



## Staying Safe in Places of Public Assembly

When in a crowded place, it is important to always be aware of your surroundings. How you react in the event of a disaster like a fire, act of terrorism or more can be critical to saving your life. Follow these Do's and Don'ts when attending an event with a large group of people.

### DO



- Do be wary if event information is vague and unspecific. For example location says TBA.
- Do look for proper signage at the venue. Things like occupancy guidelines and notices should be visible.
- Do check for exits. Important to have at least two exit paths in mind.
- Do know where the fire extinguishers are.
- Do carry a small flashlight or use the light on your cellphone for darkened areas.

### DON'T



- Don't go inside if the venue is overcrowded or becomes more crowded over time.
- Don't enter a venue if exit signs are not lit and exits are blocked or chained.
- Don't enter if there are bars on the windows or the doors are blocked and chained.
- Don't be indecisive or uncertain. Make and stick to a plan in case of an emergency.
- Don't delay. If you notice something that seems wrong act quickly and tell others to exit the building.

### Fact

On March 25, 1990, a fire at the Happy Land social club in the Bronx claimed the lives of 87 people.

This fire is considered the deadliest inferno ever recorded in the Bronx.

It was also the driving force that formed the social club task force known as the Multi Agency Response to Community Hotspots or MARCH team. The task force inspects and closes hazardous locations in New York City.



**If you believe a location is unsafe,  
leave immediately and call 311.**