

# SAFETY IN PUBLIC BUILDINGS



*The risk of injury and death increases in fires where there are a large number of people in one main space. When entering any building, take a moment to identify exits in case of an emergency.*



*On February 20, 2003 the Station nightclub fire claimed the lives of 100 people. Since the fire, the National Fire Protection Association has enacted new code provisions and standards to keep individuals safe in public places.*



**Orange County  
Fire Authority**

(714) 573-6200  
ocfa.org



## **Before You Enter**

- Look carefully before entering any public building. Is the main entrance wide? Does it open outward to allow easy exit? Are areas outside of the building clear of material that might block exits?
- Identify a friend or family member to contact in case of an emergency or if you are separated from your group.
- Pick an outside meeting place where people in your group can meet if a fire or other emergency occurs.
- Make sure someone is assigned to assist small children, older adults, or family members with disabilities.

## **Once Inside**

- Immediately locate all available exits and exit paths as soon as you enter a public building.
- Check to make sure exit doors are not blocked or chained.
- Look for alternative exits, sprinklers, smoke alarms, and fire extinguishers.
- Leave immediately if you don't feel safe for any reason.
- Overcrowding, cigarettes, candles, pyrotechnics, and other heat sources can increase fire risk.
- Be prepared to act immediately if an alarm sounds, you see smoke or fire, or there is an unusual disturbance. Remain calm and exit the building as quickly as possible.

## **During a Fire**

- Crawl low if you encounter smoke or heat.
- Evacuate before phoning for help. Call 9-1-1 from outside the building.
- Never go back into a burning building for any reason.