

TIP SHEET

**Risk Management Ideas From
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Fire Exit Safety Intelligence

. . . “Rhode Island nightclub fire kills 99” . . .

. . . “21 people die in Chicago nightclub fire stampede” . . .

Here are some measures you can take to protect yourself every time you enter a building.

- 1) Every time you enter a building, familiarize yourself with the locations of exits, posted evacuation plans, fire alarm pull stations, and the nearest fire extinguisher. Make sure you know where the nearest exits are. This is important because it may not be the door you came in.
- 2) Participate in fire drills and take them seriously.
- 3) Know two different paths out of the building. Keep in mind that you may have to find your way out in the dark.
- 4) Make sure that all fire exits are lighted, unlocked and not blocked.
- 5) Respond to every alarm as if it were a real fire. If the fire alarm sounds, remain calm and evacuate the building immediately.
- 6) Never use an elevator during a fire. Use a stairway instead.
- 7) Do not attempt to fight a fire (no matter how small it appears to be) until the fire department has been called. Never fight a fire unless you know which type of extinguisher to use and how to use it.
- 8) Once you are out, stay out! Never go back into a burning building to look for missing people, pets, property, etc. Wait for firefighters to do that.
- 9) If you discover a fire, do not panic. Pull the closest fire alarm. Then call 911 from a safe location.
- 10) Be mindful of the fact that most fire deaths occur from smoke inhalation. Therefore, if you must escape through smoke, crawl low under the smoke, to the nearest safe exit, staying as close to the ground as possible. Heat and smoke rise, so cleaner air will be near the floor.
- 11) And don't forget “stop, drop and roll”. If your clothes catch on fire, stop where you are, drop to the ground, cover your face with your hands and roll over and over to smother the flames

Source: The Ohio Casualty Insurance Company #081503