

SELF-CLOSING DEVICES

The Ontario Fire Code requires that self-closing devices be installed on all apartment unit entry doors in buildings greater than six storeys in height.

These devices ensure that the apartment entry doors close automatically. This prevents smoke and heat from contaminating the corridors and making them unsafe for other residents trying to evacuate the building. It is an offence under the Ontario Fire Code to tamper with or disable these and other life safety devices.



GENERAL FIRE SAFETY TIPS

- ✓ Is there good, clear access to all exits?
- ✓ Are combustible materials kept well away from stove tops?
- ✓ Are self-closing devices on apartment entry doors attached and closing properly?
- ✓ Have you read and understood your Fire Safety Plan?
- ✓ Never leave a candle unattended for any reason – if you are leaving the room, extinguish the candle.
- ✓ Never leave cooking unattended. If you must leave the kitchen, turn off the appliance.
- ✓ Carefully dispose of cigarette ashes and do not smoke in bed.



Act fast!

**REMEMBER ... IN
AN EMERGENCY,
SECONDS COUNT!**



CONTACT US

If you have any concerns or questions regarding fire safety in your apartment, contact:

Hamilton Fire Department Fire Prevention Division

Phone: 905-546-2424 ext. 1380
(weekdays 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

Email: fire_department@hamilton.ca

Website: www.hamilton.ca/Fire

**For any emergency
in Hamilton call**



Hamilton



Apartment Fire Safety



How to Prevent a Tragedy

For any emergency call



Apartment Fire Safety

A **PARTMENT UNITS** are generally considered to be safer from the spread of fire than the average single-family dwelling due to the use of fire-resistant materials.

EMERGENCY PROCEDURES

All high-rise buildings will have an **Approved Fire Safety Plan** posted throughout the building. Take the time today to review the plan. Ensure building management is aware if you have health or mobility issues that could prevent you from evacuating the building in a fire.



If the fire is in your apartment

- ✓ Alert everyone in the apartment and then leave immediately. Don't stop to collect valuables.
- ✓ Close the door behind you and leave it unlocked.
- ✓ Sound the building's fire alarm system by activating a pull station.
- ✓ On your way out, if safe to do so, knock on doors to alert other occupants.
- ✓ Leave your floor by the nearest exit stair ensuring that doors close behind you to prevent the spread of smoke, heat and fire.
- ✓ Call 911 from a safe location giving your name, address and apartment number.
- ✓ Never use the elevators.
- ✓ Do not re-enter the building until advised that it is safe to do so by Fire Department personnel.

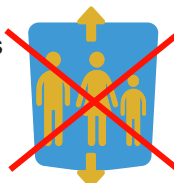
In any emergency situation,
✓ **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR**
✓ **DO NOT GO TO THE ROOF AREA**

To go or to stay – THE DECISION IS YOURS

If you hear the building's fire alarm system, we recommend that you and your family leave the building by the nearest safe exit stairwell. **Do not use the elevators.** If you encounter smoke, heat or fire, stay low and seek another exit or return to your unit.



- ✓ A closed door provides good protection against fire and smoke. Use wet towels, sheets or duct tape to seal cracks and openings. If smoke begins coming in ventilation outlets, seal them as well.
- ✓ Move to the balcony or the most protected room, opening windows to provide fresh air.
- ✓ If smoke enters the room, remember that heat and gases rise, so stay low.
- ✓ Call 911 and advise of your location and need for rescue.
- ✓ Listen for instructions on the building's voice communication system, if the building is so equipped.
- ✓ Signal your position by waving a white sheet or similar item.
- ✓ Remain calm and wait to be rescued.



SMOKE ALARMS

The Ontario Fire Code requires that all apartment units be equipped with a working smoke alarm, located outside the sleeping quarters.



Test your smoke alarm monthly and replace the battery at least once a year. If you live in a rental unit, it is the owner's responsibility to maintain the smoke alarm (including battery replacement) in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS

Protect Yourself from the Silent Killer

Carbon monoxide (CO) is a colourless, odourless, and tasteless poisonous gas – and its effects can be deadly. Since the symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can often be confused with the flu or other medical problems, a CO alarm can save your life. It is now the law that all homes have CO alarms, but your unit may not require one.

To find out more, contact the **Fire Prevention Division** of the Hamilton Fire Department at **905-546-2424 ext 1380**.



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