

88 Kearny Street Fire Safety FAQ's

How often is a fire drill conducted in the building and what is the purpose of the fire drill?

A full building fire drill is conducted once a year, typically in October or November. Fire drills accomplish two important functions: (1) they permit the emergency response team to carry out the office emergency plan and emergency team assignments; (2) they give all the office personnel the opportunity to identify the appropriate evacuation/relocation route.

In the event of a fire, should you evacuate the building?

It depends on what floor you are on. Floor 6 and below would evacuate the building entirely, but floors 7 and above would relocate four floors down.

What is the difference between Relocation and Evacuation?

Relocation requires that individuals leave their floor, enter the stairwell and walk down four floors, then enter back into the building on that floor. Evacuation requires that individuals leave their floor, enter the stairwell and walk down the stairwell (or up from the basement level0 and exit the building entirely on the ground level.

Why does the building practice Relocation procedures instead of Evacuation?

Relocation procedures is required by the Fire Department in high-rise buildings due to the huge mass of the people in a high-rise building that would delay the Fire Department's main pathway to the fire by evacuating occupants. Relocation would allow free access for the Fire Department to suppress the fire without the added problems of stairwells being blocked by evacuating occupants.

Why are four floors relocated in the event of a fire?

The Fire Department determined that occupants of the fire floor, the floor above and the two floors below in the event of a fire. The two floors below the fire floor would be utilized by the Fire Department for staging equipment and organizing plan of attack and the floor above because heat and smoke travels upwards.

Am I safe when I remain in place above a floor that is on fire?

Remaining in place above a floor on fire is not a behavior easily accepted. The reasoning behind staying put is the various factors that would provide tenants with reasonable protection while giving the Fire Department a clear stairwell pathway to the fire. The protection factors include the building's sprinkler system, steel and concrete structure of the building, and the fire rated slab, doors and walls.

When a fire alarm is heard or strobe lights are flashing, what should I do?

Listen for announcements and instructions from the building's public address system.

Follow the instructions of your Floor Warden.

If you see fire or smoke, or feel that you are in imminent danger, proceed directly to the stairwells and leave the floor.

If directed to evacuate/relocate from your floor, proceed to the nearest emergency stairwell exit, enter and proceed downward.

Do not use the elevators. All elevators in the affected elevator-rise will be automatically or manually recalled to the ground floor.

Close all entry doors leading to corridors or hallways, but do not lock them.

If, due to a disability or impairment, you are unable to relocate/evacuate, then advise a member of your emergency staff or floor warden of this condition.

Persons unable to relocate/evacuate should be assisted to the interior of the emergency stairwell landing of your floor, where they can be assisted by emergency personnel.

When an alarm is activated, will all the elevators automatically recall to the lobby?

No, the elevators in the affected elevator rise (low, mid, or high) will automatically recall only when an elevator lobby smoke detector activates an alarm. If the alarm is activated by another device, Building Security will manually recall all elevators in the affected elevator rise (low, mid, or high).

Why do some of the doors on my floor automatically close when a fire alarm is activated?

These doors are 'smoke doors' that are programmed to close automatically in the event of a fire alarm. Their purpose is to prevent smoke and flames from entering the elevator shafts and spreading to unaffected portions of the building. 'Smoke doors' may also be found inside a tenant space and are held in an open position by magnets and will release and close when a nearby smoke detector is activated. Their purpose is to contain smoke and flames to a confined area of the floor.

How many exit stairwells are there in the building and where are they located?

There are two stairwells serving each floor. Stairwell entrances are located near the Southwest (Kearny St.) and the Northeast (Post St.) corners of the building.

Can the emergency stairwells be used to exit the building on a regular basis?

No, the emergency stairwells are locked on the interior side and should be kept clear and used only in the event of an emergency requiring relocation or evacuation.

