

WHERE THERE'S SMOKE--STAY LOW AND KEEP COOL - GCSAA FORE FRONT

When you check into a large hotel, as you may during GCSAA's 53rd International Turfgrass Conference and Show in New Orleans Jan 31 - Feb 5, one small precaution may save your life. When you enter your room, take a moment to glance down the hallway and note the location of the stairwells. - It will only take a second and you may not get another chance.

Fires in large hotels have become frighteningly familiar news stories lately, especially with two disastrous fires in Las Vegas hotels in a relatively short time. Unfortunately, most people think disasters of that type are something that only happens to other people. With more than 5,000 hotel fires in a year, the odds may catch up with you.

In a hotel fire, the flames are not the killers. SMOKE usually coupled with panic is. That's why you should memorize the location of the stairwells as well as the layout of your room. You may not be able to see them very well later.

If you do smell smoke in the middle of the night, don't be in a hurry to flee. Call the hotel desk and report it to the fire department. They may have everything under control and if they don't, at least some one will know where you are.

If you do leave your room, stay low and stay calm. Crawl to the stairwell and make your way down, keeping a firm grip on the handrail. Not everyone may be as calm as you, and you could be trampled. Don't try to take the elevator down and unless you're on the lower three floors, don't try to jump.

If you run into a dense area of smoke be sure to prop the door open so you won't be locked out.

Many people have remained unharmed in their rooms while others died trying to escape. It's a judgment call, but if you decide to stay in your room, several precautions can increase your chances of survival.

First, turn on the bathroom vent. Fill the tub with water for fire fighting purposes. Stuff wet towels under the door. If the door and walls are hot, keep throwing water on them. Keep everything wet, and don't worry about the mess.

If your room has a window or sliding door, open it, but keep an eye on it. There may be more smoke outside than inside. If there is fire outside the window, get rid of the draperies and anything nearby that might be combustible. Keep pouring water around the window.

If you swing a wet towel around the room, it will help clear the smoke. Another wet towel tied around your nose and mouth will filter the air you breathe.

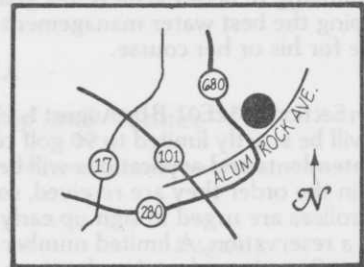
you breathe.

Hundreds of people have died needlessly in hotel fires, often small ones which should not have caused serious problems. Panic is the worst killer in such situations. If you can keep control of yourself weigh your options and take the right actions, you can make sure the odds stay in your favor.

RANDOM THOUGHTS

*There's nothing wrong with having nothing to say--unless you insist on saying it.

*Buffalo herds, which were hunted to near extinction when the rail roads were built, are on the increase. Now it's the railroads that face extinction.



SAN JOSE C.C.
15571 Alum Rock Ave., San
Jose, 95127

The club is easily accessible via 280 and 680 freeways, just 1½ miles east of the Alum Rock exit.