

Safety Corner

What to do during a hotel fire?

Even internationally acclaimed deluxe hotels catch fire. The following actions may help minimise your risks during a hotel fire.

Agree with your traveling partners on a rendezvous point before travel in case you are separated due to fire or other events. Pack a small flashlight.

When you check into a new hotel, locate exits and stairways to form a mental map of possible escape routes in advance. Keep the room key, flashlight, wallet, and phone nearby. In cold weather, make sure you can put on warm clothes quickly.

If you hear a fire alarm, take it seriously and leave immediately with the above items and a wet towel. Slowly open the door and close it should a cloud of smoke roll in. Close the door behind you to keep smoke out in case you have to return to your room. Stay close to the wall and keep low to the floor to avoid breathing in smoke or gases. Do not use lifts. If you encounter smoke in the stairwell, do not try to run through it. Proceed to a smoke free level and cross the building to an alternate exit.

If you are unable to leave your room or all exits are compromised, you may be better off staying in your room. Do not break the window unless it cannot be opened as you might want to close the window later to keep smoke out. Call the hotel operator or the fire department to report your location. Hang a bed sheet out the window as a signal if safe to do so.

Fill the bathtub with water to use for fire fighting. Tie a wet towel over your mouth and nose to help filter out smoke. Stuff wet towels into cracks under and around doors where smoke can enter. Place the mattress up against the door and hold it in place with the dresser. Keep everything wet. If there is fire outside your window, take down the drapes and move everything combustible away from the window.

Stay calm.

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