

Fire Safety Snippets



- ✚ Do not smoke or have an open flame when Oxygen is being used nearby. It will ignite and explode even the smallest of containers the oxygen is stored in.
- ✚ In a fire the heat is intense, and there is CO (carbon monoxide) in the smoke. CO is of course odorless and colorless. Any impulsive rescue attempt can take the life of the person attempting the rescue; unless equipped with the right equipment or is able to improvise. Covering with a wet blanket and holding one's breath may work sometimes, but if the fire is intense, it is impossible to hold one's breath for a very long period (an impossibility). Hence always assess the situation objectively, and get the fire fighters to the site, as rapidly as possible.

The above is based and evidenced on the following story:

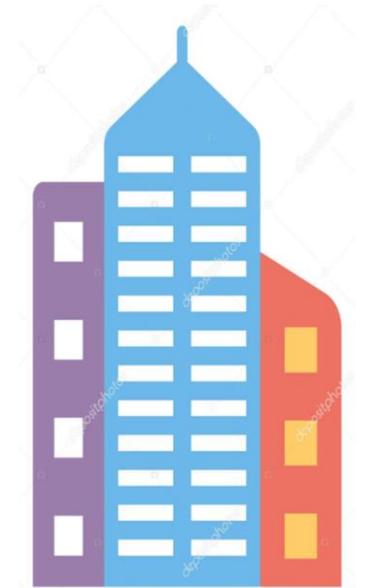
One of the victims smoked while using a nasal cannula oxygen delivery device which ignited and spread rapidly to other flammable material and to the structure of the house. Neighbours reported explosions and there were 20-foot-high flames venting out when the fire services arrived. It took 45 minutes to bring the fire under control and subsequently the fire fighters discovered two female fatalities in different rooms of the house. It was believed that one sister attempted to rescue her sister before she too was overcome by the intense heat and smoke.

Source: Fire Incidents from NFPA Files – by Richard Campbell – NFPA Nov/Dec 2020 Vol 114 | No 6

Fire Plans in Multi-Residential Buildings

IF YOU ARE VULNERABLE MAKE CERTAIN THAT YOU REQUEST THE BUILDING'S MANAGEMENT TO GET YOU ON THE LIST WHICH RESIDES INSIDE THE FIRE SAFETY PLAN BOX.

There is a box marked FIRE SAFETY PLAN at the front entrance of all multi-residential buildings. That plan is drawn up by experts and approved by the FIRE MARSHAL (Sign off on the plan). The Plan resides in the box. The Plan is the building's layout with all exits, elevators, floors, and suites and other relevant information for the fire fighters in case of a real fire.



In the File Plan there a **Vulnerable Persons List** which is reviewed by the Property Manager/Superintendent whenever a vulnerable person “moves in” or if an existing resident who is known to have had a change of status from mobile to immobile. Also listed are women who are in an advanced state of pregnancy, infants and little children, and the elderly who may not be able to evacuate on hearing the alarm. This list identifies the suites numbers with the details of the occupants who may need help. The Fire Fighters prioritize and rescue the vulnerable.

Residents should be aware of this critically important document which is kept updated and current by Property Management.

Source: Years of safety management experience in Magnum's Team and evidenced by Condo Business June 2021. Vol 36 #2 page 38

Risk Management

Since 9/11 in 2001 much have changed. Since of late great emphasis is placed on RISK MANAGEMENT.

Risks are not just terrorism, but terrorism brought about the change in the mindset of government and business leaders and RISK MANAGEMENT came to the forefront.

Evaluate the cost/benefit against the flip side – which is the Risk of not practicing due diligence. The assessment considers that the unthinkable may happen, and how human life and property loss or damage can weigh into Management not taking in all probabilities...then ranking and weighing the risk factor.

Insurance companies have actuaries to assess risk, but now Corporate Management have placed a great importance on risk management.

Here it is directly from FEMA (Federal Emergency Management Agency):

1. Ranking and prioritizing risks is an integrated process that requires the frequency and severity of a risk be quantified and ranked in some way.
2. Each of the ranked risks should then be prioritized by evaluating a series of risk factors. The risk manager will seldom have all the data required to make a quantitative assessment and will have to rely on knowledge, experience, and judgment to make required assumptions.

The risk manager will need to consider all the factors above in developing a cost/benefit analysis.

No matter how you conduct a cost/benefit analysis, the value of your findings will depend upon the quality of your data and your assumptions. (Unaltered excerpt from FEMA, Jan 2018 Report Page 21)

