



The Insider: Elevator Safety

Summer is finally here and vacation season is in full swing. Travel is starting to pick up around the country, and families and children of all ages are passing through airports, hotels and public spaces. As they rush to catch their flight or hurry to the beach or pool, travelers are often unaware of their surroundings. Even though elevators are one of the safest forms of transportation, accidents are possible. This issue of *The Insider* will highlight some basic elevator guidelines to help every rider stay safe.

Whether you use elevators daily or just while traveling, it's not only important to know how to properly operate elevators, but also what to do in the unlikely event that one stalls.

Safety starts with you, the elevator rider, and being attentive to your surroundings is the first step. When you approach an elevator, push the call button for the direction you are going, then wait for the elevator to arrive. Once the door opens, allow passengers to exit before entering the cab. If the elevator is full, wait for the doors to close, select your direction and wait for the next car to arrive rather than pushing into an already crowded one.

After the elevator car has arrived and passengers have exited, carefully step in. It's key to watch your step as the car may not always stop perfectly level with the floor. Once you're all the way in, select your floor, then move away from the doors and ensure that there are no loose clothing or items that could get caught in the doors. It's important to never attempt to enter a car if the doors are closing or try to stop the doors. If traveling with children, be sure to keep them close to you and make sure they are clear of the doors. Pets should ride elevators wearing a leash, and also kept clear of elevator doors. Head toward the back of the elevator and hold on to the handrail, if available. Stand near the wall to make space for other passengers and enjoy the ride!

Once you reach your destination, allow passengers closest to the door to exit first, then proceed carefully, watching your step and holding onto children or pets. If you need more time, push the DOOR OPEN button or ask someone to hold the button to allow you sufficient time to exit. Never try to stop a closing door with your hands or body.

Elevators provide a very safe and reliable means of transportation. However, if you are ever in an elevator that stops between floors, the most important thing is to remain calm and never attempt to climb out of the car. In this instance, the safest place to be is inside the elevator. All you have to do is to simply use the

ALARM or HELP button, telephone or intercom and call for assistance. Remain calm and wait for professional help to arrive. If you want more helpful tips, visit our *NEII*® online [Elevator Safety](#) page for additional information.

In the event of a building emergency, remain calm, and use the stairs to evacuate the building. Elevators typically are not used in an emergency unless they've been specifically equipped for that purpose and are labeled accordingly. For more information on these special types of elevators equipped for Emergency Occupant Egress, please see the [March 17, 2015 edition of *The Insider*](#).

Have a comment or question for the experts? Want to submit a topic for a future issue of the newsletter? Send us your thoughts at theinsider@neii.org to keep the conversation going!

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