

APARTMENT AND MOBILE HOME FIRE SAFETY

Know All Building Exits: If you live in an apartment building, count the number of doorways between your apartment and the two nearest exits. No matter where you live, be familiar with all exits, including windows. If you have trouble with stairs, it may be best to sleep on the first floor.

If Fire Strikes: Never open a door without checking it for heat. Kneeling or crouching at the door, reach up as high as you can and touch the door, the knob, and the space between the door and its frame with the back of your hand. If the door is cool, open it cautiously. If you see smoke close the door and get out using the safest of your other exits. If the door is hot, **DO NOT** open the door, use your second exit or stay in your room. If fire strikes and you cannot escape, remain calm. If there is a phone in the room, call the fire department advising where you are trapped. Stuff wet rags, towels, or clothing in the cracks around doors to keep smoke out. Wait at a window, signal the firefighters by waving a light coloured cloth or flashlight and wait to be rescued.

Crawl Low Under Smoke: If you must exit through smoke, crouch or crawl. Heat and smoke rise; cleaner air will be 30-60 cm (12-24 in.) above the floor.

Get Out and Stay Out: Leave the building as quickly as you can. Call the fire department from a neighbour's phone. Do not go back into the building for any reason, leave that to the experts.

Stop, Drop and Roll: If your clothing catches fire, stop where you are, drop gently to the floor or ground, cover your face with your hands to protect your face from the flames, and roll over and over to smother the flames. If you cannot drop to the floor, smother the flames with a blanket or towel.

FIRE SAFETY TIPS FOR MOBILE HOME OCCUPANTS

The light-weight construction features, especially in units built before the mid '70's, allow rapid fire spread and build up of toxic smoke and gases in mobile homes. Because of the smaller space and rapid spread of fire, smoke and gases, mobile home occupants have less time to escape than those living in site-built homes. It is therefore very important to follow the three steps to fire safety:

- Prevent fires from starting,
- Provide early warning of fire and smoke danger with smoke alarms, and
- Plan and practice a fire escape plan for your mobile home.

Tips

- If there are a large number of mobile homes in your jurisdiction, prepare a special fire prevention awareness kit to distribute to mobile home owners. The Welcome Wagon is a good vehicle for distributing information.
- Since most mobile homes are found in trailer parks, perhaps a junior firefighters program could be put in place to help ensure fire safe practices are followed.
- Perhaps an outdoor community fire safety day could be set-up.