

Children's  
Burn  
Foundation



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*Giving New Hope*

# Fire Alarms in Apartment Buildings



Keep your loved ones safe. Fire alarms detect smoke and fire. They are essential devices used to warn residents of danger.



# What you need to know

- It is important to know the location of manual fire alarm boxes. These are fire alarms attached to the wall with a pull bar. Most often, they are within five feet of an exit door.
- If there is a fire, pull down on the manual fire alarm box.
- Once a fire alarm system senses smoke or fire, a loud horn or beep will sound. Be sure to talk to your family about how to react if the alarm goes off.
- Once a fire alarm goes off, evacuate the building. Pick a safe meeting spot outside and wait there until you are told it is safe to return inside.
- Treat every alarm as an emergency and get outside.
- Only pull the fire alarm box handle if there is smoke or fire. These devices are not meant for play!

## Have an escape plan

- Know the location of all exit stairs on your apartment floor. In the event of an emergency, the nearest staircase might be blocked by fire or smoke so you should be familiar with all exits.
- If the alarm sounds, feel the door before opening it. Do not use the door if it is hot.
- Close doors behind you as you exit and take your apartment key in case you cannot exit the building.
- If all exits are blocked, return or stay in your apartment. Keep the door closed and cover cracks around the door with towels. Call 9-1-1 and signal from your window by waving a flashlight.

