leading from the stairways may be locked but at least every five floors the doors will not lock so you can leave the stairway.
- Use another stairway if it is clear of smoke.
- If you can't use another stairway, return to your unit if you can or go into a smoke-free corridor and bang loudly on a unit door until you find a place to take shelter and call 911.



If you remain in your unit

You must protect yourself from smoke.

- Stay in your unit until you are rescued or until you are told to leave. This may take a long time.
- Call 911 and advise them where you are and what the conditions are like in your unit. Tell them that you will call back if conditions change.

Keep smoke from entering your unit

- Use duct tape to seal cracks around the door and place wet towels at the bottom. Seal vents or air ducts the same way.

If smoke enters your unit

- Phone the fire department at 911 and tell them where you are, then move toward the balcony if safe. Close doors behind you and be sure to bring a phone with you so you can update 911 if conditions change.
- If you don't have a balcony, go to the most smoke-free room, close the door and seal it with duct tape and towels. Open the window for fresh air.
- Show your rescuers where you are by hanging a sheet from the window or balcony.
- Keep low to the floor where the air is cleaner.
- If your building is equipped with a voice communication system, listen for instructions that may be given.

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For further information, please
contact Mississauga Fire and
Emergency Services

fire.prevention@mississauga.ca
mississauga.ca/fire

311

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