

Fire Escape Plan for Apartment Dwellers

It is essential that you and your family prepare to respond to a fire alarm. Please take the time to ensure your household, including any guest, is familiar with your building's evacuation plan.

1. **Know the plan** in the event of fire or smoke. **Identify the location of all stairwells and exits** in case one is blocked by fire/smoke and note **two ways out of every room**. **If you have children** it is especially important to **explain the plan and practice** how they should respond in an emergency. Be sure to **confirm a meeting place** in a safe area so fire fighters can verify who has left safely.
2. **Fire Extinguishers are located in the hallway on each floor** to be used only on small fires but consider personal safety and evacuate to call 911 when safely outside. Fires on stoves with burning oil may be extinguished by smothering with a lid or large plate. Never use water or flour, which spreads oil fires and can cause oil/fire explosions.
3. **Stay Low**- Smoke from a fire is toxic and deadly no matter what kind of structure you live in. When you hold your fire drill, all family members should practice crawling on their hands and knees low under the smoke one or two feet above the ground where the air is cooler and cleaner. Test door knobs for heat before opening to ensure there is no fire on the other side. Always use the stairs and **DO NOT** jump from a balcony.

If you can't leave an apartment building due to smoke or fire in the hallway or stairwells: Call the fire department to report your exact location and gather in a room with a window to await firefighters' arrival. Close all doors between you and the fire. Use duct tape or wet towels to create a seal around the door and over air vents in order to keep smoke from coming in. ***STAY BY THE WINDOW**-If you must seal yourself in a room, open the window at the top and bottom, if possible, so fresh air can get in. Don't break the window-if smoke enters the room from outside the building, you won't be able to protect yourself. ***Signal to firefighters** – Wave a flashlight or light colored cloth out the window to let the fire department know where you are located. Make sure to practice using the stairs as part of your escape plan. If someone in your family has difficulty climbing down steps, make sure to incorporate a contingency for this into your plan.

4. **Practice is Key** – The evacuation plan is posted in places where all residents can see the review it. The Alberta Fire Code requires that buildings periodically test the fire safety system equipment. Please be sure to cooperate and participate when your building drills take place,

I have read and understood the Fire Escape Plan: _____ Date: _____

For more information on fire safety, please contact
Vegreville Emergency Services – Public Education branch @
780.632.2254 or visit the Alberta Fire Commissioners website
www.municipalaffairs.gov.ab.ca

