



# EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

## What You Need to Know if You Are in a High-Rise Building

Residents of high-rise apartment buildings may face special risks from severe weather events even if they live safely outside evacuation zone.

- Note the nearest emergency exit.
- Know of at least one alternative exit if your first choice is blocked.
- Know how many doors there are between your room and the emergency exits. Know the count going in both directions down the hall from your door.
- Take cover under a desk or table if debris is falling.
- Stay away from file cabinets, bookshelves, or other objects that may fall.
- Turn your back to windows and glass.
- Move away from exterior walls.
- Do not use elevators.
- Stay to the right when going down stairwells to allow emergency crews to come up.

Check out this [simple emergency guide](#) our friends in Arkansas have shared for people who live in high-rise buildings.



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## Frequently Asked Questions about High-Rise Evacuations

### **What Should I do if there is a fire in my building?**

In a typical scenario, the occupants of the fire floor and the floors immediately above and below it should immediately use the exit stairs to descend to a floor level that is at least several floors below the fire floor, and await further instruction from safety officials. Occupants of other floors might be instructed to stay where they are and await further instruction.

### **Am I better off going up to the roof and waiting to be rescued there?**

No. While many of us have seen dramatic pictures and videos of helicopter rescues of occupants from the roof of a burning building, this is an extraordinarily dangerous procedure for the occupants, the pilots and firefighters who may be in the building.

### **Can I use the elevator?**

No. It is never appropriate to use the elevator during a fire or similar building emergency, even in a two-story building.

### **What should I do if I am in a wheelchair or have other disabilities that affect mobility?**

If you are unable to evacuate without assistance, notify the fire department by calling 9-1-1, and have a family member or neighbor tell first responders where you are located. Be sure to provide any information about what may be required in the evacuation process (e.g., wheelchair bound, lift required, etc.).