Chatham-Kent Fire & Rescue

My APartMENT

WHEN SHOULD I GO?

As soon as possible when you hear the fire alarm or discover a fire.

The earlier you leave, the better are your chances of getting out safely no matter where you are located in relation to the fire area. **DO NOT USE THE ELEVATOR**. It is extremely rare for stairways and corridors to be contaminated by smoke in the early stages of a fire. Proceed as quickly as possible to the outside and gather away from the building in a safe meeting place.
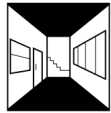
When the fire is in your unit.

You are in immediate danger and should ensure that everyone who is in your unit leaves with you. If you have physical limitations, plan ahead to ensure that you can get the assistance you need to evacuate quickly. **CLOSE THE UNIT DOOR BEHIND YOU**. Activate the fire alarm system and warn other residents located on your floor as you exit the building.

When the fire is on your floor or the floor below you.

You are at high risk and should evacuate as quickly as possible if you have reason to believe that the fire is on your floor or on the floor immediately below you.

WHEN SHOULD I STAY IN MY UNIT?

If you encounter smoke in the corridor on your floor.

This may be an indication that the fire is in an advanced stage or is located on your floor. If you cannot safely reach an exit stairway, return to your unit as quickly as possible. Take actions to protect yourself from smoke.

If you encounter smoke in the exit stairs.

The fire may have breached the stairway enclosure. Do not travel through smoke. Do not go to the roof. Re-enter the floor area immediately. If the corridor is free of smoke, try an alternate exit stairway. Otherwise, seek refuge in a unit on that floor as quickly as possible.

If instructed to remain in the unit by fire department personnel handling the fire emergency.

Attempting to evacuate at this stage may expose you to smoke unnecessarily and may impede firefighting operations. If you are located on the fire floor or on the floor immediately above the fire floor, you are at high risk and may require rescue.

If you are physically unable to use the stairs.

Take actions to protect yourself from smoke. If you are located on the fire floor or on the floor immediately above the fire floor, you are at high risk and may require rescue. **SHELTER IN PLACE:** Call 911 and provide details of your situation.