

Fires in Public Places



You can plan and practice how to be safe from fire in your home. There are also things you can do to stay safe in public places. Follow the tips below to stay safe.

Choose a meeting place outside the building.

If you go to an event with other people, pick a safe outdoor meeting place before you go into the building. Go to the meeting place if you get separated in a fire or another emergency.

Look around.

If the building or room does not look safe, talk to the people in charge. If they can't or won't fix the problem, you should leave.

Ask yourself these questions:

- Does the outside of the building look safe?
- Does the inside of the room look safe?
- Are there too many people in the room?
- Are there smoke alarms in the room?
- Are there fire sprinklers in the room?
- Do you see anything that can cause a fire?



Find two clear paths to get outside.

Sometimes in an emergency you can't leave the way you came in because of fire, smoke, or too many people. Look for at least one other way out.

- You often can find escape plan maps on the wall in public buildings. Try to find one.
- Look for EXIT signs. The signs mark safe exit paths. If there is a fire, go to the fire exit closest to you and go outside.



If you hear a smoke alarm or see a fire, do these things:

- Stay calm.
- Get out as fast as you can.
- Follow your home escape plan rules. Get low and go if there is smoke in the room. Touch the doors to check for heat. If a door is warm, do not open it because there could be fire and smoke on the other side. Find another way out.
- Do not use the elevator if there is a fire. You could get trapped if the elevator stops working. Use the stairs instead.
- Go to your meeting place if you get separated from your friends or family. Never go back into a burning building for any reason.
- If you are at an event, try to find the person in charge. Tell this person that you are safe.

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Discussion Activity: Is the place where you have your class or meet with your instructor safe from fire?

Use the questions below to talk about fire safety with your instructor and classmates.

- 1) Does the outside of the building look safe?
- 2) Does the inside of the building look safe?
- 3) Is it easy to walk through the hallways and classrooms? Is there furniture and clutter in the way?
- 4) Are there too many people in the room?
- 5) Are there smoke alarms, fire sprinklers, and emergency exit signs in the building? Where are they?
- 6) Do you know at least two ways out of the room?
- 7) Does your class have regular fire drills?

If you do not have regular fire drills, ask the building manager if it is possible to have a drill during a class or tutoring session.