

# Elevator and Escalator Safety Tips

Each year, Americans ride elevators and escalators about 120 billion times. Of these, a small percent result in serious accidents. About 20,000 accidents require emergency room treatment each year.<sup>1</sup> Most of these accidents could be prevented by the use of basic safety precautions. This flyer provides tips you can use to ride elevators or escalators safely.

## Elevator tips:

- » Watch your step as you enter or exit the elevator; step carefully over the threshold.
- » If you wear glasses, take extra care entering or exiting the elevator.
- » When riding the elevator, stand away from the doors.
- » Exit immediately at your floor; do not wait for others behind you.
- » If the elevator stops unexpectedly, stay calm and wait for help to arrive.
- ⊘ Don't try to stop the elevator doors from closing.
- ⊘ Never stick your hands, feet, or a cane between closing doors; use the "door open" button if inside the elevator, or wait for the next elevator if outside.
- ⊘ Do not enter if the elevator is not level with the floor.
- ⊘ Do not use an elevator if there is a fire in the building; take the stairs.

## Escalator tips:

- » Make sure your shoes are tied before riding.
- » Check the direction of the escalator movement before entering. Stand in the middle of the step; do not lean against the side.
- » If you wear glasses, take extra care entering or exiting the escalator.
- » Face forward and hold the handrail; keep loose clothing clear of steps and sides.
- » Children should always ride with an adult.
- » In case of emergency, be aware of the emergency stop button, which is typically located at the beginning or end of the escalator on the right-hand side.
- ⊘ Avoid riding escalators when wearing sandals or open-toed shoes. Never ride barefoot.
- ⊘ Never use an escalator with a cane, crutches, stroller, walker, or wheelchair.
- ⊘ Don't carry large packages, bags, or rolling luggage onto an escalator.
- ⊘ Don't ride the escalator if you are feeling dizzy or have problems keeping your balance; take the elevator instead.

<sup>1</sup>Data from the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission

# If you're delayed

*If you are on an elevator that stops between floors, remember the three C's:*

## Communicate

- » Let people know you are stopped by pushing or pulling the alarm button.
- » Use the elevator phone or intercom, if it is available, to call to report the stop. Be sure to give appropriate information, such as what building you are in, the elevator number, and what floors you are in between.
- » Use your cellphone to let others know you are stopped between floors.

## Calm down

- » It's best to be patient in these types of situations. An elevator is like a "safe room" with plenty of air and safety mechanisms in place. It is best if you sit on the floor or situate yourself for when the elevator starts up again.
- » Relax and wait for help.

## Counsel

- » Assure everyone in the elevator, including yourself, that help will come. Do not attempt to leave the elevator. Many injuries occur when people try to escape from an elevator stopped between floors.
- » Tell everyone not to force open the elevator doors. It is much safer in the elevator car if the doors are closed.

For more information on elevator and escalator safety, go to the Elevator Escalator Safety Foundation's website at [www.eesf.org](http://www.eesf.org).