

**Moving to a new apartment? Take a few minutes to check the fire safety features.**

### **OPERABLE SMOKE ALARMS**

There should be smoke alarms installed inside each bedroom, outside each sleeping area, including any additional living or family rooms used for sleeping. Test smoke alarms regularly. If they're not working, change the batteries and inform management if necessary.

### **FIRE EXTINGUISHERS ARE REQUIRED, CHECK THE INSPECTION TAG**

Fire extinguishers, if mounted in common areas, must be no higher than 5 ft, must be placed within 75 ft of any portion of occupancy and must have a current inspection tag.

### **SPRINKLERS**

Your building may be equipped with fire sprinklers. Fire sprinklers not only detect a fire, they also respond immediately while the fire is still small. They often put out the fire before the fire department arrives. Ask management to see inspection reports to ensure the system is well maintained.

### **WINDOWS**

If you need to make an escape through a window by descending a fire ladder, using a fire escape, or being rescued, the ability to easily open your windows is critical. Take a few minutes to test the windows you have and be sure each of them can be easily opened in case you need to use it to escape. Be sure there aren't furniture, planters, or other obstructions that would be difficult to move in an emergency.

### **BUILDING STAIRWELLS**

Take the stairs to exit your building to review your escape options. If you see items left in the stairwell such as garbage, boxes, or debris, let building management know so they can follow up and clear the stairwells.

### **ARE THE LIGHTS IN YOUR STAIRWELLS WORKING?**

If equipped with emergency lighting, inquire if they are operating properly so you can rely on them in an emergency.

### **HAVE A FIRE ESCAPE PLAN**

Talk with all the residents of your apartment about a fire escape plan for your unit and practice the plan. Also, learn the building's evacuation plan.

Learn how to make a plan [here](#).