

# PLAN AND PRACTICE YOUR ESCAPE FROM FIRE AND SMOKE IN AN APARTMENT OR CONDO

If you live in a condo or apartment, it is important to know the difference between the sound of your smoke alarm and the building's fire alarm. Your smoke alarm is located in your suite and is designed to alert you that there is a fire in your suite. The building's fire alarm is connected to pull stations located at the exits throughout the building and designed to alert the entire building that there is an emergency in the building.

When the smoke alarm is sounding inside your suite:

- Leave your suite immediately
- Use the fire pull station on your way to the stairwell
- Use the stairwell to get outside
- Once you are safe, call 9-1-1
- **GET OUT AND STAY OUT.**

When the building's fire alarm is sounding:

- Test the door of your suite with the back of your hand to see if it's hot.
  - If it's not hot
    - open the door a crack and look for smoke
    - if there's no smoke, use the stairwell to get outside
    - when you are safe, call 9-1-1
  - If the door is hot, or if there is smoke in the hallway
    - close the door and call 9-1-1 immediately to let them know that you are staying in your suite and need to be rescued.

In an apartment or condo use the stairwell to exit rather than waiting on your balcony. You are more difficult to rescue from your balcony.

## FIRE DRILLS

- Fire drills are important and are required once a year for all multifamily buildings. Remember, your personal safety is at stake, you don't have to wait for the building to arrange a drill, you can always practice on your own.

## SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- It is your responsibility to call 9-1-1 until you have confirmed that someone else has called.
- It is important to recognize the difference between the sound of your smoke alarm and the building's fire alarm.
- Make sure you can hear your smoke alarm and the building's fire alarm at night, especially if you have hearing aids and don't sleep with them in. If you can't hear the smoke alarm get one with a strobe light installed in your bedroom.
- Do not use the elevator when the fire alarm is sounding. Elevators are powered by electricity and if the electricity goes out, as it often does in a fire, the elevator could stop between floors or open up at the floor where the fire is.

